



**AHSAA**  
ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

# 2021-22 HANDBOOK

## *AHSAA MISSION STATEMENT*

*The Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) serves member schools through interscholastic competition by enhancing student learning, sportsmanship, safety and lifelong values. With integrity as its foundation, the AHSAA consistently governs the rules created by member schools.*

### **AHSAA Strategic Plan 2017-2022**

- Expand and strengthen recognition programs for student-athletes, coaches, administrators, officials, and community partners.
- To remain on the forefront of all media platforms while delivering high quality content in an effective way.
- Enhance and expand communication and collaboration opportunities for all member schools.
- Enhance the health and safety of all participants.
- Maintain financial stability for the organization (AHSAA).

A member of the  
National Federation of State High School Associations

**Alabama High School Athletic Association**

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# ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

## CENTRAL BOARD OF CONTROL

Terry Curtis, Mobile .....	District 1
Trinnia Smith, Mobile .....	District 1-2
Trent Taylor, Andalusia.....	District 2
Jeff Torrence, Dothan .....	Bi-District 2
Luke Hallmark, Marengo Co. BOE .....	District 3
Pam Holloway, Dadeville .....	District 4
Farrell Seymore, Opelika (Vice-President) .....	District 4
Van Phillips, Birmingham (President).....	District 5
Mike Welsh, Spring Garden.....	District 6
Quentin Lee, Childersburg.....	District 6
Jamie Chapman, Pickens Co. ....	District 7
Holly Sutherland, Moulton.....	Bi-District 7-8
Demond Garth, Austin .....	Bi-District 8
Terry Roller, Montgomery .....	State Dept. of Education

## STATE OFFICE STAFF

Alvin Briggs .....	Executive Director
Kim Vickers.....	Associate Executive Director, Eligibility Coordinator
Ken Washington .....	Director of Officials
Ron Ingram .....	Communications Director
Marvin Chou .....	Webmaster
Jamie Lee .....	Director AHSADCA
Brandon Dean .....	Director, Special Programs
David Holtsford.....	Coordinator Digital Media (AHSAA/AHSADCA)
Amy Gulledege .....	Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Ruff .....	Administrative Secretary
Angela Jackson .....	Secretary (Eligibility)
Alaine Davis .....	Secretary (Finance)
Rodney Mills .....	Part-Time IT Coordinator
Vanda Peppers .....	Secretary (AHSAA/AHSADCA)
Alan Mitchell .....	Part-Time Website Coordinator
Bruce Forte.....	AHSAA Support Staff

## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

(Years remaining in term are indicated.)

### **DISTRICT 1**

MEMBERS: Chip Menton, Theodore – Pres. (3); Terry Curtis, UMS-Wright-Secretary-Treasurer (1); Jerome Woods, Blount (4); Ben Blackmon, Spanish Fort (2); Trinnia Smith (4). COUNTIES: Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, Washington.

### **DISTRICT 2**

MEMBERS: Dodd Hawthorne, Crenshaw Co. Schools-Pres. (2); Trent Trawick, Secretary-Treasurer, Enterprise (3); Trent Taylor, Andalusia (1); Jeff Torrence, Dothan (4). COUNTIES: Barbour, Butler, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Pike.

### **DISTRICT 3**

MEMBERS: Jimmy Perry, Trinity-Pres. (2); Luke Hallmark, Marengo County Schools-Secretary-Treasurer (1); Matt Geohagen, Bibb County (3); Rosalyn Dixon, Chilton Co. (4). COUNTIES: Autauga, Bibb, Chilton, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, Sumter, Wilcox.

### **DISTRICT 4**

MEMBERS: Brad Cook, Pres. (2); Damian Sinclair, Sanford MS (4); Farrell Seymore, Opelika-Secretary-Treasurer (1); Pamela Holloway, Dadeville (3). COUNTIES: Bullock, Chambers, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Macon, Russell, Tallapoosa.

### **DISTRICT 5**

MEMBERS: Lance Walker, Hewitt (3); Patrick Kellogg, Spain Park (2); Kim Kiel, Pelham (1); Van Phillips, Center Point (4). COUNTIES: Jefferson, Shelby, Tuscaloosa, Walker.

### **DISTRICT 6**

MEMBERS: Steve Giddens, Randolph Co.-Pres. (1); Mike Welsh, Spring Garden-Secretary-Treasurer (3); Larry Davidson, Oxford (2); Quetin Lee, Childersburg (4). COUNTIES: Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Etowah, Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega.

### **DISTRICT 7**

MEMBERS: Jamie Chapman, Pres., Pickens Co. (3); Micah Smothers, Addison (1); Holly Sutherland, Lynn (4); Todd Tittle, Lynn (2); Thomas Jones, Lawrence Co. (4). COUNTIES: Colbert, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Marion, Pickens, Winston.

### **DISTRICT 8**

MEMBERS: Jeremy Lowery, Madison County-Pres. (3); John Ingram, Arab (2); Brian Jett, Fort Payne (1); DeMand Garth, Austin (4). COUNTIES: Blount, Cullman, DeKalb, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan.

**FOOTBALL:**

(1)	Eric Collier		Theodorewcollier@mcpss.com
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Bi-District	Eddie Brundidge	Houston Academy	sbrundidge@yahoo.com
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Bi-District	Frederick Newton	Loachapoka	newton.frederick@leek12.al.us
(5)	Rueben Nelson	Shades Valley	rnelson@jefcoed.com
(6)	Larry Strain	Handley	lstrain20@aol.com
Bi-District	Chris Mahand	Talladega Co.	emahand2@gmail.com
(7)	John Ritter	Russellville	john.ritter@rcs.k12.al.us
(8)	Bob Godsey	Hartselle	bob.godsey@hcs.k12.al.us
Bi-District	Laron White	Sparkman	

**VOLLEYBALL:**

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Bi-District	N/A		
(5)	Perry Robinson	Pelham	wrobinson@pelhamcityschools.org
(6)	Lisa Bates	Sand Rock	lbates@cherokeek12.org
Bi-District	N/A		
(7)	Ryan Roberson	Brooks	ryan.roberson@lcschools.org
(8)	Jimmy Latta	Guntersville	jimmylatta@gcboe.net
(8) Bi-District	N/A		

**BASKETBALL:**

(1) (boys)	Edwin Burks	BC Rain	eaburke@mcpss.com
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Bi-District	Mike Smith	Eufaula	michael.smith@ecsk12.org
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(girls)	Teresa Bolden	Linden	thomast@uwa.edu
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(girls)	Devin Booth	Opelika	devinn.booth@opelikaschools.org
Bi-District	N/A		
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(girls)	Ricky Austin	Spring Garden	raustin@cherokeek12.org
Bi District			
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(8) (boys)	Patrick Harding	Albertville	pharding@albertvillek12.org
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(boys)	Greg Brown	Lee-Huntsville	gregory.brown@hsv.k12.org
(girls)	George Gurley	Madison Co.	ggurley@mcscsk12.org

**BASEBALL:**

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Bi-District	N/A		
(5)	Tyrus Moss	Parker	tmoss@bhm.k12.al.us
(6)	Matt Kennedy	Westbrook Christian	mkennedy@westbrookchristian.org
Bi-District	N/A		
(7)	Johnathan Pate	Gordo	patej@pickens.k12.al.us
(8)	Brandon Moore		bmoore@ocredsking.org
Bi-District	N/A		

**SOFTBALL:**

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(4)	Scott Meadows	Beauregard	meadows.scott@lee.k12.al.us
Bi-District	N/A		
(5)	Rachel Turner	Center Point	riturner@jefcoed.com
(6)	Rachel Ford	White Plains	rford.wp@ccboe.us
Bi-District	Nashonda Whitson	Talladega	
(7)	Denton Bowling	Hatton	dbowling@lawrenceal.org
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Bi-District	Al Rauls	Buckhorn	arauls@madison.k12.al.us

**TRACK:**

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(3)	Ethan McBride	Montgomery Academy	ethan.mcbride@montgomeryacademy.org
(4)	Chris Hand	Dadeville	chris.hand@tallapoosak12.org
Bi-District	Warner Brown	Wetumpka	warner.brown@elmoreco.com
(5)	Preston Wilson	Center Point	vreesee@jefcoed.com
(6)	Michael Graben	Springville	michael.graben@sccboe.org
Bi-District	N/A		
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Bi-District	N/A		

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Bi-District	N/A		
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(4)	Will Glaze	Central Phenix City	willgraze50@gmail.com
Bi-District	N/A		
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(6)	Joel Sims	Glencoe	joel_sims@ecboe.org
Bi-District	N/A		
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Bi-District	N/A		

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Bi-District	N/A		
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Bi District	Kevin Lockhard	Decatur	kevin.lockhard@dcs.k12.al.us

**SWIMMING & DIVING:**

(1)	Cathy Hudson	Fairhope	chudson@bcbe.org
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Bi-District	N/A		
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(4)	Jeff Dellinger	Auburn	jeffdellinger@msn.com



Bi-District	N/A		
(5)	Oliver Aaron	Vestavia Hills	aaronco@vestavia.k12.al.us
(6)	Trent Phillips	Oxford	tphillips.om@oxboe.com
Bi-District	N/A		
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Bi-District	N/A		

**SOCCER:**

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Bi-District	N/A		
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(6)	Tiffany Cargill	Southside	tiffany_cargill@ecboe.org
Bi-District	Jeff Samoranski	Pell City	Jandsam@yahoo.com
(7)	Trey Stanford	Russellville	trey.stanford@rcs.k12.al.us
(8)	Michael Farmer	Fort Payne	mfbutthered@aol.com
Bi-District	Brandon Broughton	Madison Co.	

**CROSS COUNTRY:**

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Bi-District	N/A		
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Bi-District	Tony Benitez	Auburn	
(5)	Herbert Clark	Fultondale	hclark@jefcoed.com
(6)	Jamie Watts	Central Clay Co.	wattsj@clayk12.org
Bi-District	N/A		
(7)	Stanley Johnson	Lawrence Co.	sjohnson@lawrenceal.org
(8)	Trent Dean	Cullman	tdean@cullmancats.net (2) Bi-District
Bi-District	N/A		

**CHEERLEADING:**

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**BOWLING:**

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Bi-District	N/A		
(7)	Doyle Hensley	Lawrence Co.	doylehensley@lawrenceal.org
(8)	Lisa Ivey	Sparkman	livey@mcsc12.org
Bi-District			

**PRINCIPAL ADVISORY**

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Bi District	Greg Moore	Springville	
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(8)	Willie Moore	Athens	

**AHSADCA ADVISORY**

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**MS PRINCIPAL ADVISORY**

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Bi District	Tim Young	Drew MS	timyoung@tcboe.org
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(8)	Doug Haynes	Rosalie Elem.	

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(7)	Rod Sheppard	Florence	rsheppard@florencek12.org
(8)	John Drake	Cullman	jdrake@cullmancats.net

## 2021–22 Calendar of Events

<b>AUGUST</b>	
2	First practice date for football, volleyball, cross country, swimming & diving
19,20	Kick-Off Classic (Montgomery)
19	First contest date for varsity football (first JV/Fr may play Aug. 23. JH/MS contest is Aug. 26)
19	First contest date for volleyball, cross country, swimming & diving
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
18	First practice for basketball; Bowling Oct. 4; Wrestling Oct. 25; Indoor Track-Nov. 8)
11-16	Area Volleyball Tournaments (Default date Oct. 16)
20-22	Super Regional Volleyball Tournaments (Montgomery, Huntsville)
27-29	State Volleyball Tournament (Birmingham)
28-30	Section Cross Country Meets
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
4	Regional Cheerleading (Mobile)
5,12,20,26	State Football Playoffs (Rounds 1-4)
6	State Cross Country Meet (Moulton)
8,9	Regional Cheerleading (Birmingham) (TBD)
19-20	Section Swimming & Diving (Mobile, Birmingham, Huntsville)
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
1-3	Super 7 Football Championships (Birmingham)
3-4	State Swimming & Diving Meet (Auburn)
11	State Cheerleading (TBD)
11	Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Football Game (Alabama)
<b>JANUARY</b>	
19-21	Regional Bowling Tournaments (TBD)
27-28	State Bowling Tournament (TBD)
14,15,18,21	Wrestling Duals Tournament first rounds
21	Wrestling Duals Tournament Finals (Birmingham)
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
4-5	State Indoor Track & Field Meet (Birmingham)
5-11	Girls Area Basketball Tournaments (default dates Feb.7,9,11)
5-12	Boys Area Basketball Tournaments (default dates Feb. 8,10,12)
11-12	Super Section Wrestling Tournaments (Montgomery, Birmingham)
17-19	State Wrestling Tournament (Huntsville)
14	Girls Sub-Regional Basketball Games
15	Boys Sub-Regional Basketball Games
17-24	Regional Basketball Tournaments (Garrett Coliseum, Alabama State, Jacksonville State, Wallace-Hanceville)

## 2021–22 Calendar of Events

<b>MARCH</b>	
Feb. 28-Mar. 5	State Basketball Championships (Birmingham)
8-9*	Student Leadership Conference
12	Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Basketball Games (Alabama)
21*	Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame Induction (Montgomery)
<b>APRIL</b>	
5-6*	Principals' and Athletic Directors' Conference (Montgomery)
11	Bryant-Jordan Student Athlete Awards Banquet (Birmingham)
11-15	Section Tennis Tournaments
22-23, 29-30	State Baseball Playoffs (Rounds 1-2)
18-23	State Tennis Tournaments (Mobile, Montgomery)
29-30	Section Track & Field Meets
29-May 7	Area Softball Tournaments
21,22,23	Sub-State Soccer Matches Round 1 (4A-5A & 6A)
26,30	Sub-State Soccer Matches (all classes) Round 1 (1A-3A & 7A) Round 2 (4A-5A & 6A)
25-26	Section Golf Tournaments
<b>MAY</b>	
2-3	Sub-State Golf tournaments
5-7	Sub-State Soccer Matches (all classes) Round 2 (1A-3A & 7A) Round 3 (4A-5A & 6A)
5-7	State Track & Field Meets (Gulf Shores: 5-7), (Cullman: 6-7)
6-7, 13-14	State Baseball Playoffs (Rounds 3-4)
11-14	Regional Softball Qualifiers (Gulf Shores, Oxford, Tuscaloosa, Florence)
12-14	State Soccer Tournament (Huntsville)
9-10	State Girls and Boys Golf Tournament (Mobile)
16-17	Heptathlon, Decathlon (Birmingham)
16-21	State Baseball Finals (Montgomery)
17-21	State Softball Tournament (Montgomery)
<b>JULY</b>	
18-22*	Summer Conference & All-Star Sports Week (Montgomery) DEAD WEEK (weight training/conditioning only)

\* Subject to change depending on contracts and/or available dates.

## TESTING DATES

The dates of a few AHSAA events coincide with some state and national testing dates for the 2020–21 school year. The following chart may be used to assist coaches and students in scheduling around any conflicts.

### ACT Assessment Test

<u>TEST DATES</u>	<u>AHSAA EVENTS</u>
Sept. 11, 2021 .....	None
Oct. 23, 2021 .....	Super-Regional VB
Dec. 11, 2021 .....	State Swimming, Ala.-Miss. All-Star FB
Feb. 12, 2022 .....	Super-Section Wrestling, State Indoor Track
April 2, 2022 .....	State Baseball Playoffs
June 11, 2022 .....	None

### SAT Test

Aug. 28, 2021 .....	None
Oct. 2, 2021 .....	None
Nov. 6, 2021 .....	State CC
Dec. 4, 2021 .....	None
March 12, 2022 .....	None
May 7, 2022 .....	Baseball, Softball & Soccer Playoffs, State Track
June 4, 2022 .....	None

### ACT Assessment Test (by ALSDE)

March 9-11, 14-18, 21, 2022 .....	Soccer Playoffs, Section Golf
March 9-11, 2022 (make-up date) .....	Heptath./Decath., State Golf

### Advancement Placement (AP) Exams

May 3–6, 2022 .....	Baseball & Softball Playoffs, Sub-State Golf & Soccer
May 10–14, 2022 .....	State Baseball & Softball, Heptath./Decath., State Golf

## GENERAL REMINDERS

1. All information relating to school membership, membership in the Athletic Directors & Coaches Association, and student eligibility must be submitted online via DragonFly.
2. All other necessary forms will be found on the AHSAA website as on-line forms or as PDF files that can be printed, completed and then submitted to the AHSAA via fax or mail.
3. School registration data must be submitted online by Aug. 1.
4. Catastrophic insurance premiums must be submitted to the AHSAA State Office by Sept. 1.
5. Athletic Directors & Coaches Association membership registration must be submitted online by Aug. 1. Membership fees must be submitted by regular or express mail to the AHSAA before cards will be issued. Verification of the certification for each coach that has been certified from 2001-02 to the present (course requirements) plus verification of CPR certification, with AED Training and STAR Sportsmanship, or NFHS Sportsmanship for all new coaches, Concussion, Heat Acclimatization, Sudden Cardiac Arrest, Mental Illness, course requirements for all coaches must be kept on file in the principal's office.
6. Eligibility data must be submitted online by Aug. 1 for all students already listed on a school's list of current eligible students.
7. Students submitted online for eligibility and principal certified are eligible two days after they have been submitted online to the AHSAA.
8. Copies of students' certified birth certificates must be kept on file in the principal's office where the student is enrolled. (No birth certificates should be submitted to the AHSAA.)
9. All student-athletes must have current Pre-participation Physical Evaluation Forms on file in the principal's office (An exam will satisfy the requirements for one calendar year to the end of month from the exam date.)
10. A Concussion Information Form signed by each student and his/her parent must be kept on file in the principal's office where the student is enrolled. (The form will satisfy the requirement for one school year.)
11. A Student Release Consent Form signed by each student and his/her parent(s) must be kept on file in the principal's office where the student is enrolled. (The form will satisfy the requirement for one school year.)
12. School year is defined – the day fall practice begins to the last day of summer before fall practice.

13. Sport Declarations must be completed online by May 1, 2022 for fall sports and June 1, 2022 for winter and spring sports.
14. **All** interscholastic contests must use AHSAA-registered officials and should be scheduled with game contracts.
15. Official rulings must be requested in writing by the principal to the AHSAA Executive Director.

## PUBLICATIONS

The **AHSAA Handbook** is published annually and copies are provided to superintendents, member schools and the news media. Additional copies are available online or for \$10 per hard copy. The Handbook includes the constitution, bylaws and regulations of the AHSAA as well as a calendar for the current school year.

The **Director's Update** newsletter is posted monthly on the AHSAA website, [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com).

The **AHSAA Sports Book** is published annually on a very limited basis to outline the championship sports conducted during each quarter. These books are posted online as the official controlled documents.

The **Coaches Directory**, published in conjunction with the Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association, is available on the AHSAA website, [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com).

An Eligibility Poster outlining the major eligibility rules is issued to member schools annually.

The AHSAA Official Records, the official collection of facts detailing years of outstanding athletic achievements by high school students, coaches and teams in Alabama are kept updated on the AHSAA website, [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com).

## THE NATIONAL FEDERATION

The National Federation of State High School Associations, of which the AHSAA has been a member since 1924, had its beginning in 1920 and now consists of 51 individual state high school athletic and/or activities associations and the association of the District of Columbia. Also affiliated are eight interscholastic organizations from Canadian provinces. Robert Gardner is executive director of the National Federation.

The purpose of the National Federation is to coordinate the efforts of its member state institutions toward the ultimate objectives of interscholastic athletics. It provides a means for state associations to cooperate in order to enhance and protect their interscholastic programs.

Member state associations' programs are administered in accordance with the following basic beliefs:

- (a) Interscholastic athletics shall be an integral part of the



- total secondary school educational program.
- (b) Interscholastic athletics shall be primarily for the benefit of the high school students who participate directly in them.
  - (c) Any athletic competition to determine a so-called champion shall provide opportunities for schools to demonstrate and to evaluate the best taught in their programs with the best taught in other schools from other areas of the state.
  - (d) Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege to be granted to those students who meet the minimum standards of eligibility adopted by the schools through their state association.

### **TITLE IX POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the official policy of the Alabama High School Athletic Association that no person, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program offered by the AHSAA.

# CONSTITUTION

## Article I

This Association shall be known as the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

## Article II Object

The object of this Association shall be to promote pure amateur athletic competition in the high schools of Alabama.

## Article III Membership

A high school of Alabama which has been placed on accredited relations above junior grades by the State Department of Education and/or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools may become a member of the Association, provided it is accepted by the Central Board of Control, the principal files an application for membership (application form may be found in C2C), pays the annual dues and signs an agreement to be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws, and rulings of the Association and sends in regularly such reports as are required.

Non-public schools applying for membership must meet the following criteria:

1. Have SACS accreditation or the equivalent.
2. Register with the State Department of Education.
3. File a School Profile with the AHSAA.
4. Have at least 70 percent of its faculty as Certified Teachers.
5. Conduct background checks of its faculty and staff.
6. Offer at least five girls and five boys varsity sports.

Schools applying for membership for the first time must be approved by the Central Board of Control. Only an accredited school may be a member.

**Note:** If a school is accredited by the State Department of Education and/or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or equivalent at the time it is accepted for membership, the school shall retain its membership status with the AHSAA for the entire school year even if its accreditation status changes.

The Central Board shall have the right to determine a graduated membership fee based on enrollment, but the maximum fee is not to exceed two hundred dollars. If the annual membership fee is not paid before September 1 of each year, the delinquent school shall lose its membership. A school losing its membership may be reinstated for the

current year by the payment of an additional fee of \$5.00.

The annual membership dues shall be collected by the State Executive Director.

Annual dues per class are as follows:

Class 7A.....	\$200 per school
Class 6A.....	\$200 per school
Class 5A.....	\$175 per school
Class 4A.....	\$175 per school
Class 3A.....	\$150 per school
Class 2A.....	\$150 per school
Class 1A.....	\$125 per school
Junior High/Middle .....	\$50 per school

The Alabama Institute for Deaf shall be permitted to hold membership in the Association when it meets requirements and standards outlined by the Sixth District Board and the Central Board of Control.

**Article IV  
Management**

(a) The management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Legislative Council and a Central Board of Control. The Executive Director may act for the Board when it is not in session.

(b) The membership of the local district boards shall constitute the Legislative Council of the Alabama High School Athletic Association. All changes in the Constitution and Bylaws shall be made by this body. They shall meet annually and at such times as may be deemed necessary by the President of the Central Board of Control/Executive Director.

(c) Each District Board shall consist of four members, exclusive of the two districts that appoint females on a rotating basis (by years 2020, 2024, 2028, etc. Board members must be superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, assistant principals or teachers in the high schools of the district and shall have no more than two members from the same school system. No person shall be discriminated against based on gender, race, or religion. Members of the District Board shall be elected by representatives of the district schools, first for four years, then for terms of three years, two years and one year, respectively. Thereafter, one member shall be elected annually to serve a four-year term beginning July 1. One member shall represent the AHSAA and one member shall represent the former Alabama Interscholastic Athletic Association (AIAA) which merged with the AHSAA in 1968. Two members shall represent either association.

**Note:** Any person who is elected as a District Board member while serving in any of the above positions may continue to serve as long as that person is retained as a full-time certified employee of any school or school system of the district and continues to be elected by member schools of the district.

Any vacancy or vacancies occurring in a District Board shall be filled by appointment by the President of the Central Board of Control with the approval of the remaining members or member of said District Board, but such appointment is only to hold until the vacancy or vacancies can be filled by election at the first meeting of the member schools of the District.

(d) The Central Board of Control shall be composed of fifteen members: one member from each of the eight districts, one member from each of the four bi-districts, two at-large females (not representative of the same association) from Bi-districts on a rotating basis from the eight districts, and one member from the Alabama State Department of Education, appointed by the State Superintendent of Education. The four Bi-District members shall be elected from and by the District Board of two districts combined [1-Districts 1 and 2; Districts 3 and 4; 3- Districts 5 and 6; 4- Districts 7 and 8]. The Bi-District member must be a representative of the opposite Association of the other member representing that District on the Central Board.

(e) The Executive Director shall be selected and appointed by the Central Board of Control. The Associate Executive Director shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Director. No person shall be discriminated against based on gender, race, or religion. Each position will be served by a person representing the opposite Association (AHSAA and AIAA) of the other in said position.

## **Article V Districts**

The Central Board of Control shall divide the state into eight districts to be known as Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

## **Article VI Annual Meeting**

There shall be an annual meeting (2nd Tuesday in April) of the members of the Association of each District for the election of members of the District Board and to transact such other business as may be necessary at such meetings to be held at the call of the Presidents of the respective District Boards. Each school should have a representative present at the annual meeting.

## **Article VII**

### **Central Board of Control**

(a) Shall meet at such times and places as it may determine. A majority of its members may call a meeting at any time.

(b) Shall be responsible for deciding the time and place for holding the annual meeting of the AHSAA.

(c) At the annual meeting, the Central Board shall elect one of its members to serve as President of the Alabama High School Athletic Association for a period of one year. The Vice-President shall be elected in the same manner and neither the President nor the Vice-President shall serve for more than two years consecutively.

(d) The President and the Vice-President shall represent their respective Districts on the Central Board.

(e) The Vice-President shall attend all meetings and shall perform the duties of the President in his official absence.

(f) Money shall be paid out by the Secretary-Treasurer only as directed by the Board and upon an order signed by the President.

(g) The accounts of the Secretary-Treasurer shall be audited annually by a Certified Public Accountant, approved by the Central Board.

(h) The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit to the Board an annual report.

(i) The Central Board of Control shall have full authority to adopt rules and regulations which shall be uniformly effective and binding upon all members of the Association.

**Note:** This includes the placing of monetary fines when deemed necessary.

A schedule of fines and penalties as adopted by the Central Board is as follows:

1. For a violation of rules, including flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct other than physical abuse: first offense \$150-\$300 fine, depending on the severity of the case. Severity of the case includes who reported the violation, whether there was intent to hide or conceal information, and whether there were attempts to falsify records.

The penalty will also carry probation which is a warning to the school that any further violations will jeopardize its membership in the AHSAA.

2. For physical abuse, which includes physical attacks made on officials, coaches, and/or players by anyone: minimum fine of \$500, no maximum. Physical violence by a player on an official or coach may also include the suspension of the player for a specific period of time or permanent suspension, depending on

the severity of the act(s) and the incidents which lead to the altercation(s).

Subsequent penalties on the same school will result in additional, higher monetary fines and extension of the probationary period(s) which may or may not be restrictive. For physical violence or abuse, a school may be placed on restrictive probation for a part or all of its athletic programs or may be suspended from the Association.

Restrictive probation limits the school's participation to regular season games and prohibits the school from participating in any interscholastic contest involving more than two schools, including championships, for the duration of the restrictive probation.

3. For intentional flagrant violations of the rules, a school may be placed on restrictive probation and assessed a minimum monetary fine of \$500. Intentional flagrant violations include being advised that a rule(s) has been violated and the school continues with the same violation. Minimum monetary fine(s) for junior high/middle schools is \$50.
4. Game officials may be reprimanded, fined and/or suspended for flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct, which includes profanity, vulgarity, obscenities, striking a player, coach, fan or spectator, failing to fulfill an assignment or being late for an assignment without notifying the school as soon as possible or other conduct unbecoming of a game official registered with the AHSAA.
  - (j) The Central Board of Control shall have complete and final jurisdiction over all questions of the Constitution and Bylaws or other facts appealed to it by a member school.
  - (k) The Central Board of Control shall have the power, as far as Association finances permit, to employ a full time Executive Director, locate and provide expenses for an Association office.
  - (l) The Central Board shall have the power to classify member schools into two or more divisions for the purpose of athletic competition. No school's classification shall be changed during the classification period after the schools have been classified.
  - (m) The Central Board shall have the power to reorganize the administrative procedures with respect to Association reports, annual dues and registration of officials.
  - (n.) **The Central Board shall have authority over any matter related to championship play.**

## **Article VIII**

### **District Board of Managers**

- (a) Shall meet at such times and places as it may determine. A meeting may be called at any time by two members of the Board or by the President. A copy of the proceedings of every District board meeting shall be sent to all member schools of the District by the Secretary.
- (b) **Note:** The District Board shall not rule on a case unless it is in session. A copy of all proceedings of the District Board meeting will be mailed to the State Office.
- (c) The District Board shall have power to organize at its discretion.
- (d) Money shall be paid out by the Secretary-Treasurer of the District Board of the Association and only upon the written order of the President of the District Board. The Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare and furnish each member school in the District an annual, detailed accounting of all monies handled.
- (e) The District Board shall have general supervision over all athletic contests held in its district and jurisdiction over questions arising wherefrom. It shall hear all complaints, decide all protests and enforce the Constitution and Bylaws and rules and regulations of the Association. These duties may be handled by the Executive Director.
- (f) The President may suspend from membership a school believed to be guilty of violating the rules of the Association. Such suspension continues until a meeting of the District Board can be held to pass on the case. Which the meeting must be held within five days of each suspension, except that a suspended school may request further time, not to exceed five additional days. The above may be handled by the Executive Director.
- (g) The District Board may suspend schools which persistently fail to file required lists or reports.
- (h) When a school is placed on probation it may, along with other penalties, be prohibited from participating in a tournament or other events that involve more than two schools.

## **Article IX**

### **Annual Contests**

A District Board may conduct annual athletic contests and provide medals or prizes for individuals and teams. The Board of Control may conduct state contests under the same conditions.

## **Article X Complaints**

A school may be charged with violating the laws of the Association or with unsportsmanlike conduct. The District Board, after sending a copy of the charges to the school concerned (verbal notification is sufficient unless a written report is requested in writing) and giving due notice of the time and place of meeting, shall consider the charges promptly and may expel a school from the Association or suspend it for a period not exceeding one year. If it expels or suspends a school, it shall at once notify all members of the Association. If a member of the Board represents a school directly involved in a controversy referred to the Board, the other members shall elect a replacement to act on the matter.

**Note:** The District Board may refer any type of case to the Central Board. The Central Board may appoint a committee to handle any case up for review, but the Executive Director has the authority to act on any case which needs immediate action.

To receive an official ruling on any case, the principal of a member school must request a ruling in writing to the Executive Director or Eligibility Coordinator. A verbal opinion or statement or email is not an official ruling.

**The AHSAA may take action in a case without receiving a formal complaint.**

## **Article XI Appeals**

An official ruling made by the Executive Director may be appealed to the school's District Board. A District Board's ruling may be appealed to the Central Board of Control.

If the Executive Director's decision is changed by the District Board, it is automatically appealed to the Central Board of Control. The Central Board of Control has the authority to make the final decision on any case appealed to it.

## **Article XII Amending the Constitution**

The Constitution and eligibility rules may be amended at any regular meeting of the Legislative Council, a two-thirds vote being necessary. **However, no amendment or change shall be considered at any meeting of the Association unless submitted in writing to the Executive Director at least 30 days before the meeting at which it is to have attention.**

## **BYLAWS**

The following rules shall apply to all interscholastic athletics of any member school. (Approved rulings under Notes.)



## Rule I - Eligibility

**SECTION 1. UNDERGRADUATES RULE.** Graduates of accredited high schools or equal grades are not eligible.

**Note:** A student enrolled in a high school who (1) has completed less than 24 units of high school credit, or (2) has yet to complete a required high school course for which no exceptions are made, and has not been granted a diploma of graduation or a certificate of attendance from high school is eligible as far as this section is concerned.

**SECTION 2. ENROLLMENT RULE.** In order to be eligible, a student (traditional or non-traditional) must be enrolled within the first 20 days of the semester as a regular student in the school that serves the area where parents reside and where the student will participate. The 20-day requirement may be waived under extenuating circumstances.

**Note:** The student becomes eligible immediately at the member school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside if all other requirements are met.

**Note:** Students entering the seventh grade for the first time are eligible where they enroll.

**Note:** A student that has already been enrolled in a school is not affected by this rule.

**Note:** A regular student is one who is enrolled at the school and is taking six new units of work. **A student must be enrolled at a school in order to participate in practice, tryouts or interscholastic contests.**

**Note:** In order to practice or tryout, student must be on a tryout roster to be covered by catastrophic insurance.

**Note:** HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS must be enrolled at the member public school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside and must be within the first 20 days of the semester in the public school they are zoned to attend.

(a) The AHSAA recognizes a homeschool student as one who has reported as such with the local county/city board of education (superintendent) and as one who is earning academic credit in compliance with Alabama law through one of the approved home school options (2014 Ala Code 16-28-1).

The AHSAA recognizes a homeschool student as one who is receiving a home-based, parent-directed education in compliance

with Alabama law through a home program of a church school, a home program of a private school, or with an Alabama-certified teacher (private tutor).

**Note:** In compliance with Alabama Law, a homeschool student must be reported as such with the local county/city board of education (superintendent).

**Note:** CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS must be enrolled in the public charter school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside and must be within the first 20 days of the semester in the charter school they are zoned to attend.

**Note:** VIRTUAL SCHOOL STUDENTS must be enrolled in a virtual program/school at the member public school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside and must follow all ALSDE policies. A virtual school student must be taking six new units of work through the school's virtual program.

**Note:** A student cannot be enrolled in two schools at the same time.

**Note:** A Dual-enrollment student is one who is enrolled at the school and is taking six new units of work through a combination of college courses and/or school courses.

**SECTION 3. AGE RULE.** A student is ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year. If he/she reaches his/her 19th birthday on or after August 1, he/she shall be eligible for the entire school year as far as the Age Rule is concerned.

A student is ineligible to participate in junior high interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 16th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year, and in middle school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 15th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year.

A student is ineligible to participate on a team, or in a game, composed only of seventh grade students if he/she reaches his/her 14th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year.

**SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.** Submitting eligibility information online **and** principal certification at least 48 hours before participation is mandatory for all students. The first time a school submits one of its students online, a copy of the student's certified birth certificate shall be filed in the principal's office and attached to the copy of the online Eligibility List on which that student's name was submitted. Also, a STAR Sportsmanship certificate or NFHS Sportsmanship certificate, a concussion form, and consent form must be kept on file. **The AHSAA**

**highly recommends all students complete the Bullying, Hazing, and Inappropriate Behaviors course available at NFHSlearn.com.**

**Note:** A certified birth certificate is one issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where the student was born. In Alabama, these may be obtained at each county health department.

**Note:** For students born in a foreign country, a passport may be used to verify age for eligibility purposes.

**Note:** The principal of a school may request an official eligibility ruling in writing. A request made by email, text, or phone is **NOT** an official request

### **SECTION 5. PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) **EIGHT SEMESTER RULE.** A student may be eligible only **eight consecutive semesters** after entering the ninth grade. School attendance of 15 days or more of any semester is counted as a semester.

(b) **INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RULE.** No student may participate in any one sport for more than six years (seasons) after entering the seventh grade or more than three years (seasons) after entering the 10th grade. A student who officially participates in one contest of a sport is credited with one year of participation in that sport.

**Note:** Non-traditional students may only participate on interscholastic teams with AHSAA member schools.

**SECTION 6. OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION RULE.** A student who is a member of any school athletic team (grades 7-12) may not participate (includes practice) on a non-school team in the same sport during the school season of that sport. A student who is a member of any member school athletic team may not participate on a non-school team's activity.

**Note:** In soccer, during the school's soccer season, one outside activity (showcase, ID camp, college tryout, Olympic Develop Program [ODP], etc.) per month per student is permitted with coach and principal approval. (Outside participation, including practice or tryouts, with a club team is not an approved outside activity.)

**Note:** Private instruction is not considered an outside sports activity.

**Note:** Members of any school team may receive private instruction in a group setting **ONLY** with members of their school team.

The first time a student violates this rule, fine and restitution will be assessed. Any student who violates this rule a second time is ineligible to join that school team for the remainder of that season and fines and forfeitures will be assessed.

**A team's season begins the day of that team's first contest** and ends when that team's season has been completed. An ineligible student cannot participate with an outside team after the school team's season starts and then join the school team upon becoming eligible.

**(A) INDEPENDENT RULE:** A student who is a member of any school track, cross country or wrestling team may participate as an independent in two outside activities during the season of a sport with the permission of the school principal. The schedule of the school team, including its championship play, takes precedent over any outside participation of an individual. (Members of tennis, golf, bowling and swimming teams are not limited to the number of outside events.)

**Note:** An outside event is one that is not sanctioned by the AHSAA and is detached from the school.

**SECTION 7. HIGHER LEVEL PARTICIPATION.** A high school student who enrolls or registers in an institution of higher rank than high school and plays or practices on an athletic team of such an institution shall not be eligible to represent any high school in the state in athletics until reinstated by the Central Board of Control.

With the approval of a student's principal, enrollment in special classes for an accelerated or enrichment program is not a violation of the rules.

**However, a student who enrolls at another school in order to take special courses is not eligible at the new high school until the student has been enrolled for one full year.**

**Note:** **College tryouts** are only permitted outside the high school sport season or **with coach and principal approval during the sport season.**

**SECTION 8. AMATEUR RULE.** Only amateurs are eligible. An amateur is one who does not use his/her knowledge of athletics or athletic skill for gain. Amateur standing shall be further determined by the following standards:

(a) A student is ineligible if he/she has received money as a prize, or has sold a prize received in a contest, or has bet on a contest in which he/she is a participant.

(b) Professionalism is defined as accepting remuneration, directly or indirectly, for playing on athletic teams and in sports activities or for playing under an assumed name.

(c) A student who accepts material or financial inducement from any source is ineligible.

(d) No student shall receive more than actual expenses involved in travel to and from a contest or camp and necessary meals and lodging

in the meantime. A student shall not at any time receive any portion of a livelihood for participation in athletics, other than actual expenses for any specific game or camp.

1. A student cannot accept payment for loss of time or wages while participating in athletics as part of expenses.
2. Reasonable meals, lodging and transportation may be accepted if such are accepted in service rather than money or some material form.
3. Students playing on a non-home team which requires boarding away from home by the week, etc., will be looked upon as violating the professional rule if board is not paid by his family.
4. A team which plans to divide among its members any surplus either during or at close of season shall be considered a professional team.

(e) No award of any kind having a monetary value of more than 250 dollars—other than medals, trophies, plaques or AHSAA championship rings—shall be made to students. Violation of this rule on the part of school officials shall subject the school to suspension for one year. Acceptance of awards exceeding these limitations shall disqualify a student. Cash awards or gift cards for athletic performances or participation may not be given or received.

(f) A student who has lost his/her amateur standing may be reinstated after the lapse of one high school season, or until reinstated by the Central Board of Control, for the sport in which he/she has become professional provided he/she has not persisted in breaking the amateur rule.

## **SECTION 9. ACADEMIC RULE.**

### **Requirements**

- (a) Students entering the 10th and 11th and 12th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units.
  - (1) Four core curriculum courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. (English, mathematics, science and social studies are core curriculum courses. Any combination of these courses is accepted.)
  - (2) Any student that accumulates more than four units of core courses per year may earn less than the required four core courses during the next school year and be eligible as long as the student remains on track for graduation with his/her class.
- (b) Students entering the 8th and 9th grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school,

if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade.

**Note:** A new unit is one that has not been previously passed. A semester is half of a school year as defined by the local school system.

- (c) Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible.
- (d) Students in high school must complete a NFHS Sportsmanship online interactive course one time during their member high school careers (7-12). A certificate of completion must be kept on file in the school principal's office along with other eligibility items. Cheerleaders must also complete the course one time during their member high school career.

### Guidelines

1. Eligibility may be determined before the start of each new school year or at the beginning of the second semester. A student that is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year remains eligible for the remainder of that school year so far as grades are concerned. A student that regains eligibility at the beginning of the second semester remains eligible for the remainder of the second semester so far as grades are concerned.
2. Students declared ineligible at the beginning of a school year may regain their eligibility at the end of the first semester (or trimester) as soon as 1st semester grades are posted to transcripts, uploaded in DragonFly and principal certified by meeting the academic requirements listed above during their last two semesters (three trimesters or 2 trimesters and one semester) in attendance and summer school, if applicable. The regained eligibility of any student may be determined any time after the end of the first semester (or trimester), but all course requirements used to determine the eligibility must be completed no later than the fifth day of the second semester (or second trimester).  
A student that regains eligibility at the end of the first trimester may not participate in interscholastic athletics until mid point by days of the school year have been completed.
3. Only one unit (or subject) of physical education per year may be counted.
4. Any number of units (or subjects) earned in an approved summer school may be counted in accordance with local board policy. If a unit (or subject) is repeated in summer school, the higher numerical grade for that unit (or subject) may be used to compute the composite grade average.
5. All summer school credit recovery, correspondence courses and

- dual enrollment must be approved by the local system and must be completed and posted to the student's transcript prior to the first fall contest date.
6. Units earned through Credit Recovery may also be among the summer units counted and must be completed before the first fall contest date. If Credit Recovery is used to make up Carnegie units, those units can only be accepted if they are earned through a State Department of Education-approved program.
  7. For eligibility purposes, special recitation, extra work, make-up work, tests, review, etc., may not be given for the purpose of making a student eligible.
  8. To be eligible, all students (including repeaters and hold-backs) must be enrolled in a specified number of new units at the school they represent.
    - (a) 9th, 10th and 11th graders must be carrying at least six new units (three per semester on a 4x4 block schedule).
    - (b) 12th graders that are on track for graduation with more than the required number of units earned must be carrying at least four new units for the school year (two units per semester on a 4x4 block schedule).
    - (c) 7th and 8th graders must be carrying at least five new subjects.
  9. The eligibility of a student that has attended another school during the preceding year must be established by a transcript from that school before the student is permitted to participate at the new school.

### **Home School Students:**

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY**

Non-traditional students will adhere to all AHSAA rules applicable to academic accountability (Rule I, Section 9: Academic Rule, Requirements).

Home School Students will be required to submit four core course grades from their home school program to the school at the end of the school year for academic eligibility beginning with grade 7 through the end of the first semester in grade 12.

**Note:** All electives must be taken through the school.

- Only core courses may be accepted from the home school program.

**Note:** Home school students may opt to take core courses through the school's virtual program or college course credit if accepted by the local school.



**Home School Students (9-12) must:**

Enroll and attend two electives through the school.

- The AHSAA recommends taking physical education class or athletic PE on campus for safety reasons. Only one unit (subject) in physical education may be counted toward eligibility.

- If the school requires an athlete to take a PE to participate in athletics, the home school student will be required as well.

- If the school does not require athletic PE to participate in athletics, home school students may take PE through the school's virtual program.

Take one elective class on campus and one through the school's virtual program or both elective classes through the school's virtual program.

**Home School Students (7-8) must:**

Enroll in one elective through the school.

- The AHSAA highly recommends taking physical education class or athletic PE on campus for safety reason.

- If the school requires an athlete to take a PE to participate in athletics, the home school student will be required as well.

- If the school does not require athletic PE to participate in athletics, the home school students may take another elective on campus or through the school's virtual program.

**Virtual School Student****ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY**

The AHSAA recommends taking a physical education class or athletic PE on campus for safety reasons.

If the school requires an athlete or other students to take a PE to participate in athletics, the virtual school student will be required as well.

**SECTION 10. OUT-OF-STATE TRANSFER.** A student that transfers from an out-of-state school must have been eligible academically at that school in order to be declared eligible at an AHSAA member school for the remainder of the school year.

**SECTION 11. ATTENDANCE INTERRUPTION.** A student who has withdrawn from a school without completing six units of work with a minimum composite grade average of 70 before dropping out shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics until he/she has received credits for attendance and six units of work with a minimum composite grade average of 70 during a succeeding year.

A doctor's certificate, which states the sickness of a student was of such nature and length that it was impossible for the student to receive credit for the required work, must be presented to the Executive Director for an official



ruling, which may be appealed by the school to the District Board.

**Note:** A student may be eligible only eight consecutive semesters after entering the ninth grade.

**SECTION 12. TRANSFER RULE.** A student that enrolls in one school and later transfers to, or enrolls in, another school shall not be eligible immediately to represent the latter school in any varsity athletic contest.

**Note:** For eligibility purposes a student is normally considered enrolled when the student has attended school and class on the third day.

**Note:** A student that transfers to or enrolls in another school may practice and compete at the sub-varsity level (MS, Jr. High, JV) if all other requirements are met.

**Note:** A student is not eligible to compete at varsity level until all transfer rules and other requirements are met.

**Note:** A student is allowed only one (1) transfer per school year under these circumstances. This transfer option is available one time per year at the beginning of any semester. Any additional transfer must meet all applicable transfer rules. To compete at the varsity level, all eligibility requirements, including transfer rules, must be met.

A student that transfers from any non-member school to a member school he/she is zoned to attend shall be eligible at the beginning of the next semester (first or second) if they meet all other requirements.

A **member school** is one that has been accepted by the Central Board as a member of the AHSAA. A new member school's official date of entry into the AHSAA is June 1 preceding its first school year as a member school. Effective that day, new members must comply with the Constitution, Bylaws and rulings of the AHSAA.

**Note:** If a Board of Education policy allows a student completing the eighth grade in a gifted program to transfer within its system to an International Baccalaureate program (IB), that student would have immediate eligibility if all other requirements are met. A student placed out-of-zone within a school system based on a Special Education Individual Education Plan (IEP) would also have immediate eligibility if all other requirements are met.

## HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

### Transfers

A home school student who decides to enroll in a traditional school full time is eligible to participate if all other eligibility requirements are met.

**Note:** A traditional student who decides to be homeschooled because he/she did not meet AHSAA academic requirements is deemed ineligible to participate in athletics for a period of one year. (If in good standing academically at the time of withdrawal, the student remains eligible.)

**Exception 1. Completion of Highest Grade Taught.** Any student, upon completion of the highest grade taught in any public or private school that offers less than the number of years required for high school graduation, becomes eligible immediately at the member school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside if all other requirements are met.

**Note:** A student transferring under Exception 1 circumstances will become eligible immediately only at the member school within the same school system that serves the area in which the student's parents reside if all other requirements are met.

Example: A student who lives in the Huffman High School attendance zone tests into Ramsay High School as a ninth grader is eligible. However, if the same student later decides to transfer back to Huffman High School, the student is ineligible to participate for one year from the date of enrollment. Huffman High School and Ramsay High School (Magnet schools) are both part of the Birmingham City School District (BCSD). The RHS school attendance zone covers the entire area served by BCSD, and both schools offer interscholastic athletics.

If a student, before completion of the highest grade taught in a member school, transfers to another member school that serves the same area where the student's parents reside, that student is ineligible for one year at the new school according to regulations for overlapping school zones. (See Overlapping School Zones, page 35.)

**Exception 2. Non-Resident Attendance Requirement.** Any student, after completing one year's attendance (one year from date of enrollment) in a school and fulfilling all other requirements, becomes eligible in that school and the high school that it feeds in the same system. (This does not apply to foreign exchange students who participate in athletics during their first year of attendance.)

**Exception 2a. Dependent children** of a full-time classroom teacher or administrator (principal, superintendent, athletic director, counselor, etc.) who accepts a position in another school attendance zone or school may transfer to the new school and be immediately eligible to participate at the new school if all other requirements are met.

**Note:** If the student attends the old school after the parents' move occurred, the student will not become immediately eligible at the parent's school unless the transfer is made at the beginning of a new semester. If the transfer is made after the school year begins, the student will not become eligible until the beginning of the next semester.

**Exception 3. Bona Fide Move.** A student whose parents make a bona fide move completely out of one school zone into another may transfer all his/ her rights and privileges to the member school that serves the area where his/her parents reside.

If the change of school precedes the bona fide move on the part of the parents, the student is ineligible until the parents make a bona fide move.

**Determining a Bona Fide Move** – Sometimes it is very difficult to determine what constitutes a bona fide move. Family and home conditions differ and must be considered. The following factors are basic guidelines for determining a bona fide move:

- a. The household furniture of the family must be vacated into an unoccupied house or apartment.
- b. **All principal members** of the family must reside in the new place of residence.
- c. The original residence should be closed, rented or disposed of and not used by the family.
- d. Nine months at the new residence will be required to make a move bona fide.

**Note:** The Change of Residence Form may be found at <http://www.ahsaa.com/Resources-Publications-Forms/AHSAA/Information/Forms-Publications-Order-Form>

If a family moves into a new school zone and remains there for less than nine months, the move will not be considered bona fide and the family's child who is enrolled in the new school zone becomes ineligible there the day the family leaves the new school zone. (Member school is responsible for checking.)

The student remains ineligible for a full calendar year from the date the family moved out of the new zone. However, if the student did not participate in athletics, the period of ineligibility will be 12 months from the date of the student's initial enrollment.

Under unusual circumstances the Executive Director may decide a move to be valid even if all the above conditions have not been met. Each questionable case will be decided on its individual merits.

**Note:** Students entering the seventh grade for the first time are eligible where they enroll.

Just as in all other cases, the decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the District Board and a District Board's decision may be appealed to the Central Board of Control. In the final analysis, whether a move is bona fide or not will be determined by the Central Board.

**Change In Residence:** In order for a student to establish residence with a new family, that student must reside in the home for one year.

A foreign exchange student attending a member school located in the school zone where the host family resides is eligible to receive a waiver of the Transfer Rule for a period of one year provided this is the student's first year as a foreign exchange student. The student must be assigned by a program on the current Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET).

This waiver is granted under the stipulation that the foreign exchange student meets all other eligibility requirements of the AHSAA and has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

**Note:** A Foreign Exchange Student Registration Form No. 4 (found on the AHSAA website) must be completed and filed with the AHSAA before eligibility can be determined on any foreign exchange student. After approval, the student must be submitted to the AHSAA via online reporting.

When a student is forced into a new home due to an emergency caused by a disaster, the District Board or the Executive Director may reduce the required time for establishing the residence with the new family.

**Divorce:** The eligibility of a student whose parents are divorced or never married is determined by the following:

(a) If there has been a divorce or a legal separation in a family and sole or physical custody has been awarded by the court granting the custody to one of the parents, the athletic eligibility of the student will be established at the school that serves the area where that parent resides.

**Note:** If joint custody has been awarded and a transfer is involved, the student must attend the new school for one year before becoming eligible.

(b) If it becomes necessary at a later date for the student to reside with the other parent, the move will be accepted as a bona fide move if the court that granted the divorce changes the custody to this parent. This type of move will be accepted for immediate athletic eligibility purposes only one time. Therefore, if a student subsequently decides to return and reside with the first parent in a different school zone, the student will be ineligible for a period of one year.

(c) For parents who were never married, the one-time custody exemption may be granted as long as both parents are listed on a state issued birth certificate and all other eligibility requirements are met.

**Note:** Only final orders of the court, signed by the applicable judge, shall be considered by the AHSAA. Petitions, temporary orders, pendente lite, etc., do not constitute a final court order.

**Custody and Legal Guardianship:** Custody or legal guardianship assigned to anyone (including relatives) will not establish immediate athletic eligibility.

**Note:** (1) If a student transfers to another school zone to live with an appointed guardian without a bona fide move into that school zone by the parents, that student would be ineligible under the Transfer Rule.

(2) If a student has been declared a “dependent of the state” and placed by the Department of Human Resources (DHR), that student would meet the Transfer Rule requirement in the school zone where the student has been placed.

**Exception 4. Home Rule.** If a student attends a member school that does not serve the area where the student’s parents reside, the student may return to his/her home school and be eligible following the last day of the school year or first day of school if all other requirements are met. If the change of schools is made after the school year has started, the student will not be eligible until the beginning of the next school year. (This does not change the existing rule concerning transfers within overlapping school zones in which both schools serve the area where the student’s parents reside.)

If a student attends a non-member school, that student may return to his/her home school and be eligible at the beginning of the first or second semester if all other requirements are met.

A student who attends a magnet school that does not offer interscholastic athletics may participate in athletics at the student’s home school within the same school system if all eligibility requirements are met. The home school is based on the parents’ residence. If magnet school has athletics, the overlapping school rules apply.

**Note:** A student who attends a public charter school (conversion or start-up) that does not offer interscholastic athletics may participate in athletics at the student’s home school within the same attendance zone where the student’s parents reside if all other eligibility requirements have been met. The home school is based on the parent’s residence. If the charter school offers athletics, the

overlapping school rules apply.

Even though parents may move to an address that does not serve the school where a student is attending, the student may remain eligible at that school. However, if the student attends longer than the end of the school year in which the parents' move occurred, the student will not become eligible immediately at the school serving the parents' new address unless the transfer is made in the summer or at the beginning of the new school year. If the transfer is made after the school year begins, the student will not become eligible until the beginning of the next school year if the transfer is from a member school.

**Note: Determination Of Undefined School Zones.** School bus routes within county and city school systems establish the school zones used to determine athletic eligibility. When bus routes cross county or city boundary lines, these routes will establish the school zones used in determining eligibility if there is an agreement between the school systems involved.

Private and/or parochial school zone lines for eligibility purposes are limited to the municipality in which the school is located. If the school is not located within a municipality, the school zone lines are the county system where it is located.

For eligibility purposes, a start-up public charter school will adopt the attendance zone of the municipality in which the school is located. If the school is not located within a municipality, the school zone lines are the same as the county school system where it is located. A conversion public charter school will assume the same attendance zone of its former traditional public school unless the local education agency (LEA) changes the attendance zone for the charter school. If the former attendance zone changes, for eligibility purposes, the school lines are limited to the municipality in which the school is located. If the school is not located within a municipality, the charter school zone lines are the county system in which it is located.

**Overlapping School Zones.** A student whose parents reside in an area served by more than one school lives in the school zone of each school, thus in overlapping school zones. A student who changes schools within these overlapping school zones is ineligible in varsity competition for one year at the new school.

**Note:** A student who changes schools within an overlapping school zone is ineligible for varsity competition for one year from the date of enrollment at the new school. However, after serving one year of ineligibility at the varsity level, if the student transfers to any other

school that serves the attendance zone where the family resides within the overlap, the student would be eligible to participate at the varsity level if the transfer is the next consecutive year and if all other eligibility requirements are met.

**Note:** This rule applies to IB students as well as Magnet school students.

Examples of the Transfer Rule are as follows:

If a student transfers from Montgomery Academy (a private school in Montgomery) to Sidney Lanier High School (Montgomery), the student must attend the new school one year before establishing eligibility.

If a student transfers from Murphy High School to Davidson High School (both in Mobile), the student will be eligible two days after being submitted to the State Office via online reporting if the parents actually move from the Murphy zone to the Davidson zone. If the parents do not move, the student must attend Davidson one year before establishing eligibility.

If a student transfers from Gadsden High School to the Alabama School of Math and Science and a year later returns to Gadsden High without a change of residence by the student's parents, the student will become eligible at the beginning of the school year two days after being submitted to the school's online eligibility roster.

If a student who is eligible at Francis Marion High School withdraws after attending four weeks and moves with his/her parents to Selma, the student will become eligible at Selma High School two days after being entered on the school's online eligibility list and principal certified.

**SECTION 13. FALSE IDENTITY.** Any student giving a fictitious age or entering a contest under an assumed name shall be ruled permanently ineligible to participate in high school athletics.

**SECTION 14. PHYSICAL EXAMS.** In order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, there must be on file in the principal's office (or on DragonFly) a current physician's statement (hard copy or digital copy) certifying that the student has passed a physical exam, and that in the opinion of the examining physician (M.D. or D.O.) the student is fully able to participate in interscholastic athletics (grades 7-12). The AHSAA 2018 Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form (Form 5) must be used.

**Note:** A signed physical (student, parent signature and M.D. or D.O.) is required to participate in tryouts and/or practice. The M.D. or D.O. must sign/stamp all physicals even if CRNP completed the physical.



**Note:** A physical exam signed and dated by a M.D. or D.O. will satisfy the requirement for one calendar year as long as the physical is completed within the same calendar month each year from the date of the exam. Example: Physicals given any day in the month of May 2021 will satisfy the requirement through the last day of May 2022.

**SECTION 15. ILLEGAL PRACTICE.** Any student participating in an illegal practice in any sport may become ineligible for the next season in that sport.

**Note:** Practice time and start dates for a non-traditional student must be equivalent to and not exceed or vary from that of a traditional student during a traditional school day.

**SECTION 16. SUSPENSIONS.** Any student who is under temporary suspension or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school is not eligible. A student's attendance, attitude and classroom efforts must be acceptable to the school in which the student is enrolled. A transfer student must be in good standing with the student's previous schools. A period of discipline in effect from any previous school must be served prior to the student regaining athletic eligibility.

**Note:** The period of discipline includes any schools attended within the last calendar year.

**SECTION 17. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT.** A student or coach who has been found guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct in an interscholastic contest, or who has been penalized for a serious offense or rule violation by expulsion from a contest because of unsportsmanlike conduct, may be suspended by the Executive Director from participating for the remainder of the season in that sport.

A student or coach found guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct may be disqualified for the remainder of the season.

**Note:** It is the expectation of the AHSAA that all athletes and coaches display excellent character and sportsmanship during awards presentations. Failure to respond accordingly will result in a monetary fine and possible probation and/or suspension.

**Note:** Destruction of any host facility or part of a host facility during an AHSAA contest or event shall be considered flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct.

**SECTION 18. CONDUCT RULE/EJECTION PENALTIES.** Penalties for coaches and players ejected from one or more contests are as follows:



**First Ejection:** A \$300 fine (An athlete's fine can be reduced to \$100 if the athlete being ejected takes the online NFHS Captain's Course and payment is made within 10 days of the date of the ejection.) (NFHS Captain's Course can only be taken one time per sport in a student's athletic career.) If the ejection is due to NFHS contest rules and does not result in unsportsmanlike conduct, only the ejection will be assessed. The ejection is not a fineable offence if the ejection was based on NFHS playing rules related to contact that was not flagrant. An ejection for unsportsmanlike behavior will result in a fine.

**Second Ejection:** A one-game suspension and a \$500 fine

**Third Ejection:** Minimum penalty of a suspension for the remainder of the season plus a \$750 fine

**Note:** If any of the ejections or suspensions occur during the last contest of the season, a monetary fine will be placed on the school.

**Note:** All fines are due within 30 days. Fines not paid within required time are subject to late fees.

**Leaving The Bench Ejection:** If players come off the bench onto the court or field and are ejected under National Federation rules, they will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season contests. If a player is ejected by the contest officials or by the AHSAA for unsportsmanlike conduct that causes other players to leave the bench or team box, the player(s) who initiated the altercation will be charged with the same penalty as those who left the bench under National Federation rules and will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season contests. Only the individuals from the school whose players came off the bench are affected by this rule.

**Note:** In sports where tournament games count toward the maximum number of games allowed [basketball, baseball, football, etc.], each game played counts toward the 20%. In sports where the maximum number of games allowed does not include tournaments, [softball, volleyball, soccer, wrestling, etc.], a tournament would count as one contest except in championship play where the suspension would be in effect contest by contest.)

**Note:** If unpaid fines/fees are not received by the close of the school year, the school's access to the eligibility software program will be suspended until payment is received.

**Online Sportsmanship Requirement:** Students in high school (7-12) must complete a NFHS Sportsmanship or STAR Sportsmanship online interactive course one time during their high school careers. A certificate of completion must be kept on file in the school principal's office along with other eligibility items. Cheerleaders must also complete the course one

time during their high school years.

**SECTION 19. ELIGIBILITY RULE APPLICATION.** The eligibility rules of the Association shall apply to all students of member schools participating in interscholastic athletic contests with schools inside or outside of Alabama.

**Note:** The Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 (Act 2013-265) shall not affect or change the athletic eligibility rules of student-athletes governed by the Alabama High School Athletic Association (Section 3, page 26). Approved transfers for athletic eligibility should be completed in accordance with the Alabama Accountability Act guidelines

**SECTION 20. ELIGIBLE STUDENT PARTICIPATION.** Any student who is eligible for participation under the rules of the AHSAA shall be eligible to represent the school in any interscholastic contest. (This applies to athletics only and does not supersede local rules that are stricter.)

**SECTION 21. UNDEFINED VIOLATIONS.** The Executive Director and the Central Board of Control shall determine the penalty for a violation if the penalty is not prescribed in a particular section of Rule I.

**SECTION 22. STUDENT RESTITUTION.** If a student participates while ineligible, the usual penalty for the student will be a period of ineligibility equal to the time that the student participated while ineligible. This period may be determined to suit the nature of the case.

**Note:** A student's period of ineligibility must extend over consecutive semesters until eligibility is regained.

## **RULE II - Reports**

**SECTION 1. RULES COMPLIANCE.** A superintendent or principal shall, when requested, furnish to the Boards such information as they may desire bearing upon the eligibility of contestants from his/her school, or the school's compliance with the AHSAA constitution, bylaws, and rules. A failure to comply within a reasonable time shall forfeit a school's membership in the Association.

**SECTION 2. SUBMITTING STUDENT DATA.** At least two days before a student can participate in a contest of any athletic year, that student's name must have been posted online to DragonFly and certified by the school principal. **ONLINE DATA REQUIREMENTS:** A member school shall timely submit academic eligibility information on each student using the

prescribed reporting procedure found on the AHSAA online eligibility website, DragonFly.com. A student must meet all the eligibility requirements under the rules of the AHSAA in order to be an eligible athlete regardless of the status displayed by the online software eligibility calculator.

If the name of a student does not appear online on a school’s list of eligible students, that student’s data must be entered and principal certified at least two days before the student can participate in a contest. During the school year the data of additional students may be submitted online, but it must be entered and principal certified at least two days before the students can participate in a contest.

Students participating in cheerleading, including those who do not participate on other interscholastic athletic teams, must be entered on the school’s online eligibility list and must be listed on a cheerleading team roster.

Online submission of students for the following school year will not be processed until after June 1 and should not be submitted before that date.

The penalty for the failure of a school to submit eligibility data online shall be suspension from the AHSAA and/or the assessment of a monetary fine.

Rosters may be checked at championship events. Failure to have a complete eligibility roster may result in a monetary fine.

**Note: To be covered by catastrophic insurance, students must be listed on a tryout or team roster.**

**SECTION 3. REQUIRED FORMS AND REPORTS.** A member school shall also timely submit accurate information on five other student eligibility requirements-birth certificate, Physical Evaluation Form, AHSAA Concussion History form, Student Release Form, and STAR or NFHS Sportsmanship. Failure to timely submit this information will result in a monetary fine. Subsequent violations regarding the same student will result in a forfeiture of a contest(s) and additional fines.

All other necessary forms will be found in the Vault within DragonFly as PDF files that can be printed, completed and then submitted to the AHSAA via fax or mail or either files that can be submitted online directly.

**Note:** Catastrophic insurance payments must be submitted by Sept. 1, 2021.

The list of forms below (with applicable deadlines) is available online.

**Administrative Forms**

**No.**

Student in Good Standing Form

4 Foreign Exchange Student Registration Form

5 Pre-Participation Physical (signed by M.D. or D.O.)

- 7 Contract for Athletic Contests Between Schools
- 9 Application for Sanction of Interstate Athletic Event (Due in AHSAA Office 30 days before event)
- 17 Basketball Tournament Financial Report
- 20 Order Form (Rule books, all sports)  
Change of Residence Form

## MISCELLANEOUS FORMS

### Nomination Forms

- 30 Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame
- 31 Bryant-Jordan Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Award
- 32 Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Achievement Award
- 33 North-South All-Star Contests (Volleyball, Baseball, Softball and Soccer)
- 34 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Football Game
- 34A North-South All-Star Football Game
- 35 All-Star Basketball Games

### Championship Program Forms

- 42 Volleyball Area Tournament Bracket Form
- 43A Basketball Area Tournament Bracket Form (Girls & Boys)
- 48 Golf Section Tournament Entry Form
- 48A Golf Section Director's Report
- 48B Golf Section Director's Evaluation Form
- 49 Tennis Section/State Tournament Entry Form
- 49A Tennis Section Director's Report
- 54 Decathlon & Heptathlon State Meet Entry Form

## RULE III - Contests

**SECTION 1. CONTEST RESTRICTIONS.** An AHSAA member school may not play a contest (includes scrimmages) against a non-member school or against a school under suspension. Violations of these rules shall be sufficient grounds for suspension.

**Note:** Any out-of-state opponent must be a member of its state high school athletic association and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

**Note:** Area and regional championship games take precedent over regular season games.

**A high school may not engage in contests with junior high and middle schools.**

**Note:** Practice or contests between schools are not permitted at any time during the school year, which begins with the first fall practice date.

**SECTION 2. SUNDAY PLAY.** No interscholastic contest may be scheduled on Sunday without prior approval of the Central Board of Control. This includes summer play.

**SECTION 3. SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS.** Only tournaments that determine a champion must be sanctioned. A sanctioned tournament is defined as an organized event in a sport when 3 or more teams participate, and an overall champion is determined through multiple contests. A round robin with three or more teams must be counted as a tournament but if a champion is not determined, the round robin is not sanctioned. All other applicable AHSAA rules apply. Schools are responsible for verifying tournament play is in accordance with AHSAA bylaws (including, but not limited to, No Sunday play, competition against non-member schools is prohibited, etc.). Tri-matches or quad-matches do not count as tournament play.

Sanction request procedures: (See AHSAA website for procedures.)

- (1) Event with only Alabama Schools**—Request online (AHSAA member section)
- (2) Event with schools from bordering states:** Complete Form 9, found in DragonFly and submit to the AHSAA office at least 30 days prior to the date of the event.
- (3) Event with schools from non-bordering states that needs NFHS approval:** Request online at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) under Sports, then Sanctioning.

A team or individual cannot participate in any tournament or contest that is not sanctioned by the AHSAA.

**SECTION 4. AHSAA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.** All rules and regulations of the Association apply to all middle, junior high and high school contests which include, but are not limited to, junior varsity, B-team and varsity teams as well as to all jamborees and spring games.

Also, all rules and regulations outlined for the different sports in the AHSAA Sports Books apply.

**Eligibility rules or playing rules may not be set aside for any athletic contest at any level.**

**SECTION 5. SUBMITTING ELIGIBILITY ROSTERS.** At least two days before an athletic contest, the principal of each school involved must have verified and submitted an eligibility roster online in DragonFly. Failure to post rosters online may result in a monetary fine.

Submitting the Game Eligibility List certifies that each student listed has passed the required number of units of work the preceding year with

a minimum composite grade average of 70, is now carrying the minimum required units of work and has exhibited acceptable attendance, attitude, and classroom efforts. No special recitation, make-up work or tests may be given for the purpose of making a student eligible.

**SECTION 6. GIRLS AND BOYS PARTICIPATION.** In sports where championship play is sponsored for both girls and boys, it is recommended that schools field a boys team and a girls team in those sports. If a girls team is provided in a sport, girls may not participate on the boys team in that sport. Boys are not permitted to participate on a girls' team under any circumstances.

**Note:** Participation is defined as playing in a contest.

**Note:** A student participates as the gender identified on the certified birth certificate.

**SECTION 7. DRESSING OUT RULE.** Only eligible students may be dressed in school game uniforms for a contest.

**Note:** Dressing out while ineligible will result in a fine. Participation while ineligible will be a forfeiture.

**SECTION 8. INELIGIBLE STUDENT PARTICIPATION.** If an ineligible student participates in a contest, or if a student enters a contest under an assumed name, that student's school will be required to forfeit that contest if it was won by the school. If a student participates under an assumed name, the school's membership in the AHSAA will also be jeopardized.

If an ineligible student participates in a contest composed of individual events (track meet, tennis match, etc.), that school will be required to forfeit the entire contest, including all points and awards (medals, trophies, etc.) earned by other members of the team.

Schools that allow participation of an ineligible student-athlete must return all playoff shares/revenue to the AHSAA for the Revenue Share Program.

**SECTION 9. CONTEST COMPLAINTS.** When a complaint is made against any member of a team or for other reasons immediately before or during the progress of a contest, the contest shall be completed as scheduled according to NFHS Rules and the complaint filed with the Executive Director for settlement later.

**SECTION 10. FAILURE TO COMPLETE CONTESTS.** A school that takes its team off the field or court during a regular season or tournament contest may not expect to collect its expenses or guarantees. Such an act will be considered flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct.

## 2021–22 Sports Calendar

Sports	First Practice	First Contest	End of Season	Contests Allowed*	Tournaments Allowed
<b>FALL</b>					
Volleyball Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Aug. 2 Aug. 2	Aug. 19 Aug. 19	Oct. 28 Oct. 9	15 dates 10 dates	Weekends only ++ Weekends only++
Football Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Aug. 2 Aug. 2	Aug. 19/23 Aug. 26	Dec. 3 Oct. 28	10 8	n/a n/a
Cross Country Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Aug. 2 Aug. 2	Aug. 19 Aug. 19	Nov. 6 Oct. 16	10 8	n/a n/a
Swimming	Aug. 2	Aug. 19	Dec. 4	8	n/a
<b>WINTER</b>					
Basketball Boys/Girls Varsity/JV Jr. High/ Middle	Oct. 18 Sept. 20	Nov. 4 Oct. 7	Mar. 5 Jan. 29	30 24	(counted in total games allowed)+=
Bowling Boys/Girls Varsity/JV Jr. High/ Middle	Oct. 4 Oct. 4	Oct. 21 Oct. 21	Jan. 28 Jan. 7	18 dates 12 dates	5 2
Wrestling Varsity/JV Jr. High/ Middle	Oct. 25 Oct. 18	Nov. 11 Nov. 4	Feb. 19 Feb. 5	14 dates 8 dates	Weekends only++ Weekends only++
Indoor Track Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Nov. 8 Nov. 8	Nov. 26 Nov. 26	Feb. 5 Jan. 22	4 3	1 holiday meet++ 1 holiday meet++
<b>SPRING</b>					
Tennis Girls Varsity/JV Boys Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 10 Jan. 10 Jan. 10	Jan. 27 Jan. 27 Jan. 31	April 23 April 23 April 8	18 dates 18 dates 10 dates	3 3 2
Soccer Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 17 Jan. 17	Feb. 3 Feb. 3	May 14 April 22	18 (4A-5A, 6A) 20 (1A-3A,7A) 14	2^ 2^
Softball (throwing 1/10**) Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 31 Jan. 31	Feb. 17 Feb. 17	May 21 April 26	18 games 14 games	7++ 5++
Baseball (throwing 1/10**) 1A-6A Varsity/JV 1A-6A Jr. High/ Middle  7A Varsity/JV 7A Jr. High/ Middle	Jan. 31 Jan. 31	Feb. 17 Feb. 17	May 21 April 26	28 games > 24 games>  32 games> 26 games>	(counted in total games allowed)
Golf Girls Varsity/JV Boys Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 31 Jan. 31 Jan. 31	Feb. 17 Feb. 17 Feb. 17	May 10 May 10 April 16	14 dates 14 dates 8 dates	Only weekend tournaments included in playing dates.
Outdoor Track Varsity/JV Jr. High/Middle	Feb. 7 Feb. 7	Mar. 3 Mar. 3	May 7 April 28	10 8	n/a n/a

**KEYS & EXPLANATION** \* = Includes only regular season contests per school. \*\*Throwing conditioning (gloves & balls only) += Not counted as playing dates. +++ = Must be held with no loss of school time; N/A = Not applicable

^ Third soccer tournament allowed (no loss of school time) with each match counting as a regular season match.

**NOTE:** In all sports, a team's season ends when the team is eliminated in the state championship program. A team's season begins the day of its first contest in that sport. > Games played during the schools spring break do not count in the total games allowed. (See Baseball section in 2021–22 Sports Book)



After a contest begins, each school waives all rights as far as objections to the officials are concerned.

**Note:** A contest ending as a result of an unsportsmanlike incident involving one or both participating teams is subject to the Failure To Complete Contests rule above.

**SECTION 11. POST-SEASON CONTESTS.** Post-season contests are prohibited unless sponsored by the AHSAA. A team's season ends in all sports when the team is eliminated in the state championship program.

Practice or contests between schools are not permitted at any time during the school year, which begins with the first fall practice date.

**Note:** Regular season contests are not permitted after the state playoffs begin, which include Area, Section, Regionals, etc.

**Exceptions.** (a) When a school is invited to an officials' workshop sponsored by an officials' association that serves that school, the school may participate against member schools under the workshop guidelines set forth by the AHSAA. Workshop guidelines must be submitted by the officials association for approval by the AHSAA. An association shall conduct only one workshop per year.

**Note:** An AHSAA member school may participate at any time during the year in one local officials workshop or one AHSAA District Officials Camp and one AHSAA State Officials Camp. AHSAA District or State Officials Camps may occur during the summer months or during the school year after the first practice date for a certain sport and before the regular season in that sport begins.

(b) Jamborees and spring games are permitted only for football according to the established guidelines in Rule III, Section 17 of this Handbook. Jamborees or spring games involving more than two teams must be sanctioned.

**SECTION 12. NFHS RULES COMPLIANCE.** Official rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations have been adopted for all interscholastic contests of the AHSAA.

The interpretation and application of the rules and procedures for all AHSAA championship programs are vested in the Executive Director and the Central Board of Control of the AHSAA and cannot be appealed.

**Note:** Protests are not allowed under National Federation and **AHSAA rules.**

**SECTION 13. CONTEST/TOURNAMENT LIMITATIONS.** Limitations are established for the number of contests and tournaments a school may play in each sport, and the first practice and contest dates are set for each



sport. (See Sports Calendar on page 47.)

A student may participate in the number of contests his/her team is permitted to play in that sport. If a student participates on more than one level of competition in the same sport during the same season, the maximum number of contests that the student may participate in is the number of contests his/her highest-level team is permitted to play. (Ex.: A student playing a combination of junior varsity and varsity basketball games may participate in a maximum of 30 games, the number a varsity high school team can play.) The only exception is in football where a student may play a total of 18 games.

**Note:** A student shall not participate in two levels of competition in one sport during the same event or on the same day. This includes the same activity or sport for such events as county and conference tournaments, meets, etc., even though these events may be played on different days.

**Note:** Playoff games do not count toward maximum number of games allowed.

**Note:** Participation is defined as **playing** in a contest.

**Note:** The scheduling of all practices is left up to the discretion of the local school administration. A student may participate only at a member school where he/she is enrolled and eligible.

First Practice Dates	First Contest Dates for Football
2021 August 2	August 19
2022 August 6	August 18
2023 August 7	August 24

**SECTION 14. TEAM PRACTICE RESTRICTIONS.** No team or student(s) shall engage in any interscholastic competition before they have had at least 13 days of practice during the current season.

**Note:** A student changing directly from participation in another sport may have less than 13 days of practice before beginning competition.

During the school year, only during the allowable periods, school gymnasiums and other facilities may be used after school for practice or individual skills development as outlined by the rules and balls or equipment of the game may be used to develop skills.

Weight training and conditioning programs are exempt from these restrictions.

Coaches may coach their teams during athletic PE as defined under Section 15. Coaches may not use equipment outside the season except for skills development.

**SECTION 15. COACHING OUTSIDE SCHOOL YEAR.** No administrator, coach or non-faculty coach from a school's staff may hold organized practice (except during allowable period) or competition for its school or its feeder school students (grades 7-12) in that sport outside the sports season during the school year. Members of a school coaching staff are not allowed to coach girls or boys students from his/her school sports teams during the off-season during the school year except for the allowable period as described below.

Any coach that coaches a student from another school in practice or competition renders that student or offending coach ineligible at the coach's school in the sport in which the violation occurred for the next school season.

**Note:** Any coach that coaches a student (grades 7-12) from his/her school in practice or competition outside an allowable period renders that student or the offending coach ineligible in the sport in which the violation occurred for that school season.

AHSAA certified coaches from the school's staff may hold organized instruction outside of the sports season during the school year in groups for a maximum of 2 hours per week per sport.

**Note:** AHSAA coaches from the school's staff may hold organized instructions outside of the sports season during the school year a maximum of 10 weeks of the off-season with a maximum of 2 hours per week per sport. Anytime a coach works sports specific skills with an athlete, that time counts toward the 2-hour team total for that sport that week.

**Note:** A coach can work with an in-season athlete for an out-of- season sport if both coaches agree. If coaches cannot agree, the local administration makes the decision or the in-season sport takes precedent.

**Note:** A coach cannot work with any student during the DEAD PERIOD. The first two (2) weeks of the school year and/or fall practice are a dead period. (At the end of each sport season, if a student is not beginning another sport, a student must have a two week period of rest (DEAD PERIOD) before a coach can work with him/her.)

Ex. The two weeks following the last contest in football is a dead period. A coach may not work an athlete for two weeks for another sport. This does not include transitioning to next sport such as basketball.

**SECTION 16. EVALUATION PERIOD.** Each school is permitted **one** Evaluation Period per sport during the off-season. All sports except football may have a maximum five days in a consecutive 10-school-day calendar period. Football is permitted a maximum 10 days in a consecutive 20-school day calendar period. The evaluations for spring sports can be held (except during dead periods) during the first semester or anytime from the end of the season to the end of the school year and the evaluations for all other sports during the second semester. All students may participate in the evaluations.

Fall sports (football, volleyball, cross country, swimming) have the option of conducting a spring evaluation period or starting official practice on the Monday before the first allowable starting date in August. A school's football team cannot have both a spring evaluation then start fall practice a week early.

If a school does not have spring evaluations, the football team may start fall practice one week early and participate in one pre-season scrimmage that week prior to the team's first varsity contest regardless of whether a team's regular season begins week 0 or week 1.

**Note:** A school may participate in one preseason scrimmage game on Aug. 12/13 or Aug. 19/20 if week 0 is open.

**Note:** All heat acclimatization guidelines must be followed (see pg. 93 AHSAA Sports Book).

**Note:** Tryouts for any sport must be conducted only during an off-season Evaluation Period during the school year **or after the first practice date for that sport.**

**SECTION 17. SPRING EVALUATION PERIODS.** Spring Evaluation Periods are permitted for football, basketball and volleyball (or spring sports as explained in Section 16). Football is permitted spring practice for a maximum 10 days in a consecutive 20-school day calendar period while basketball and volleyball practice is permitted for five days in a consecutive 10-school day calendar period. Days during a spring break will not be counted as calendar days for schools that do not use these days during a practice period.

Schools that have declared a 9th grade football team may conduct a separate 9th grade 10 day evaluation period either during the middle school 20 days or during the high school 20 days. Each athlete will still only be allowed to have 10 days of evaluations. Athletes would not be allowed to have 10 days with 9th grade team and then 10 days with varsity.

**Note:** Spring practice is any organized or supervised group practice with or without protective equipment. Individuals or small groups who are not organized or supervised may participate in activities such as passing, punting, shooting, dribbling, etc. Touch football in a

physical education class is not a violation.

Prior to the start of a 10-day spring football evaluation period, three days of heat conditioning in helmets are required. No other equipment (balls, pads, etc.) may be used and no coaching is permitted. Anything that simulates practice will mark the first day of a school's allotted 10 days of practice.

**Note:** The three days of heat conditioning in helmets are not required for students involved in a spring sport.

Football and basketball practices may be held any time during the second semester while volleyball practice must be conducted any time between the conclusion of a school's basketball season and the end of school.

Spring practices shall be open to incoming students from feeder schools. If the feeder school students meet eligibility requirements, they may participate in a football jamboree or regulation game. **Students must be enrolled in the school system in order to participate in practice, workouts or any athletic functions of the school.**

**Students must be enrolled in the school or feeder school in order to practice and be covered by insurance.**

**A student may participate in only one spring practice period per sport per school year.**

Sixth graders from a feeder school may participate in spring practice, but are not eligible to participate in a game or jamboree. These students and other students that are ineligible but allowed to practice must be on the school's tryout roster in DragonFly to be covered by catastrophic insurance.

A jamboree or regulation game is permitted only for football. A jamboree (with modified rules) may be played after 10 days of practice, but one school may not participate in more than four 12-minute quarters. (Ex. If a school plays in a regulation game or jamboree in the fall, then the school may also play in either of the events in the spring of the same school year.) Each 7-12 school is permitted to have separate 10-day spring football practice periods for its high school and junior high/middle school team, and each team may have a jamboree or regulation game. A student may participate in only one jamboree or regulation game (high school or junior high/middle school). A ninth-grade team is considered a junior high team. A jamboree must include three or more teams with no one school playing more than four 12-minute quarters. All jamborees must be sanctioned online.

**SECTION 18. FALL FOOTBALL PRACTICE REGULATIONS.** Only shorts and helmets are allowed the first two days of fall football practice. Shoulder pads and helmets are allowed on the third practice day for a period not

to exceed 90 minutes of total practice time and not exceed 120 (2 hours) minutes on the fourth day.

On the fifth practice day, one full-speed contact practice, in full gear, is allowed not to exceed 90 minutes. The earliest date full pads may be worn is August 7.

The student may practice in full pads on his/her fifth practice day. No matter when a student begins fall football practice, that student must practice for two days in shorts. Shoulder pads are allowed for one practice on that student's third practice day (1.5-hour practice).

In all sports, two-a-day practices may not be conducted on consecutive days. When two-a-day practices are conducted, a four (4) hour break is required between the end of the first practice and the beginning of the second practice. In football, only one practice per day may be in full pads. The other practice that day can be only in helmets and shoulder pads.

**Between the close of the football season and the end of that school year, any football practice is prohibited except during the allowable spring practice period. A student who participates in an illegal practice may be declared ineligible for interscholastic football.**

**Note:** NO football equipment may be worn from the last day of the regular season until the allowable spring practice period. Helmets are allowed during the summer.

**AHSAA Regulations:** During the regular season, including championship play, and the allowed 10-day spring evaluation period, AHSAA member schools must restrict the amount of full-speed contact practice. These guidelines are intended to limit the amount of full-speed contact football practice. These guidelines are intended to limit the amount of full-speed contact and not to limit the number of practices in full pads.

**Week 1** - In accordance with the AHSAA Fall Football Practice Rule (Rule III, Section 18, Page 52 of the 2021-22 Handbook), only shorts and helmets are allowed the first two days of fall football practice. Shoulder pads and helmets are allowed on the third practice day for a period not to exceed 90 minutes of total practice time and not exceed 120 (2 hours) minutes on the fourth day.

On the fifth practice day, one full-speed contact practice, in full gear, is allowed not to exceed 90 minutes.

**Week 2** - Alternating days of full-speed contact practice, not to exceed a combined total of 120 minutes of full-speed contact is allowed. In addition, one intra-squad scrimmage is allowed in week 2.

**Week 3** - Alternating days of full-speed contact practice, not to exceed a combined total of 120 minutes of full contact is allowed. One interscholastic scrimmage or contest is allowed in week 3

**Week 4 through End of Season** - A total of 90 minutes of full-speed contact practice per week is allowed.

**Spring Evaluation** - Alternating days of full-speed contact practice, not to exceed a combined total of 120 minutes of full-speed contact per week is allowed during the 10 allowable days for evaluation. One interscholastic scrimmage contest is allowed during the spring evaluation and counts as one of the 10 allowable days.

The following definitions describe the different levels of contact in football practice:

**Actions that require contact limitations:**

**Live Actions** - Contact at game speed in which players execute full blocking and tackling at the competitive pace, taking players to the ground.

**Full-speed contact** - Any simulations in which live action occurs. Thud - Any live action or full-speed contact with no pre-determined winner or without taking a player to the ground.

**Actions that do not require contact limitations:**

**Air** - Players should run unopposed without bags or any opposition

**Bags** - Activity is executed against a bag, shield or pad to allow for a soft-contact surface, with or without the resistance of a teammate or coach standing behind the bag.

**SECTION 19. LEVELS OF COMPETITION.** No student shall be allowed to participate in two levels of competition (varsity, junior varsity, B-team, junior high or middle school) in one sport during the same event or on the same day. In football, a student may not participate in games at different levels (or the same level) on consecutive days.

**Note:** This includes the same activity or sport for such events as county and conference tournaments and meets, section meets, etc., even though these events may be played at different sites over several days.

A student may participate in a sport only one time per school year. If a student transfers from any school, including out-of-state, after a season in a certain sport is completed, that student is ineligible to participate in the same sport at the new member school during the same school year. If a student transfers from a member school before the season in a certain sport is completed, that student would be eligible to participate in the same sport at the new school provided its season had not been completed.

Two teams from the same school may not participate in the same division of an event (tournament, meet, match, etc.) in any sport.

**An ineligible student is not allowed to participate in any interscholastic contest on any level, including summer contests.**

**SECTION 20. ALL-STAR REGULATIONS.** Participation, directly or indirectly, in the officiating, management, supervision, player selection, coaching or promotion of all-star high school teams, high school championship teams or similar teams in contests in any sport, unless under the supervision and sanction of the AHSAA, by member schools, their officials or their teachers, shall be considered a violation of the spirit and purpose, if not the actual wording, of these rules and regulations.

A member school shall not organize, administrate, or permit the use of its equipment or facilities for an all-star contest that is not sanctioned by the AHSAA. Any school violating the spirit, purpose or wording of these rules and regulations shall cause its school to be suspended from the AHSAA for such length of time as the Central Board deems advisable. Registered officials shall be suspended for promoting or officiating such contests.

**SECTION 21. SUMMER PRACTICE RULES. Coaches are allowed to practice and hold camps with their zoned students (K-12) during the summer months (from the end of school until the starting practice date for fall sports) and use drills to teach skills.** Sports-specific mandatory practices are prohibited until the starting practice date for fall sports. No football equipment except helmets and hand-held blocking pads may be used until the starting date for fall practice. Sleds are not permissible.

Weight training and conditioning programs are not restricted. It is the responsibility of each school to see that the Summer Practice Rule is not violated.

During the All-Star Sports Week/Summer Conference (July 18-22) is DEAD WEEK:

- Weight training and conditioning programs are permissible.
- Practice and competition are not allowed.

### **Summer Practice Competition.**

**Only eligible students may participate in summer competition and/or camps under the jurisdiction of a member school.**

- 1. A school may participate in unlimited competition and/or camps for winter and spring sports during 3 of the 4 following weeks (Summer 2022): May 30, June 6, and June 13, June 20. Also, unlimited competition and/or camps are allowed for fall sports during 3 of the 4 following weeks: June 27, July 4, July 11, and July 25.**
- 2. Outside the allowable three weeks, a school team may choose to participate two days (TOTAL) at an in-state college or university camp. If a school chooses to use these two days, it will lose two days from one of their allowable 3**



**weeks.**

**Ex.** A school's football team has chosen the weeks June 27, July 4 and July 11 to participate in summer camps/competition. If they decide to participate in a college camp for two days during the week of June 13, they must give up two days from one of the allowable weeks they have chosen to play.

**Note:** a. Any day(s) used during an assigned week (Sunday thru Saturday) count(s) as one of the three allowable weeks. Weeks cannot be broken-up.

**Note:** b. The week of July 18-22 will be dead week for competition due to AHSAA All-Star Sports Week/Summer Conference, but schools may hold sessions of conditioning and weights.

**SECTION 22. CAMPS/SUMMER CAMPS.** Schools may not participate in a camp outside the dates of the allowable three weeks for that sport. Basketball teams may not participate in a camp during the week of June 21. (see Note a. above)

Students are allowed to attend camps as individuals outside the allowable three week period.

Students may attend camps provided they do so individually at their own expense.

**Note:** Schools may not attend team camps during the school year.

Outside the allowable three week period, if a member school's facilities are used by any outside entity for an event, including but not limited to, camps, showcases, combines, practices, or individual skills development, a coach, whose players (grades 7-12) are participating in the event, may NOT work the event.

Outside the allowable three week period, players and coaches who attend camps as individuals on a college or university campus are exempt from this rule.

During any DEAD WEEK, a member school's campus may NOT be used to host an event, including but not limited to, camps, showcases, combine, or individual skills development.

**Note:** During the sports season, no outside activity is allowed in the same sport, including but not limited to camps, showcases, practices, regardless of who sponsors/conducts the event (please refer to Outside Participation Rule).

**Note:** Camps, combines, showcases, etc. involving students NOT enrolled in school hosting the camp or school's feeder pattern can ONLY be held during the allowable period.



**Note:** College tryouts are permissible during the sports season if pre-approved by the principal and head coach and no contest is missed.

During the school year students may attend camps as individuals.

**Note:** The week of July 18 will be dead week for competition due to AHSAA All-Star Sports Week, but schools may hold sessions of conditioning and weights.

**Note:** Weeks cannot be broken up. Any day(s) used during an assigned week counts as one of the three allowable weeks.

**Note:** Schools may not participate in a camp outside the dates of the three weeks for that sport. i.e. Basketball teams may not participate in a camp during the week of June 20.

**Note:** If a coach conducts more than the allowable 3 weeks of practice competition, or violates allowable three weeks period, he/she could be restricted from coaching that team the following school season.

1. Coaches may coach their own school players in practice competition. Coaches may coach their own children in more than three weeks of allowable competition if none of the coach's other players are on the child's team. A school coach of any sport may not coach an outside team if any student (7-12) other than the coach's child is on that team.
2. Each day of practice competition in organized events (team camps, skill camps, Sports Festival, etc.) will count toward the allowable three weeks. One day used in a week counts as one of the three allowable weeks.
3. All practice competition and team camps sponsored by AHSAA-member schools must include only AHSAA-member schools or schools from other NFHS-affiliated state associations. (All Team camps hosted by colleges and other outside organizations are excluded.)

**Note:** Practice competition against non-member schools is prohibited except in team camps hosted by colleges and universities. Member schools may not participate in practice competition or scrimmages at any time against non-school teams (travel, club, etc.)

4. Practice competitions between schools are deemed to be modified or practice contests under the jurisdiction of participating schools, therefore AHSAA-registered officials are not required and National Federation rules may not apply.

5. Each school should analyze the liability issues of its practice competition and act accordingly.
6. Admission may be charged to any practice competition under the direction of the school principal.
7. Practice competition involving coaches and players in grades 7-12 (including team camps) is not allowed during All-Star Sports Week, a “dead week”.
8. Helmets and hand-held blocking pads are the only types of protective equipment that may be used in any football practice competition (includes team and individual camps).

**SECTION 23. VIDEO RESTRICTIONS.** A school or anyone representing the school may not video tape, record, internet stream, nor film any contest in which it is not involved unless it has received permission from both participating schools. No outside group or individual may video tape or film any contest without permission from all participating schools.

The use of “Drones” may at anytime be prohibited by the contest officials if the contest officials determine that the “Drones” would cause an unreasonable risk or distraction.

**SECTION 24. COACHES’ FIELD EQUIPMENT.** Communication devices including but not limited to audio recorders, Local Area Network (LAN) phones and/or Internet depictions, shall not be used to communicate with a player except during a conference outside the 9-yard mark.

Communication devices including but not limited to audio recorders, Local Area Network (LAN) phones and/or headsets, mobile phones, still photograph(s), film, analog or digital video(s) and/or Internet depictions may be used by coaches and non-players.

**SECTION 25. CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPATION RULE.** A school that sponsors a team or an individual in any sport competition must participate in the championship program of that sport unless the school is not eligible for the championship program at that time.

**Note:** Once a member school certifies or declares participation in a sport, failure to participate is a violation and a monetary fine will be assessed.

**Note:** Failure to declare a sport before participating in a contest will result in a monetary fine.

**Note:** Middle schools are required to declare teams, create rosters, and schedules, but will not be assessed a monetary fine if they undeclare at a later date or do not field a team.

**SECTION 26. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY INTERRUPTION POLICY.** This policy, adopted by the AHSAA Central Board of Control, will be followed when championship play is interrupted or threatened by public health/safety concerns, acts of God or other uncontrollable and unforeseen circumstances. Necessary decisions concerning any circumstances that are not covered by this policy will be left to the discretion of the AHSAA administrative staff and the Central Board of Control.

This policy shall be observed for all AHSAA-sponsored championship playoff events.

1. In the event of school closings within two calendar days of scheduled playoff contests, the AHSAA administrative staff, in collaboration with the Central Board and playoff event personnel, will attempt to delay or reschedule the playoff contests without adversely affecting the next round of the playoff schedule. Any part of a revised schedule may need modification.

**Note:** For purposes of this policy, “closure,” “closed” or “school closing” shall mean that the local authorities of the interruption cause or Board of Education/Governing Board has canceled all high school classes and school-sponsored extracurricular activities for a minimum of one calendar day due to a specific concern.

2. **Two-team contests:** Postponed contests must be re-scheduled on the **next day** unless the next round of the playoff is adversely affected or if the next day is a Sunday. The failure of a team to participate would result in a forfeit.

3. **Multi-team events:** If a revised schedule adversely affects the next round, the event may be played according to the original schedule. The failure of a team or individuals to participate would result in a forfeit.

4. In the event that schools remain open, participants and teams shall be expected to play the contests on the scheduled dates.

5. Information on any changes regarding AHSAA playoff scheduling will be posted on the home page of the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)).

**SECTION 27. INTRAVENOUS FLUID USE POLICY.** An athlete requiring intravenous fluid treatment (hydration/rehydration) will not be allowed to participate in any athletic activity until cleared by a medical doctor and approved by the parents or guardian. A direct verbal or written order from a medical doctor is required.

**Note:** If any health care professional who is certified to do so administers an IV, the athlete must be cleared by a medical doctor and approved by parent before returning to play.

**SECTION 28. CONCUSSION POLICY.** Any student-athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the contest and **shall not return that day**. Following the

day the concussion symptoms occur, the student-athlete may return to practice or play **only after a medical release** has been issued by a medical doctor.

Any health care professional or AHSAA certified coach may identify concussive signs, symptoms or behaviors of a student athlete during any type of athletic activity. Once concussive signs are identified, only a medical doctor can clear the athlete to return to play. Any school in violation of the AHSAA policy application of National Federation rule will be subject to sanctions.

An online NFHS Concussion Course is required for all certified coaches (faculty and non-faculty). The free educational course will aid in identifying symptoms of a concussion and the procedure to follow when these symptoms are recognized. The course is available at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

A Concussion Information Form signed by each student and his/her parent must be kept on file in the principal's office where the student is enrolled. (The form will satisfy the requirement for one school year.)

(NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of a Concussion are found in the Appendix in the back of each NFHS Rules Book and on the AHSAA website under the Sports Medicine and Safety tab.)

## **RULE IV - Game Officials**

**SECTION 1. OFFICIALS'.** School principals shall be responsible for the contracting of officials for any contest.

Only qualifying officials are used for championship play.

**SECTION 2. REGISTERED OFFICIALS' CONTEST REQUIREMENTS.** Only officials who are registered with the AHSAA may be used by member schools as officials in football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling and soccer. Some registered officials are required in track and field. Violation of this rule shall subject the school or schools to a fine.

All member schools of the AHSAA are required to use in-state officials associations when they are available. Private dressing rooms with hot and cold showers must be provided for all officials.

Note: The host school is responsible for the security of contest officials before, during and after the contest, including but not limited to providing a safe area for contest officials to park their vehicles.

Electric Clock Operators must be registered by the AHSAA through member schools or local officials' associations in order to serve as clock operators for interscholastic contests. For varsity football games, electric clock operators will be assigned from the officials' associations working the games.

Additional guidelines governing the AHSAA Officiating program can be found online at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com) under the Officials' Section.

**SECTION 3. OFFICIALS' RESTRICTIONS.** An official who is an employee of a given school may not officiate in any contest if his/her school competes with either school participating in the contest he/she officiates. An employee of a participating school may not officiate in any interscholastic contest in which his/her school is involved.

**Note:** Swimming and track officials are excluded from the restriction.

**SECTION 4. OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION RESTRICTIONS.** A varsity coach who is a member of an officials association which registers officials with the AHSAA may not use an official from that association in that coach's varsity game. This applies to all sanctioned AHSAA sports except for track.

**SECTION 5: DRONE POLICY.** The use of "Drones" for any athletic purpose inside the confines of a building is strictly prohibited at all times.

The use of a "Drone" at an outdoor interscholastic contest may be used but must remain outside the field of play at all times. It also cannot be flown over an area where spectators (people) are gathering or sitting prior to or during an interscholastic contest.

The host school of any interscholastic contest between member schools has the authority to prohibit the use of "Drones".

The use of "Drones" may at anytime be prohibited by the contest officials if the contest officials determine that the "Drones" would cause an unreasonable risk or distraction.

## **RULE V - Coaches**

**SECTION 1. COACHING REQUIREMENTS.** A coach or persons responsible for the immediate training of athletes or athletic teams must be employed or approved by the Board of Education as a certified teacher under the supervision of the school principal.

**Note:** "Coach" refers to any person who is given direct responsibility by the school and/or the Board of Education for the training or instruction of any athletes or athletic team. A school team may not participate in an interscholastic contest unless the team is accompanied by a certified teacher (faculty member).

**Note:** All head coaches of high school teams and head coaches of the highest level of junior high/middle school teams, including unit schools grades 7-12, are required to attend a rules clinic at All-Star Sports Week or complete and pass a rules test online with a minimum score of 100 or a predetermined score by the required date, and labeled as head coach in DragonFly. Coaches failing to comply will be fined as follows:

\$300 for high school coaches and \$50 for junior high/middle school coaches.

**Note:** All coaches must be certified and listed on DragonFly.

**Note:** **It is the responsibility of all coaches to be knowledgeable of AHSAA bylaws.**

**Note:** Completion of the online NFHS Sportsmanship and NFHS Concussion, Heat Acclimatization, Mental Illness, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest courses are mandatory for all coaches (faculty and non-faculty).

**Note:** Coaches may coach their own children during the school year and summer if none of the coach's other players are on the child's team.)

**Non-Faculty Coach:** Schools may use a non-faculty coach in any sport when that person is serving directly under the supervision of a coach (faculty member) employed by the Board of Education and is also employed by the school and/or the Board of Education.

**Note:** A non-faculty coach is a person with any coaching responsibility at a member school and is certified in accordance with all Coaches' Education Program course requirements as stated in Rule V, Coaches, Section 2, Coaches' Education Program.

Non-faculty coaches may be disqualified and discontinued by the Executive Director or Central Board at any time it appears that their instruction is not in the best interests of the statewide athletic program.

A school that uses a non-faculty coach that is not employed or approved by the school and/or the Board of Education is subject to penalty from the AHSAA.

A non-faculty coach must be accompanied at all contests by a faculty member or full-time employee of the school.

All Coaches must be certified and listed on DragonFly.

**SECTION 2 : COACHES' EDUCATION PROGRAM.** Prior to working with any student-athlete (practice or competition), coaches in the AHSAA must meet all requirements of the Coaches' Education Program:

- Coaching Principles (NFHS or ASEP)
- Sports First Aid Health & Safety for Coaches (ASEP or PREPARE)
- NFHS Sportsmanship (or STAR Sportsmanship)
- NFHS Concussion course
- NFHS Heat Acclimatization course
- Must have an active CPR certification with AED Training

(All American Heart Association courses are accepted as long as the course has a “hands-on” component.)

- NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- NFHS Mental Health and Illness Course

Once these requirements have been successfully completed, coaches are eligible to join the AHSADCA and receive a coaches’ card. The courses may also be taken for Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

**Note:** Each member school must keep on file in the principal’s office a verification for each coach that has been certified from 2001-02 to the present (course requirements) and a verification (hard copy) that all coaches’ education requirements have been successfully completed. Coaches at member schools prior to 2001-02 are exempt from the Coaching Principles and Sports First Aid course requirements. A coach’s certification may be checked at all championship events.

**SECTION 3. COACHES’ CONDUCT.** A coach or non-faculty coach found guilty of immoral or unsportsmanlike conduct may be disqualified by the Central Board of Control. Any school using a disqualified coach or non-faculty coach shall be subjected to suspension from the AHSAA.

**SECTION 4. ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS & COACHES ASSOCIATION.** All coaches and administrators that meet the AHSAA Coaches’ Education Program requirements and are assigned athletic coaching responsibilities are eligible for membership in this organization, established in 1948 under the auspices of the AHSAA. There is a service fee of \$40 each per membership year.

Administrators (principals and assistant principals) are eligible for membership with a \$50 annual fee per administrator. In order to be covered by the liability insurance, the coach must be certified and in good standing.

The membership card entitles the member to voting power in the Coaches Association and serves as a pass for the “holder and one” to all events sponsored by the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association as well as to the championship playoff events sponsored by the AHSAA.

The service fee also entitles the member to \$1 million personal liability insurance coverage, which includes the classroom.

The current activities and projects of the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association include the All-Star Sports Week, rules clinics, Lunch & Learns, the coaches’ awards banquet, the publication of the coaches’ directory, Heads-Up Football Certification, and the co-sponsorship of the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame program along with the AHSAA.



**SECTION 5. 25-YEAR SPECIAL PASS.** Any member of the AHSADCA who has completed 25 years as a member of the organization, regardless of positions held at a member school, may apply for a Special Pass to all interscholastic athletic events sponsored by the AHSAA. This includes assistant coaches, head coaches, principals, assistant principals or athletic directors. The required 25 years of service can include any combination of service years in the aforementioned positions.

Jamie Lee is director of the AHSADCA. The 2021-22 officers:

- President ..... Tanya Wiggins, Grissom
- 1st Vice-President .....Devin Booth, Opelika
- 2nd Vice-President .....Steve Savarese, AHSAA
- Secretary-Treasurer .....

(New officers are elected during All-Star Sports Week.)

## RULE VI - Administration

**SECTION 1. AHSAA YEAR.** The Athletic Association (fiscal) year begins July 1 and ends the following June 30 of each calendar year.

**SECTION 2. PRINCIPALS’ ACCOUNTABILITY.** The principal of a school shall be held ultimately responsible in all matters that concern interscholastic athletics at his/her school.

**Note:** The Principal is responsible for the conduct of spectators and fans at all athletic contests, keeping current Emergency Action Plans (EAP) for all sport facilities and all required documents for eligible athletes and certified coaches on file in the principal’s office.

**Note:** A principal may request an official ruling in writing on school letterhead. An email, phone call or text is not an official request or documentation.

### AHSAA Audit Checklist

The required documents listed below should be on file in the school principal’s office and must be readily accessible to AHSAA auditors.

**Note:** During the Audit process—any student-athlete or coach found to not have all eligibility requirements on file is prohibited from participating in any practice or contest until all documents are compliant with AHSAA rules.

**The following should be completed and on file prior to a student-athlete participating in any practice:**

- Student Birth Certificate.
- Student Pre-Participation Physical Form (Good for one calendar year). Must be dated and signed by an M.D. or D.O.).



- Student Concussion History Form\* (Good for current school year) must be signed by the student and parent/guardian).
- Student Release Form\* (Good for current school year). All AHSAA Forms are available at [ahsaa.com](http://ahsaa.com)

*\*As recommended by the AHSAA Medical Advisory Board and Legal Counsel, these forms will be available each year in May on the Monday following the last date of spring championship events. Forms signed in May or during the summer are good for the following school year.*

**The following should be completed and a certificate of completion on file prior to a student-athlete participating in any athletic contest:**

- NFHS Sportsmanship (one time).

**The following should be completed and on file prior to a coach (faculty or non-faculty) participating in any practice:**

- **Coach Certification documentation** (for head coaches, assistant coaches, non-faculty coaches). This includes proof of completion of:
  - Principles of Coaching and (NFHSLearn.com).
  - First Aid Courses (NFHSLearn.com)
  - Coach CPR certification with AED training (must be active).
  - NFHS Coach Concussion Course completion documentation (one time).
  - NFHS Coach Heat Illness Prevention Course completion documentation (one time).
  - NFHS Coach Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course completion documentation (one time).
  - NFHS Mental Illness Course completion documentation (one time).

**The following should be completed and on file prior to a coach (faculty or non-faculty) participating in any athletic contest:**

- NFHS Sportsmanship (one time).
- **The AHSAA highly recommends all student athletes and coaches complete the NFHS Bullying, Hazing, and Inappropriate Behavior courses available at [nfhslearn.com](http://nfhslearn.com)**

### **SECTION 3. JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION.**

Students at a junior high/middle school may participate at all levels of competition (varsity, junior varsity, B-team, etc.) at the high school where they are zoned to attend if all other requirements are met.

**SECTION 4. CONTEST CONTRACTS.** The superintendent or principal shall electronically sign all contracts in DragonFly to engage in interscholastic contests. When contracting for a contest, provision must be made for a forfeiture fee to be paid by the school that fails to carry out the arrangement made. There shall be no cancellation of a contract once entered into, except by mutual agreement, unless the forfeiture fee provided by the contract is paid. An incomplete contract is non-binding.

**Note:** If a school has a contract for a game and breaks it (by paying the forfeiture fee) without mutual agreement of the other school involved, this may count as one of the offended school's allowed games and will be officially a forfeited game. If the game is replaced by the offended school, no forfeit will be granted. The school breaking the contract will not be allowed to replace the forfeited game.

**Note:** In the sport of football, if the visiting school forfeited in year one of a two-year contract due to COVID/quarantine, the school that forfeited will travel to the other school in year two of contract. The money from ticket sales will be split between the schools.

The Central Board recommends that: (1) member schools play interscholastic athletic contests on only one night preceding a school day in any given week and, (2) contracts be used for contests in all sports.

**Note:** A contest starting at 5 p.m. or after is considered a night contest.

**SECTION 5. CONTRACTING CONTEST OFFICIALS.** It is the responsibility of each school to contract with local officials' associations to assign registered officials for each of its regular season contests in all sports.

**Note:** A school that takes its team off the field or court during a contest may not expect to collect its expenses or guarantees. Such an act will be considered flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct.

After a contest begins, each school waives all rights as far as objections to the officials are concerned.

**SECTION 6. ALTERING AHSAA RULES.** Mutual agreements to violate or knowingly violating the rules of the AHSAA may result in fines, restrictive probation or the suspension of any or all schools involved.

**Note:** Any school violating or falsifying the spirit, purpose, or wording of these rules may be suspended from the AHSAA.

**Note:** Failure to self-report a violation may result in an increased fine amount.

**SECTION 7. FINANCIAL AID.** A student that transfers to a member school and receives any financial aid shall remain ineligible at that school for one year.

**Note:** First time 7th grader that transfers to a new school is not subject to this rule. **A 7th grader who transfers after the start of the school year is subject to this rule.**

**Note:** **This rule does not apply to dependent children of full-time, active duty military families who have *Permanent Change of Station (PCS)* orders to relocate into a new school attendance zone.**

**SECTION 8. PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT ENTICEMENTS.** Any school official (superintendent, principal or coach) who encourages or collaborates in negotiations leading to the signing of a high school student to a professional contract shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and may be disqualified and the school may be suspended from the Association.

**SECTION 9. SCHOOL OFFICIAL REQUIRED.** A certified administrator or certified teacher authorized by the principal or superintendent must accompany school teams and individuals to all contests in which the school participates.

**Note:** Home team **must** have a certified administrator present at all home events.

**SECTION 10. SCHOOL RESTITUTION RULE.** If a school that has been disqualified or a student who has been declared ineligible is allowed to participate in interscholastic competition because of a court restraining order and/or injunction against the school or the AHSAA, and if such restraining order and/or injunction is subsequently vacated, stayed, reversed or a final judicial determination is made that injunctive relief was not justified, then all contests in which such ineligible student participated shall be forfeited as well as any honors, points or awards received by the school or the ineligible student. In addition, the school may be fined or placed on probation in the interest of restitution and fairness to other member schools.

**Note:** A suit filed against the AHSAA for any reason, must be filed in Montgomery County, Alabama.

**SECTION 11. UNSCHEDULED CENTRAL BOARD MEETING.** If a school requests the Central Board to convene on a date other than its four annual meeting dates, the requesting school will be assessed the expenses of the meeting.

**Note:** If the requested meeting involves an appeal, the requesting school(s) will be assessed the expenses of the meeting if the appeal is denied.

**SECTION 12. RECRUITING.** No person connected in any way with a school may contact a student or prospective student, or his/her parents or guardian who resides outside of the school district to inquire or encourage them to transfer or enroll in their school for the chief purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

**Note:** This rule includes and applies to any impermissible contact with third party “go-between” individuals connected to a school in any way. Third parties include, but not limited to, trainers, private instructors, outside coaches, boosters, etc.

It is permissible for a coach, or anyone else connected with a school, to talk or speak with a student(s) or parent(s) who, on their own, visit their school for any specific purpose.

Anyone connected in any official capacity with any high school who offers material or financial inducement or enticement to any student to come to that school for the purpose of engaging in athletics shall subject that school to suspension from the AHSAA.

**Note: Any contact/communication with a student, a student’s parents, or any other family member (including elementary students) enrolled in another school, including, but not limited to, phone calls, emails, texts, social media, etc. is prohibited.**

A violation of this rule renders the contacted student permanently ineligible at the school where the violation occurs. A coach in violation of this rule shall be barred from coaching at any AHSAA member school for one year. A school in violation of this rule may be placed on restrictive probation for a period of one year in the sport in which the violation occurred and assessed a monetary fine. Repeated violations of this rule will cause a school to be suspended from the AHSAA.

**SECTION 13. RECRUITING OUTSIDE DISTRICT.** Athletic recruiting outside of one’s own school district, zone, etc. is illegal. Also, athletic recruiting within overlapping school zones is illegal.

**SECTION 14. CHEERLEADERS.** A cheerleading squad is recognized as a support group for all interscholastic teams within its school, therefore cheerleaders do not fall under the eligibility rules that govern interscholastic athletics. In order to be covered under the catastrophic insurance program, students participating in cheerleading, including those who do not participate on other interscholastic athletic teams, must be entered on the school’s online eligibility list and must be listed on a cheerleading team roster.

The National Federation guidelines outlined in the Spirit Rules book have been adopted as minimum standards for cheerleading programs at member schools.

**Note:** Cheerleaders will not be allowed to stand along the sidelines or end lines during a basketball game while the ball is in play or during free throws. Cheerleaders should be seated in front of their student sections but will be allowed on the floor or sidelines during 1 minute time-outs and between the quarters of a game. Cheerleaders may use the sideline or end line areas before games as long as they do not interfere with pre-game warm-ups.

**SECTION 15. PARTICIPATION PRIVILEGE.** Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege granted to students that meet the minimum standards of eligibility adopted by the member schools of the AHSAA.

**Note:** If a player participates in more than one sport, and if an event conflicts with an event with the other sport, the student must choose between sports.

**SECTION 16. STARTING DATE CHANGES.** Major changes in sports starting dates must be approved by a vote of member schools and ratified by the Central Board.

**SECTION 17. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS.** Legislative Proposals may be submitted online by member schools and must include a rationale and be signed by the principal by Jan. 31 or date recommended by the Central Board. Proposals will be ratified at a regular scheduled meeting in April.

**SECTION 18. MEDIA/AUDIO-VISUAL POLICY FOR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS.** This policy regulates all photography, video (film), internet streaming and audio at all championship events. Championship events include all contests that have a bearing on championship play.

**Note:** Each member school shall have the sole discretion to determine what media organization or media organizations are permitted to cover or broadcast a regular season sporting event involving that school.

**(a) Media:** Members of the media are authorized, without paying a fee, to cover AHSAA championship events, to take still photographs and take short film, internet streaming, video and audio clips of AHSAA events for print and electronic news coverage.

**(b) Credentials:** To cover AHSAA championship events, media are required to display a visible credential issued by the AHSAA at all times. All media credentials must be requested online at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com) at least one week prior to the event.

Media can request permanent (year-long) AHSAA credentials online at the media link at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com), filling out the request and then transmitting a photo of the applicant via email to [ringram@ahsaa.com](mailto:ringram@ahsaa.com).

All applications will then be reviewed and approved or denied based on the AHSAA media policy requirements. These credentials will admit the holder to any AHSAA championship or special event for one school year. However, the holder is asked to notify the AHSAA by email of their intent to cover such events by sending a notification to [ringram@ahsaa.com](mailto:ringram@ahsaa.com) before each event's deadline. Those who do not request permanent credentials must make application for credentials for each event via the media link at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com).

- (c) **Photography, Video, Film, Internet Streaming and Audio:** The AHSAA is the owner of the rights to and the copyright holder of all AHSAA audiovisual work, which includes all still photographs taken of AHSAA events, all film, internet streaming, videotape and audiotape of AHSAA events and the live audio and visual broadcasts of AHSAA events. Still photography, filming, internet streaming, including, but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc., videotaping and audio recording is prohibited at AHSAA events, except as expressly and specifically authorized by the AHSAA.

All video, broadcast, title and broadcast rights for AHSAA events are the exclusive property of the AHSAA. The AHSAA events cannot be reproduced, rebroadcast or used for any other purposes without the express written consent of the AHSAA.

Under no circumstance may still photographs, films, videos or audio tapes, in full or in part, be used for any commercial purpose, unless authorized by, and a rights fee has been paid to, the AHSAA. No live streaming or video TV/Internet clips of championship events is permitted without authorization from the AHSAA.

Videotape or film or internet streaming taken at any AHSAA event shall be used for the sole purpose of showing excerpts thereof as a part of a regularly scheduled sports or news program and for no other reason.

The station will not lend, give away or sell the film or internet streaming or videotape, in whole or in part, except only for the purposes herein above specifically set forth and/or in such cases as the AHSAA requests for use by the Association.

Individual **Spectators** are authorized to personally take still photographs at events, for strictly personal use. Individual spectators are authorized to personally film, video tape and audio tape portions of AHSAA events for strictly personal use.

Under no circumstance may still photographs, films, internet streaming, including, but not limited to Facebook, Instagram,

Twitter, etc., videos or audio tapes, in full or in part, be used for any commercial purpose, unless authorized by, and a rights fee has been paid to, the AHSAA.

Any still photography, filming, internet streaming, including, but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc., videotaping and audio taping shall be conducted from the seating area, or, if space is available, from a designated area.

- (d) Participating Schools:** Representatives of participating schools are authorized to take still photographs of AHSAA events. Representatives of participating schools are authorized to film, internet stream, video tape and audio tape AHSAA events, only if the principals of the participating schools receive advanced permission from the host school principal at any event.

Still photographs, films, internet streaming, videos or audio tapes may not be used to review decisions of game officials at any contest. Principals can request media credentials for school photographers/reporters (maximum one each) for AHSAA championship events by applying online at the media link at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com) before each event's deadline. Under no circumstance may still photographs, films, internet streaming, videos or audio tapes, in full or in part, be used for any commercial purpose, unless authorized by, and a rights fee has been paid to, the AHSAA.

**e) Purchase:**

1. The selling of photographs by any means (through websites, freelance photographers, etc.) is strictly prohibited by the AHSAA **without written consent of the AHSAA.**
2. "The selling or redistribution of images (still or video) from the AHSAA state championship events for personal or commercial gain is prohibited without the expressed written permission of the AHSAA. Discovery of unauthorized distribution of images from the AHSAA state championship events will result in the revocation of credentials for the AHSAA event(s). Further, the AHSAA may seek damages for the unauthorized distribution of images (still or video) to the fullest extent permitted by law, including civil damages and injunctive relief."

**SECTION 19. ADMINISTRATORS' 25-YEAR SPECIAL PASS.** Administrators who have 25 years service in AHSAA member schools may apply for a Special Pass to all interscholastic athletic contests sponsored by the AHSAA and AHSADCA. Principals who have a combined 25 years of service as a principal and/or coach in AHSAA member schools may also apply.

**SECTION 20. LEGAL EXPENSES AND VENUE.** If any member school, or any of its employees, officers, directors, agents, or representatives, files a lawsuit against the AHSAA, or any of its employees, officers, directors, agents, or representatives, for any reason in any court, state or federal, or is involved in a lawsuit against the AHSAA, and the lawsuit is dismissed, with or without prejudice, by stipulation, voluntarily, or upon motion by a party or the Court, or the case concludes without judgment being entered in favor of the member school or any of its employees, officers, directors, agents, or representatives, then the member school shall reimburse the AHSAA for all attorney fees and other expenses arising out of the lawsuit. If the member school refuses to reimburse the AHSAA and the AHSAA files a lawsuit or motion to collect monies owed, then the member school shall also reimburse the AHSAA for all attorney fees and expenses arising out of the lawsuit or motion filed to collect monies owed. Further, if any member school or any of its employees, officers, directors, agents, or representatives, files a lawsuit against the AHSAA for any reason, the lawsuit shall be filed in Montgomery County, Alabama.



## JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL

All rules in this Handbook shall apply to junior high and middle schools (grades 7-8-9) except as given in this section.

### MEMBERSHIP

A junior high school or middle school may hold membership in the Junior High Division of the AHSAA provided the school principal makes application for membership, signs the agreement to be governed by the Constitution, Bylaws and rulings of the AHSAA, and sends in all required reports and forms.

The membership application and annual dues must be submitted to the State Office. If grades 7-8-9 are included in the same school as the senior high, only one membership is required.

**Note:** Any junior high or middle school operating under a separate administration from the high school must hold membership in the AHSAA in order to participate against member schools.

A new member school's official date of entry into the AHSAA is the first day following the last day of the school year or June 1 preceding its first school year as a member school. Effective that day, new members must comply with the Constitution, Bylaws and rulings of the AHSAA.

### Definitions:

- (a) **Junior high school** – a school with students enrolled in grades seven through nine, eight and nine, or nine only.
- (b) **Middle school** – a school with students enrolled in grades seven and/or eight.

**Defining a School:** The academic structure or organization of a school determines how it is defined, not the structure of the athletic program. The schools defined above may also have students in grades K-6. Since students below the seventh grade are not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, these grades were not included in the definitions.

Member junior high/middle schools may participate only in interscholastic contests with junior high/middle schools that are members of the AHSAA or an out-of-state athletic association. A junior high or middle school team, whether comprised of seventh graders only, eighth graders only or seventh and eighth graders together, may play any other junior high or middle school team comprised of seventh graders only, eighth graders only, ninth graders only or any combination of seventh, eighth and ninth graders together.

**Note:** Individual student-athletes can only participate in the maximum number of contests allowed at the highest level of that sport.

Each district will have one representative on the junior high-middle school committee.

## MANAGEMENT

**Section 1.** Schools in conference, county, or city organizations may agree on special rules that are more restrictive than the state rules but may not agree to set aside any state rule.

**Section 2.** The rules of AHSAA will apply to junior high and middle schools unless there is a special rule to cover the situation.

**Section 3.** The Central Board and the junior high-middle school committee will interpret the rules as they apply to middle school and junior high athletics. Those rules will be applied to fit situations until such time that special rules are made to cover all junior high and middle school situations.

In junior high and middle schools, special rules may be amended by a committee of eight members who will be duly elected by each of the eight athletic districts. The president of the Central Board may appoint a junior high-middle school person to represent the district in which there is a vacancy.

The Constitution can only be amended at a regular meeting which is properly advertised for said purpose. However, no amendment or change will be considered at any meeting of the AHSAA unless it is submitted in writing to the Executive Director at least 30 days before the meeting at which it is to receive attention.

## COMBINATION PROGRAMS

Participation is permitted under the following programs if there is an agreement between the principals of the middle/junior high and the high schools involved:

1. **Junior High:** Three types of combination programs are available to combine junior high/middle school grades and students with the ninth grade and students of a high school to form a combination junior high athletic program in any sport. This is permitted if (1) both the junior high/middle school and the high school are located in the same school zone; (2) both schools are members of the AHSAA; and (3) the students are zoned for that high school by virtue of their parents' residence.

These three types cannot be used to compete in varsity or B-team (junior varsity) athletics.

Each of these programs operates under the jurisdiction of the high school principal, but each school involved is responsible for submitting its own eligibility reports online. It is permissible to have one part of an

athletic program operate under the junior high/middle school and another part under the high school.

The three types of junior high combination programs are:

(a) **Middle School Grades With Ninth Grade**—A middle school (grades 7-8) may combine with the ninth grade of the high school it feeds to form a junior high school athletic program (grades 7-9).

(b) **Middle School Students With Ninth Grade**—Middle school students (grades 7-8) may participate in the ninth grade athletic program only at the high school their middle school feeds. If a middle school feeds more than one high school, **its students may participate only at the high school where they are zoned by virtue of their parents' residence.**

(c) **Junior High Grades With Ninth Grade**—A junior high school (grades 7-9) may combine with the ninth grade at the high school to form a junior high athletic program provided those students **are zoned only for that high school by virtue of their parents' residence.**

**2. Middle School Grades:** Grades of two or more middle schools may combine for a middle school program in any sport if all schools are in the same school system. Each school involved is responsible for submitting its own eligibility reports online.

**3. Seventh, Eighth And Ninth Graders With High School:** Seventh, eighth and ninth graders at a junior high (grades 7-9) or middle school (grades 7-8) may participate in any level of competition (varsity, junior varsity, etc.) at the high school for which they are zoned if all other requirements are met.

**Note:** An eighth grader that is “ineligible by age” to participate in middle school athletics may participate in any level of athletic competition (varsity, junior varsity, etc.) at the high school for which he/she is zoned. This should be indicated in DragonFly.

## **APPEALS**

Appeals will be handled in the same manner as prescribed for senior high member schools (Article XI).

## **DUES**

The dues shall be \$50 per school and each school seeking membership in the AHSAA must make application and pay its dues directly to the AHSAA Office.

## **JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL BYLAWS**

### **RULE I - ELIGIBILITY**

**SECTION 1.** Graduates of a junior high or middle school who have finished the highest grade taught in the school are not eligible. Schools with grades K-8 or 7-8 are considered middle schools under these eligibility rules.

**SECTION 2.** A student is ineligible to participate in ninth grade interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 16th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year, and in eighth grade interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year. A student is ineligible to participate on a team, or in a game, composed only of seventh grade students if he/she reaches his/her 14th birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year.

**SECTION 3.** When a junior high school student has participated three years in a sport after reaching the ninth grade, he/she shall be ineligible for further participation in that sport.

**SECTION 4.** A student must have passed a minimum of five subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been **promoted to the next grade during the last year** in attendance in order to be eligible during the current school year.

Students entering the seventh grade for the first time are eligible.

**SECTION 5.** A student must be taking at least five new junior high subjects (subjects not previously passed) in order to be eligible.

**SECTION 6.** Students below grade seven are not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

### **RULE II - REPORTS**

The principal shall furnish any reports as required by the AHSAA.

### **RULE III - CONTESTS**

No contest shall be played with any junior high/middle school that is under suspension by the Association. Violations of this rule shall be sufficient grounds for suspension. Member schools shall only compete with member schools.

### **RULE IV - THE GAME OFFICIALS**

Registered officials shall be used for all football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball and soccer contests. The officials must be agreeable to both schools (the schools' agreement may be by a scratch list furnished by the officials association assigning officials to the contest.)

## **RULE V – COACHES**

A coach must be a faculty member employed by the Board of Education, work under the supervision of the school principal, and be certified under the AHSAA Coaches' Education Program requirements.

Non-faculty coaches may be used but must be certified in accordance with all AHSAA requirements.

Administrators, coaches and non-faculty coaches that meet all Coaches' Education Program requirements and are assigned athletic coaching responsibilities are eligible for membership in the Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association. The membership card entitles the "coach and one" to all events sponsored by the Coaches' Association as well as championship events sponsored by the AHSAA.

All head coaches of highest level teams are required to attend a rules clinic at All-Star Sports Week or online. Failure to complete a rules clinic or test will result in a monetary fine.

## **AHSAA Sports Medicine and Safety**

- **Emergency Action Plans**
  - Every school is required to have an Athletic Emergency Action Plan (AEAP) for each venue for athletic contests. A copy of each AEAP must be placed in the school's eligibility file for Audit review and a copy should be available at each venue. A template for an AEAP can be found at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)
- **Contest Ending Procedures**
  - AHSAA procedures for championship play interruption and suspension of play for each sport may be found on the AHSAA website under the "Sports Medicine & Safety" tab.
- **AED Policies**
  - The AHSAA follows the recommendations of the Korey Stringer Institute for AED Policies. AED policies may be found on the AHSAA website under the "Sports Medicine & Safety" tab.
- **Football Practice Guidelines**
  - See page 51-52 Rule III. Contests. Section 18. Fall Football Practice Regulations regarding AHSAA Guidelines for Full-Speed Contact during Football Practices.
- **Concussion Policy**
  - Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors

consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the contest and shall not return to play until a medical release is issued by a medical doctor.

- Any health care professional or AHSAA certified coach may identify concussive signs, symptoms or behaviors of a student athlete during any type of athletic activity. Once concussive signs are identified, only a medical doctor can clear the athlete to return to play. Any school in violation of the AHSAA policy application of National Federation rule will be subject to sanctions.
- An online NFHS Concussion Course is required for all certified coaches (faculty and non-faculty). The free educational course will aid in identifying symptoms of a concussion and the procedure to follow when these symptoms are recognized. The course is available at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).
- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest**
  - The AHSAA follows the recommendations of the Korey Stringer Institute for Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD). Information, including prevention and symptoms, for SCD may be found on the AHSAA website under the “Sports Medicine & Safety” tab.
- **Heat Acclimatization**
  - The AHSAA follows the recommendations of the Korey Stringer Institute for Heat Acclimatization (HA). Guidelines for HA may be found on the AHSAA website under the “Sports Medicine & Safety” tab.
- **NFHS Lightning Policy**
  - Guidelines for Lightning Safety may be found on the AHSAA website under the “Sports Medicine & Safety” tab.
- **Hydration Prevention**
  - The AHSAA follows the recommendations of the Korey Stringer Institute for monitoring Hydration. Information and graphics may be found on the AHSAA website under the “Sports Medicine & Safety” tab.
- **Intravenous Fluid Policy**
  - According to the recommendation of the AHSAA Medical Advisory Board, the use of intravenous fluid hydration/rehydration (IVs) may be used in athletes only in the case of medical necessity.

- Under AHSAA policy (*Rule III. Contests. Section 27*) , an athlete requiring intravenous fluid therapy will not be allowed to participate in any athletic activity until cleared by a medical doctor and approved by the parents or guardian. A direct verbal or written order from a medical doctor is required.
- **AHSAA Medical Advisory Board Members**
  - **Co-Chairmen** James B. Robinson, M.D.; **District 1** Stacy Harrelson, ATC; **District 2** Marshall Smith, ATC; **District 3** Ken Taylor, M.D.; **District 4** Mike Goodlett, M.D.; Win Lyle, M.D.; **District 5** Jeff Dugas, M.D.; Drew Ferguson, ATC; **District 6** Mike Welsh; **District 7** A.E. Joiner, M.D.; **District 8** John Greco, M.D. **At Large** Pam Robinson, Athletic Director/coach Benjamin Russell High School.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **Regarding AHSAA Rules and Regulations**

#### **Administration**

- 1. Who makes up the legislative body of AHSAA?**

The members of the eight district boards.
- 2. Who is eligible to be a District Board member?**

Superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, assistant principals and teachers in the member schools of the respective district.
- 3. When a vacancy occurs in the District Board, how is it filled temporarily?**

Appointment by the President of the Central Board of Control, with the approval of the remaining members of said Board.
- 4. How long does a temporary appointment to the District Board last?**

Until the vacancy can be filled by election at the first meeting of the member schools of the district.
- 5. How are funds of the AHSAA safeguarded?**

The Executive Director and assistants are under a surety bond and the accounts are audited annually by a certified public accountant approved by the Central Board.
- 6. Where is the final authority of the AHSAA vested?**

The Central Board of Control has final authority in all matters concerning the Association.
- 7. How can the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association be amended?**

Any principal of a member high school may submit a legislative proposal to the Executive Director in writing. This must be done in January before the annual meeting. A two-thirds vote of the members of the Legislative Council is necessary for a proposal to pass.

**8. Does the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 impact AHSAA transfer eligibility rules?**

No. The Alabama Accountability Act of 2013 specifically states that the Act shall not affect or change the athletic eligibility rules of student-athletes governed by the Alabama High School Athletic Association. A student may transfer from a failing school to a non-failing school within the same school system if LEA allows.

**9. Who is held responsible for a member school's observance of the Association Rules and Bylaws?**

The principal.

**10. Who is the proper person to sign reports, contracts, etc.?**

The principal.

**11. Who is responsible for the conduct of the spectators at athletic contests?**

The principal

**12. When must a new AHSAA member school begin compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association?**

A new member school's official date of entry into the AHSAA is July 1 preceding its first school year as a member school.

**13. When must names for eligibility be submitted to the State Office?**

Not later than two days before the first contest in which the submitted students will participate.

**14. What are the requirements for member school coaches to become certified under the AHSAA Coaches Certification Program?**

Prior to working with any student-athlete (practice or competition), member school coaches must meet all requirements of the Coaches' Education Program – Coaching Principles (NFHS or ASEP), Sports First Aid (ASEP or PREPARE ), NFHS Sportsmanship or STAR Sportsmanship, NFHS Concussion course, NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest course, NFHS Heat Acclimatization course, NFHS Mental Illness course, and must have an active CPR with AED certification each year. Once these requirements have been successfully completed, coaches are eligible to join the AHSADCA and receive a coaches' card. Coaches at member schools prior to 2001-02 are exempt from the Coaching Principles and Sports First Aid course requirements.

**15. When should physical examinations be made?**

Before practice starts. The completed pre-participation physical exam form (signed by an M.D. or D.O.) should be kept in the school principal's office. Students cannot practice without a physical.

**16. What restrictions are in effect for football teams at the beginning of fall practice?**

The first two days of fall football practice must be in shorts in order for coaches to determine if the students are conditioned physically for football practice. On the third day, shoulder pads and helmets are allowed for one practice with the length of this practice no more than 1.5 hours. During the first three days of practice, teams are allowed to use hand-held blocking pads and wear helmets. Full pads may be used on the fifth practice day.



**17. Can football teams conduct more than one practice on the same day?**

Yes. Teams can hold two-a-day practices but not on consecutive days. When two-a-days are held, only one of the practices may be in pads and there must be a four-hour break between the end of the first practice and the beginning of the second.

**18. May football coaches use communication devices as teaching aids during a game?**

Yes. Communication devices including but not limited to audio recorders, Local Area Network (LAN) phones and/or headsets, mobile phones, still photograph(s), film, analog or digital video(s) and/or Internet depictions, may be used to communicate with a player only during a conference outside the 9-yard mark. The same devices may be used by coaches with non-players.

**19. Who is eligible to receive a 25-Year Special Pass?**

Any member of the AHSADCA who has completed 25 years as a member of the organization, regardless of positions held at a member school, may apply for a Special Pass to all interscholastic athletic events sponsored by the AHSAA. This includes assistant coaches, head coaches, principals, assistant principals or athletic directors. The required 25 years of service can include any combination of service years in the aforementioned positions. Principals who have 25 years or more service in AHSAA member schools may also apply. A principal must have had 25 years of combined service as a principal and/or coach in AHSAA member schools.

### Eligibility

**20. When does a student become too old to participate in interscholastic athletics?**

A student becomes ineligible for the current school year if he/she reaches his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to August 1.

**21. What is accepted evidence in proving a student's date of birth?**

A certified birth certificate issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or a passport for foreign exchange students. (In Alabama, certified birth certificates may be obtained at each county health department.)

**22. How many semesters can a student attend high school and remain eligible for participation in athletics?**

Eight consecutive semesters beginning when the student enters the ninth grade for the first time.

**23. How many subjects must a student have passed during the previous two semesters in attendance in order to be eligible?**

Students entering the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades must have passed six units (including four core courses) with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units. Students entering the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades must have passed five subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects.

- 24. Is a student who becomes ineligible due to academic deficiencies at the end of a year ineligible for the entire following year?**  
Yes, unless the student regains eligibility in summer school or by the end of the first semester.  
Any number of courses taken in the summer may be used for eligibility purposes if completed and posted to transcript prior to first fall contest date.
- 25. Is work that a student repeats and passes counted toward the required credit for eligibility?**  
Yes. Any new credit (one not previously passed) in a major subject is counted. The term “new units of work” has reference to work for which a student has not previously received credit.
- 26. Will a student that is eligible at the beginning of a school year remain eligible all year long?**  
Yes. A student declared eligible at the beginning of a school year is eligible for the entire school year.
- 27. If a student is ineligible at the beginning of a school year, when can the student regain his/her eligibility?**  
A student may regain his/her eligibility at the end of the first semester by passing six units, including four core courses, with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable.
- 28. Can a transfer student participate in sports at a school that was found to have violated the AHSAA recruiting rule involving that student?**  
No. A student is ruled permanently ineligible at a school that has been ruled in violation of the AHSAA Recruiting Rule involving that student.
- 29. What is the penalty for a member school found to have violated the AHSAA Recruiting Rule?**  
The school may be placed on restrictive probation – banned from championship play – for one year in the sport in which the violation occurred.
- 30. What is the penalty for a coach of a member school found to have violated the AHSAA Recruiting Rule?**  
The coach will be banned from coaching at any AHSAA member school for one year.
- 31. May a student change school zones to live with an appointed guardian and be eligible at the school serving the area where the guardian lives?**  
No, not at the varsity level. The student’s parents would have to make a bona fide move into the new school zone in order for the student to be immediately eligible for varsity competition at the new school.

**32. In the above example, how long would a student have to attend the second school to become eligible for varsity?**

One year from date of enrollment.

**33. May a student whose parents move to another school zone remain at the school and participate in athletics?**

Yes. However, if the student stays longer than the end of the semester currently attending at the time the parents move, the student will not be eligible at the second school immediately. He/she may become eligible upon a transfer to the school where his/her parents reside at the beginning of the fall semester. If the transfer is made in the school year and during a new semester after the move, the student will not be eligible until after June 1.

**34. May a student establish eligibility by attendance in a school where his parents do not reside?**

Yes. After one year's attendance the student may become eligible for varsity competition.

**35. If a student transfers from a school in an overlapping school zone to a non-member school or to a school outside that school zone, may the student go back to a school within the overlapping school zones after a semester and be eligible immediately?**

No. The student must have been away from the original school for one year to participate at the varsity level.

**36. Can a transfer student under a disciplinary action from his/her previous school be eligible to participate in athletics at the new school?**

No. A transfer student must be in good standing with his/her previous schools. A period of discipline will be in effect from any previous school and must be served prior to the student regaining athletic eligibility (includes any schools attended within the last calendar year).

**37. Can a student participate on an outside team and be eligible to participate in the same sport on the school team during the same season?**

No, except for the Independent Rule governing bowling, tennis, golf, swimming, track, wrestling and cross country.

**38. How many players from the same school can play on the same non-school team and then play on the same school team in the following season?**

Any number of players necessary to play a contest in that sport may play together on an outside team as long as no one from the school coaches the outside team.

**39. May a student accept an award without breaking the amateur rule?**

Yes. With the approval of the principal he/she may accept an award that costs \$250.00 or less.

- 40. If a student attends a member school in a school district where his/her parents do not reside, may he/she return to the school serving the area where the parents reside and be immediately eligible?**

Yes, if the student returns at the beginning of the school year or by June 1 and all other requirements are met.

- 41. When is a student eligible after transferring from a non-member school to a member school?**

The student becomes eligible for varsity at the member school at the beginning of the next semester (first or second) or by June 1 if all other requirements are met.

- 42. How much practice must a team or player have before playing a game?**

A minimum of 13 days.

- 43. Who determines if a move involving a transfer is bona fide?**

The Executive Director.

- 44. May a school hold a practice or scrimmage game with another school during spring training or at any other time during the school year?**

No, in all sports except football. Any contest of this type would have to be counted in the number of scheduled contests permitted each school. In football, each school may play in a jamboree or regulation game in the fall and also in one of the events during the allowed spring training period.

- 45. May a player participate in a varsity game and JV game on the same day?**

No.

- 46. May a player be changed from the varsity to the JV squad or vice versa?**

Yes. However, the restriction in question 45 applies.

- 47. Can a team composed of seventh and eighth graders compete against a team whose roster includes ninth graders?**

Yes. A middle school team, whether comprised of seventh graders only, eighth graders only or seventh and eighth graders together, may play any other junior high or middle school team comprised of seventh graders only, eighth graders only, ninth graders only or any combination of seventh, eighth and ninth graders together.

- 48. Do eligibility rules apply to B-teams?**

Yes.

- 49. What is the proper action to take when flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct occurs at or during a contest?**

The principal should report the incident to the Executive Director in writing.

- 50. How can unpleasantness be avoided at an athletic contest?**

Set up a good sportsmanship program in the school. Provide adequate police protection, taking all pre-game precautions possible.

**51. How can a principal, coach, or official get an official interpretation on an eligibility or sports rule?**

Send a letter, on school letterhead, signed by the principal, to the Executive Director.

**52. What are the penalties that the AHSAA can impose?**

- (a) Place a monetary fine or penalty on a school for violation of the rules and regulations of the Association.
- (b) Forfeit the game.
- (c) Suspend school from the Association. (d) Place school on probation.
- (e) Disqualify a coach for unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct unbecoming for a coach. (This penalty can be imposed only by the Central Board of Control.)
- (f) Cancel an official's rating or registration with the Association.
- (g) Suspend players from athletics (permanently or temporarily) for unsportsmanlike conduct or conduct unbecoming an athlete.
- (h) Prohibit contests of a school when the attendance of an individual or fans is considered a threat to the administration of the contest in a safe and sportsmanlike manner.

**53. May the rules of the Association be set aside by mutual agreement?**

No.

**54. How often is a pre-participation physical examination required?**

One calendar year as long as the physical exam is completed within the same calendar month each year from the date of the exam. (Ex., Physicals given any day in the month of May in 2020 will satisfy the requirement through the last day of May of 2022.)

**55. What are summer "Play Dates"?**

Unlimited dates of summer practice competition per sport allowed for each school during the summer during the allowable three week period. The competition must be against other AHSAA member schools or schools from other NFHS state associations.

**56. Who can participate in these "Play Dates"?**

Only eligible students can participate in summer practice competition.

**57. What activities are allowed during "Dead Week"?**

During the week in which the AHSAA Summer Conference and All- Star Sports Week is held, member schools may conduct weight training and conditioning programs. Practice and competition (team camps, play dates, etc.) are not allowed.

**58. What is the penalty if a student leaves the bench area, comes onto the court or playing field and is ejected from the contest as a result?**

The school is fined for the player ejection and the student is suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of allowed regular season games.

**59. May a student showing signs, symptoms or behavior consistent with a concussion participate in a contest?**

Such a student shall be removed from the contest and shall not return that day. Following the day the concussion symptoms occur, the student-athlete may return to practice or play only after a medical release has been issued by a medical doctor.

**60. May a student requiring intravenous fluid treatment during a contest or event return to play that day?**

No, not until being cleared by a medical doctor and approved by the parents or guardian. A direct verbal or written order from a medical doctor is required.

**61. Are any member school athletic teams allowed to receive private instruction in a group setting during the season?**

Yes. Member school golf, tennis, bowling and swimming teams may receive private individual instruction in a group setting ONLY with members of their school team.

**62. Can a high school coach work with his/her students during the school year outside the sport's season?**

Yes, a coach can work with players from his school up to 2 hours per week per sport.

### Game Officials

**63. Do all game officials have to be registered with the Association?**

Yes.

**64. What is the penalty for using non-registered officials?**

A school may be fined and placed on probation.

**65. How can a principal or coach know whether an official is registered with the Association?**

Officials are issued registration cards signed by the Executive Director designating the sport and the classification of the official. Officials are required to wear the official AHSAA patch on their shirts.

**66. Who is responsible for securing officials for a contest?**

The home school is responsible for securing the officials except in state championship contests.

**67. What is the usual procedure used in selecting officials?**

The home team principal contracts with an Officials association to work its home games.

**68. How are contest officials selected for AHSAA state playoffs?**

The AHSAA selects and assigns contest officials for all state playoff contests based on merit. Contest officials in all sports are evaluated during the regular season and only those officials rated in the top 50 percent of their sport are eligible for state playoff assignments. Evaluations continue during each playoff round up through the finals with the higher-rated officials earning assignments.

**69. Do school officials have a right to object to the game officials being used after a contest has started?**

No.

**70. Are schools governed by the same rules for interscholastic competition in non-sanctioned sports as they are in competition in sanctioned sports.?**

Yes. All AHSAA rules apply.

**71. What is the penalty for an assault on an official?**

Under state law, it is a crime to assault sporting event officials in the State of Alabama. Legislation passed in December 2001 makes it a specific crime to harass, menace or assault a sports official in the first, second and third degree if the crime is committed against a sports official that is performing official duties at a sports event. The definition of sports officials in this legislation includes administrators, coaches and officials in youth leagues, high schools and colleges. Under AHSAA rules, each case is judged on its own merits, but the usual penalty is a monetary fine plus probation, restrictive probation or suspension for the school. The school may be prohibited from playing contests when the individual (or individuals) responsible for the assault is present.

**Non-Traditional Students Eligibility**

**72. Can home school students participate in athletics at a private member school?**

No. Home school students are only allowed to participate at the member public school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside.

**73. Can college courses be used for academic accountability in place of taking the AHSAA Eligibility assessments at the end of each semester?**

Yes, if the local BOE accepts college credit.

**74. Who is responsible for reporting data and eligibility of home school students?**

The principal of the member public school that the home school student is enrolled in.

**75. Can a student enroll in a virtual program in another school system and participate in athletics?**

No. A student cannot enroll in two schools at the same time.

**76. Can a home school student count elective credits taken through home school program toward academic eligibility?**

No. Only electives taken through the public school can be counted. Only one PE credit/unit per year may be counted.

## SANCTIONED SPORTS

Listed below are the sports in which state championship programs are sanctioned and sponsored by the AHSAA.

**Note:** A “sanctioned” sport is one in which a championship program is sponsored by the AHSAA. Ten percent of the AHSAA member high schools is required in order to sanction a new championship sport.

Championship Programs	Division	
	Boys	Girls
Football	X	
Volleyball		X
Cross Country	X	X
Swimming & Diving	X	X
Basketball	X	X
Wrestling	X	
Indoor Track	X	X
Bowling	X	X
Tennis	X	X
Golf	X	X
Track & Field	X	X
Baseball	X	
Softball		X
Soccer	X	X
Decathlon	X	
Heptathlon		X

Schools compete by classification in the same area in most sports. However, in some sports it will be necessary to combine areas and classifications in order to have adequate competition. Schools in each classification have been geographically grouped, as nearly as possible, in areas that will minimize travel and boost local competition.

State cheerleading competition is an activity sanctioned by the AHSAA.



## CHAMPIONSHIP SPORTS

### Football

**No post-season games are permitted except the state championship playoff games.** There are seven divisions (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A) of competition in the football championship program. Each participating team in all classifications must play every other team in its region to qualify for the state championship program. The first four places in each region will be determined by won-loss percentage in region play.

For all schools not participating in the state championship playoffs, football season ends the weekend before the playoffs start. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### Volleyball

There are seven divisions (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A) in the volleyball championship program for girls. Area tournament winners and runners-up advance to a super regional tournament with the top four finishers advancing to the state tournament. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### Swimming & Diving

The swimming & diving championship program consists of four divisions—two for girls and two for boys—with three sectional meets and a state meet for each. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### Basketball

There are seven divisions (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A) of competition in the basketball championship program for girls and boys. Each team plays every other team in its area twice to qualify for the area tournament. The area tournament winner and runner-up advance to a sub-regional round (except in 7A) with the winners advancing to a regional tournament. Regional champions advance to the state finals tournament.

Invitational, county, league and conference tournaments must be completed any time prior to the week of the area tournaments. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### Wrestling

The wrestling championship program has competition in three divisions (1A-4A, 5A-6A and 7A) for boys. Super section (North and South) qualifying meets and state meets are held in each division. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### **Tennis**

The tennis championship program has competition in four divisions (1A-3A, 4A-5A, 6A and 7A) for girls and boys. Section qualifying meets and state meets are held in each division. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### **Golf**

The golf championship program consists of four divisions for girls (1A-3A, 4A-5A, 6A and 7A) and six divisions for boys (1A-2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A). The program has section qualifying meets, one round of sub-state play, and a state meet. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### **Track & Field**

There are eight divisions (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, 7A and Wheelchair) in the outdoor track and field championship program for both boys and girls. Section and state meets are held in each class. See the Spring Sports book for details of the program.

The divisions for the indoor track championship program are 1A-4A, 5A, 6A and 7A for boys and girls. See the Winter Sports book for details of the program.

The decathlon for boys includes 10 events of competition held on two consecutive days. The heptathlon for girls includes seven events of competition held on two consecutive days. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### **Cross Country**

The divisions for the cross country championship program are 1A-2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A for both boys and girls. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### **Baseball**

There are seven divisions (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A) in the baseball championship program. Round-robin area play determines area winners and runners-up, which advance to the state playoff in each class.

Playoff games shall be on a play-at-home basis for the first four rounds. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### **Softball**

The softball championship program provides competition for girls in seven divisions (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A). Area tournament winners and runners-up advance to a regional qualifier. Two qualifiers from each regional advance to the state tournament.

See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### **Soccer**

The soccer championship program has competition in four divisions (1A-3A, 4A-5A, 6A and 7A) for girls and boys. Area winners and runners-up in 1A-3A, 4A-5A, and 6A and the section winners and runners-up in 7A advance to the first round of sub-state play. Final sub-state round winners advance to the state tournament. See the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)) for details of the program.

### **Bowling**

There is two classifications for bowling. Regional tournament will consist of top 4 teams for each region. The top 8 teams from each region will advance to state. 16 girls' teams and 16 boys' teams.

## **AHSAA Sports Under Jurisdiction Plan**

Sports Under Jurisdiction was established in 2010-11 to permit member school teams to engage in interscholastic competition in non-championship sports. Team members on emerging sports teams must meet all AHSAA eligibility requirements, the sports are required to follow NFHS rules and regulations, and AHSAA-registered officials must be used where applicable, when available.

Currently, member schools are permitted to field teams only in NFHS-sanctioned sports in which a championship program is sanctioned and sponsored by the AHSAA.

### **Steps for Fielding Emerging Sports Teams**

With the Central Board's approval of participation in non-championship sports, these guidelines have been developed to establish such a sport.

The steps for a school to follow:

- Declare the sport on the online sport Declaration Form (it will be re-designed to include emerging sports). Deadline for submitting the online form is May 1.
- Follow all AHSAA eligibility rules and regulations and provide facilities for practice and games. Submit participating students to the school's online eligibility list and require each student to take the NFHS Sportsmanship program online. All summer regulations and the Outside Participation Rule would also apply.
- Coaches must be certified in accordance with all AHSAA Coaches Education Program requirements (Rule V, Coaches, page 56).
- Member school is responsible to fully fund the sport.

- Sport must be sanctioned by the NFHS.
- Conduct the sport under NFHS rules. If rules of a sport have not been established by the NFHS, the rules of that sport's national governing body will be adopted by the AHSAA.
- Use AHSAA-registered officials for that sport when available. (The AHSAA will develop a plan to register officials when applicable.)
- Follow the sport season dates established by the AHSAA for 2020-21:

**FALL:** Aug. 2 (first allowed practice date)  
 Aug. 19 (first allowed contest date for varsity football)  
 Aug. 19 (first allowed contest date for all other fall sports)

**WINTER:** Oct. 18 (first allowed practice date)  
 Nov. 4 (first allowed contest date)

**SPRING:** Jan. 17 (first allowed practice date)  
 Jan. 31 (baseball, softball)  
 Feb. 17 (first allowed contest date)

### **Championship Sport Consideration**

When 10 percent of the member schools field teams in a Sport Under Jurisdiction, that sport **may** be considered for sanctioning as a championship sport by the Central Board. Once a championship program is sanctioned, the AHSAA would establish its season, competition format and playing rules. Creation of additional classifications within a sanctioned sport requires participation by 10 percent of the member schools.

## SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

High schools are divided into seven classifications (1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and 7A) for competition in championship programs.

Classification is based on Average Daily Membership (ADM) figures furnished by the State Department of Education for the upper three grades plus ninth grade students that are retained in the ninth grade.

An index of 1.35 is used to determine the enrollment figure for classifying each private school member. Each private school student counts 1.35 for classification purposes.

Alignments are made for each sport in a class, based on the number of schools participating in a sport. Some programs may include two or more classes in a division. **Some schools may be classified in different classification for specific sport based on the competitive balance factor.**

The alignments for each sport in a class are published in the Fall, Winter and Spring sports books.

<b>CLASS 7A</b>			
1	Hoover High School .....	2,126.15	29 Gadsden City High School..... 1,059.55
2	Auburn High School.....	2,034.80	30 Florence High School..... 1,056.95
3	Baker High School.....	1,829.10	31 Murphy High School .....
4	Sparkman High School .....	1,810.20	32 Theodore High School .....
5	Dothan High School.....	1,733.15	
6	Enterprise High School .....	1,611.85	<b>CLASS 6A</b>
7	James Clemens High School .....	1,603.05	1 Mountain Brook High School..... 1,039.35
8	Vestavia Hills High School.....	1,532.00	2 R.E. Lee High School .....
9	Thompson High School.....	1,525.90	3 Helena High School .....
10	Mary G. Montgomery High School .....	1,522.15	4 Robertsdale High School..... 1,022.85
11	Grissom High School .....	1,437.35	5 Chelsea High School..... 1,022.40
12	Prattville High School .....	1,425.20	6 Buckhorn High School .....
13	Huntsville High School.....	1,410.85	7 Hillcrest High School, .....
14	Bob Jones High School.....	1,386.00	Tuscaloosa
15	Central High School, Phenix City .....	1,377.60	8 Opelika High School .....
16	Smiths Station High School .....	1,365.00	9 Shades Valley High School..... 952.40
17	Davidson High School.....	1,311.65	10 Huffman High School..... 943.00
18	Fairhope High School.....	1,293.20	11 McGill-Toolen High School .....
19	Alma Bryant High School.....	1,266.75	12 Hazel Green High School .....
20	Tuscaloosa County High School .....	1,261.70	13 Clay-Chalkville High School..... 938.60
21	Spain Park High School .....	1,240.40	14 Homewood High School..... 932.55
22	Albertville High School.....	1,222.95	15 Wetumpka High School .....
23	Jeff Davis High School.....	1,192.65	16 Oxford High School..... 901.20
24	Oak Mountain High School.....	1,191.35	17 Hueytown High School..... 896.20
25	Hewitt-Trussville High School .....	1,167.85	18 Stanhope Elmore High School.... 856.90
26	Austin High School .....	1,139.45	19 Pell City High School..... 835.85
27	Daphne High School .....	1,109.75	20 Northridge High School..... 835.50
28	Foley High School.....	1,074.25	21 Spanish Fort High School..... 833.45
			22 Saraland High School .....
			23 Athens High School .....
			24 Mattie T. Blount High School .....

25	Decatur High School.....	806.10	14	Faith Academy.....	515.63
26	Baldwin County High School.....	799.40	15	Russellville High School.....	513.65
27	Pinson Valley High School.....	798.50	16	Carroll High School.....	513.40
28	Pelham High School.....	797.45	17	East Limestone High School.....	509.95
29	McAdory High School.....	795.90	18	LeFlore Magnet High School.....	502.90
30	Hartselle High School.....	782.50	19	John Carroll Catholic High School	491.06
31	Gardendale High School.....	777.00			
32	Paul Bryant High School.....	774.30	20	G.W. Carver High School.....	489.55
33	Cullman High School.....	760.65		(Birmingham)	
34	Brookwood High School.....	757.30	21	Sylacauga High School.....	488.30
35	Fort Payne High School.....	747.20	22	Douglas High School.....	484.40
36	Russell County High School.....	716.15	23	Elberta High School.....	484.10
37	Calera High School.....	703.55	24	Demopolis High School.....	482.70
38	Park Crossing High School.....	701.55	25	Greenville High School.....	480.00
39	Minor High School.....	700.35	26	Saint Clair County High School..	479.05
40	Columbia High School.....	690.95	27	Hayden High School.....	473.70
41	Bessemer City High School.....	685.20	28	Crossville High School.....	463.85
42	G.W. Carver High School,.....	681.30	29	B.C. Rain High School.....	459.80
	(Montgomery)		30	Pike Road High School.....	456.85
43	Sidney Lanier High School.....	681.05	31	Lawrence County High School...	456.65
44	Muscle Shoals High School.....	643.35	32	Beauregard High School.....	456.15
45	Benjamin Russell High School...	642.60	33	Lincoln High School.....	449.20
46	Mortimer Jordan High School....	633.80	34	Guntersville High School.....	443.90
47	Citronelle High School.....	631.25	35	Marbury High School.....	435.05
48	Scottsboro High School.....	608.35	36	Headland High School.....	429.20
49	Gulf Shores High School.....	606.35	37	Ardmore High School.....	419.70
50	Jasper High School.....	601.75	38	Andalusia High School.....	416.95
51	Southside High School, Gadsden	601.45	39	West Point High School.....	414.85
52	Chilton County High School.....	600.00	40	UMS-Wright Prep School.....	414.65
53	P.D. Jackson-Olin High School...	598.35	41	Shelby County High School.....	409.65
54	Briarwood Christian School.....	589.95	42	St. Paul's Episcopal School.....	409.59
55	Arab High School.....	588.70	43	Leeds High School.....	408.90
56	Valley High School.....	578.90	44	Holtville High School.....	403.50
57	Eufaula High School.....	574.25	45	Satsuma High School.....	401.40
58	Woodlawn High School.....	573.70	46	Sardis High School.....	398.80
59	Springville High School.....	569.45	47	Elmore County High School.....	396.30
	<b>CLASS 5A</b>		48	Alexandria High School.....	393.80
1	Ramsay High School.....	566.70	49	Corner High School.....	392.85
2	Mae Jemison High School.....	564.80	50	Fairview High School.....	390.80
3	Selma High School.....	563.90	51	Central High School of Clay County	388.45
4	Rehobeth High School.....	561.65			
5	Central High School, Tuscaloosa	560.35	52	Charles Henderson High School.	387.40
6	A.H. Parker High School.....	559.65	53	Sipsey Valley High School.....	387.35
7	Boaz High School.....	553.05	54	Cordova High School.....	383.95
8	Center Point High School.....	552.55	55	Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School	380.55
9	Moody High School.....	552.50			
10	Lee High School, Huntsville.....	550.80	56	Tallassee High School.....	379.20
11	Wenonah High School.....	550.15	57	Fairfield High Preparatory.....	377.20
12	A.P. Brewer High School.....	546.85	58	Talladega High School.....	376.60
13	Jemison High School.....	522.25	59	Pleasant Grove High School.....	374.10

**CLASS 4A**

1	St. John Paul II Catholic High School	370.51
2	Wilcox Central High School	372.70
3	Haleyville High School	371.05
4	LAMP	371.00
5	Madison County High School	369.90
6	Curry High School	366.55
7	Etowah High School	366.25
8	Brooks High School	365.30
9	Hamilton High School	364.75
10	Jacksonville High School	362.10
11	Dora High School	360.40
12	Northside High School	360.35
13	St. Michael Catholic High School	360.11
14	Dale County High School	359.85
15	Vigor High School	359.40
16	Munford High School	356.50
17	Handley High School	356.45
18	Oak Grove High School	355.50
19	Cleburne County High School	354.10
20	New Century Technology High School	352.20
21	Booker T. Washington Magnet School	352.00
22	Deshler High School	351.80
23	B.T. Washington High School, Tuskegee	350.00
24	North Jackson High School	348.35
25	Williamson High School	346.05
26	Cherokee County High School	345.80
27	West Limestone High School	344.15
28	Bibb County High School	343.80
29	Wilson High School	341.00
30	Jackson High School	340.20
31	Oneonta High School	340.00
32	Holt High School	338.25
33	Priceville High School	338.00
34	Kate D. Smith, DAR High School	333.95
35	Dallas County High School	331.90
36	West Morgan High School	326.30
37	Fultondale High School	324.05
38	Montevallo High School	322.15
39	West Blocton High School	320.20
40	Randolph School	315.90
41	White Plains High School	315.50
42	Anniston High School	315.45
43	Good Hope High School	315.35
44	Sumter Central High School	312.80
45	Westminster Christian Academy	310.50

46	Ashford High School	305.65
47	Central High School, Florence	303.85
48	Madison Academy	302.40
49	Straughn High School	301.35
50	W.S. Neal High School	299.45
51	Alabama Christian Academy	299.30
52	New Hope High School	298.65
53	Fayette County High School	296.15
54	American Christian Academy	294.30
55	Rogers High School	290.05
56	Saint James School	289.51
57	Geneva High School	288.40
58	Hanceville High School	288.25
59	Indian Springs School	286.88
60	Escambia County High School	284.75
61	Ashville High School	284.65
62	Bullock County High School	284.50
63	Gordo High School	283.90

**CLASS 3A**

1	East Lawrence High School	282.90
2	Oakman High School	282.90
3	Slocomb High School	281.90
4	Danville High School	281.50
5	Childersburg High School	281.15
6	Opp High School	280.70
7	Montgomery Catholic School	279.18
8	Thomasville High School	276.30
9	Plainview High School	276.00
10	Houston Academy	272.70
11	Trinity Presbyterian School	272.70
12	Hokes Bluff High School	269.30
13	Hale County High School	268.70
14	Flomaton High School	268.50
15	Sylvania High School	267.95
16	Mobile Christian School	267.30
17	Elkmont High School	267.05
18	Asbury High School	265.85
19	Wicksburg High School	264.10
20	Brindlee Mountain High School	263.95
21	Greensboro High School	262.50
22	Winfield High School	260.60
23	T. R. Miller High School	259.45
24	Susan Moore High School	259.40
25	J.B. Pennington High School	259.20
26	Beulah High School	258.70
27	Saks High School	258.20
28	Walter Wellborn High School	257.70
29	Tarrant High School	256.05
30	Pike County High School	255.25
31	The Montgomery Academy	253.80



32	Geraldine High School .....	252.70	18	North Sand Mountain High .....	193.25
33	Piedmont High School .....	250.65		School	
34	Phil Campbell High School.....	249.95	19	Washington County High School	192.00
35	Bayside Academy .....	249.75	20	Sheffield High School .....	191.90
36	Monroe County High School.....	249.45	21	Colbert County High School .....	191.05
37	Carbon Hill High School .....	248.95	22	G.W. Long High School.....	190.65
38	Daleville High School.....	248.80	23	Cleveland High School.....	190.30
39	Excel High School.....	247.55	24	Cottonwood High School.....	188.25
40	Weaver High School .....	247.45	25	Luverne High School.....	187.10
41	Ohatchee High School .....	245.65	26	Ariton High School.....	187.10
42	Cottage Hill Christian Academy . (WC)	244.35	27	St. Luke's Episcopal School .....	186.91
43	Glencoe High School.....	244.15	28	Falkville High School .....	184.90
44	Prattville Christian Academy .....	243.00	29	Cold Springs High School .....	183.65
45	Vinemont High School .....	241.65	30	Ranburne High School.....	183.45
46	Lauderdale County High School .	241.00	31	Westminster School at Oak .....	182.25
47	Dadeville High School.....	239.90		Mountain	
48	Collinsville High School.....	235.25	32	Aliceville High School .....	181.70
49	New Brockton High School .....	234.35	33	Geneva County High School.....	181.25
50	Hillcrest High School, Ever. ....	234.20	34	West End High School.....	178.95
51	Pleasant Valley High School .....	232.65	35	Isabella High School .....	178.00
52	Holly Pond High School.....	231.55	36	J.U. Blacksher High School .....	177.80
53	Chickasaw High School .....	230.30	37	Horseshoe Bend High School.....	177.75
54	Fyffe High School .....	228.40	38	Zion Chapel High School.....	176.15
55	Providence Christian School .....	226.80	39	Tanner High School .....	176.15
56	Goshen High School .....	226.35	40	B.B. Comer High School.....	172.45
57	Reeltown High School.....	225.10	41	LaFayette High School.....	172.40
58	Southside High School, Selma ...	222.60	42	Houston County High School.....	172.30
59	Colbert Heights High School .....	221.85	43	Leroy High School .....	172.00
60	Clements High School .....	221.55	44	Winston County High School.....	171.80
	<b>CLASS 2A</b>		45	Thorsby High School.....	171.70
1	Clarke County High School .....	221.45	46	Highland Home School .....	171.40
2	Locust Fork High School.....	220.95	47	Tharptown High School .....	170.75
3	Greene County High School .....	220.40	48	Sulligent High School.....	169.65
4	Westbrook Christian School .....	219.51	49	Whitesburg Christian Academy ..	167.40
5	Randolph County High School....	217.80	50	Abbeville High School.....	166.00
6	Midfield High School.....	217.10	51	Lanett High School .....	163.80
7	Section High School .....	212.50	52	Southeastern High School.....	162.65
8	Lexington High School.....	208.90	53	Francis Marion High School .....	155.05
9	Pisgah High School.....	205.05	54	Central High School, Coosa.....	153.85
10	Altamont School.....	202.50	55	Fayetteville High School.....	152.50
11	Hatton High School.....	200.10	56	Addison High School.....	152.00
12	Lamar County High School .....	199.20	57	Spring Garden High School.....	149.40
13	Sand Rock High School .....	198.80	58	Orange Beach High School .....	145.43
14	Red Bay High School .....	197.90	59	Gaston High School .....	145.30
15	Holy Family Catholic High .....	195.75	60	Elba High School .....	145.05
	School		61	Calhoun High School .....	144.00
16	Vincent Middle High School .....	193.75	62	Mars Hill Bible School.....	143.98
17	Ider High School.....	193.45		<b>CLASS 1A</b>	
			1	Choctaw County High School.....	143.10
			2	Winterboro High School.....	142.40



3	Maplesville High School.....	141.70	51	McIntosh High School.....	87.35
4	Southern Choctaw High School..	141.70	52	Gaylesville High School.....	87.30
5	Donoho School .....	140.40	53	Pickens County High School .....	86.40
6	South Lamar High School .....	137.85	54	Georgiana High School .....	82.85
7	Woodland High School.....	137.05	55	Hubbertville High School.....	82.70
8	Holy Spirit Catholic High School	135.41	56	Fruitdale High School.....	82.00
9	Brantley High School .....	133.65	57	Alabama School for the Deaf ....	79
10	Samson High School .....	133.55	58	Shoals Christian School.....	75.60
11	Marion County High School.....	133.50	59	McKenzie High School.....	75.45
12	Belgreen High School .....	132.00	60	Brilliant High School .....	75.15
13	Barbour County High School .....	131.65	61	Talladega Co. Central High .....	71.30
14	Kinston High School .....	130.70		School	
15	Billingsley High School .....	130.40	62	Vina High School .....	68.45
16	Red Level High School.....	130.00	63	Jefferson Christian Academy ....	63.45
17	R.C. Hatch High School.....	129.80	64	R.A. Hubbard High School.....	63.00
18	Central High School, Hayneville .	128.55	65	Notasulga High School.....	62.00
19	Sumiton Christian School.....	127.91	66	Covenant Christian School .....	61.09
20	Berry High School.....	126.55		(Tuscumbia)	
21	Sweet Water High School .....	125.60	67	Coosa Christian School.....	59.40
22	Saint Bernard Preparatory .....	125.55	68	Jacksonville Christian Academy.	58.05
	School		69	Autaugaville High School .....	57.20
23	Pleasant Home High School.....	125.00	70	J.F. Shields High School.....	54.00
24	Linden High School.....	123.90	71	Ellwood Christian Academy.....	51.30
25	Cedar Bluff High School.....	123.55	72	Marengo High School .....	51.10
26	Floralia High School.....	123.50	73	A.L. Johnson High School .....	45.60
27	Cornerstone Schools of Alabama	122.85	74	Sacred Heart Catholic School ...	39.83
28	Appalachian High School.....	121.60		(ANB)	
29	Millry High School .....	121.30	75	Alabama School for the Blind ...	38
30	Valley Head High School .....	120.05	76	University Charter School .....	36.53
31	Lindsay Lane Christian Academy	119.07	77	Alabama School of Cyber	
32	Verbena High School .....	118.65		Technology	
33	Victory Christian School.....	117.72	78	Alabama School of Math and	
34	Decatur Heritage Christian .....	117.45		Science	
	Academy				
35	Hackleburg High School .....	112.05			
36	Skyline High School .....	111.85			
37	Cherokee High School .....	111.35			
38	Waterloo High School .....	110.00			
39	Loachapoka High School .....	108.40			
40	Woodville High School .....	108.00			
41	Oakwood Adventist Academy ....	106.65			
42	Lynn High School.....	106.35			
43	Ragland High School .....	105.00			
44	Keith High School .....	103.00			
45	Phillips High School.....	102.25			
46	Faith Christian School .....	101.72			
47	Meek High School .....	101.35			
48	Bayshore Christian School .....	97.27			
49	Athens Bible School .....	91.13			
50	Wadley High School.....	88.00			

## **MISSION, FUNCTION and ORGANIZATION of the ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

### **Mission**

The Alabama High School Athletic Association, founded in 1921, is a private agency organized by its member schools to control and promote their athletic programs.

The purpose of the AHSAA is to regulate, coordinate and promote the interscholastic athletic programs among its member schools, which include public, private and parochial institutions. Currently there are 414 senior high members and 333 junior high and middle school members with more than 150,000 students participating in the program.

Major aims of the AHSAA are to serve the needs of its member schools in conducting their interscholastic athletic programs and to assist member schools in reaching the educational objectives as established by their school systems.

### **Function**

The AHSAA, providing a vehicle through which member schools may write their own rules and regulations, determines that schools are abiding by those standards in such areas as student eligibility, contests and championship programs.

Another basic function of the AHSAA is the registration, training and regulation of officials. Only officials registered with the Association are used for contests involving member schools.

### **Organization**

The rules-making body of the AHSAA is the Legislative Council, composed of eight district boards made up of four members each elected by member schools in each district. The 32-member Council has the authority to make changes in the Constitution and Bylaws.

The executive board with the final authority in AHSAA matters is the Central Board of Control, consisting of one member of each district board, one member from each of the four bi-districts, two at-large female members, and one representative from the State Department of Education.

The operation of the AHSAA is the responsibility of Steve Savarese and his staff. Savarese became only the fourth full-time executive director August 1, 2007, after the retirement of Dan Washburn, who had served since 1991. The late Cliff Harper became the first AHSAA head in 1948 with the establishment of a State Office in Montgomery and was followed by Herman L. (Bubba) Scott in 1966. Prior to 1948, Sellers Stough of Birmingham served as director on a part-time basis.

## History

The AHSAA joined the National Federation of State High School Associations in 1924. The National Federation, both a service and regulatory organization controlling interstate athletic events, helps the 50 state association members secure the benefits of cooperative action through the pooling and coordinating of ideas of all who are engaged in the administration of high school athletics.

The AHSAA merged with the Alabama Interscholastic Athletic Association in 1968, forming one high school athletic association for the State of Alabama in accordance with a court order relating to athletics. The AHSAA sponsors state championships programs in 12 boys and 12 girls sports.

### Important Dates:

- 1921 — AHSAA organized
- 1924 — Joined National Federation on Feb. 28
- 1925 — First state basketball tournament
- 1925 — First track & field championships
- 1945 — First tennis championships
- 1948 — State office established in Montgomery
- 1948 — Cliff Harper became first full-time executive secretary on July 1
- 1948 — Expanded to two classes for competition
- 1949 — First golf and soccer championships
- 1956 — First wrestling championship
- 1963 — First swimming championships
- 1964 — Expanded to four classes for competition
- 1966 — Herman L. (Bubba) Scott became executive director on July 1
- 1966 — First state football playoff
- 1968 — Merger with AIAA on July 1
- 1973 — First cross-country state championships
- 1974 — Start of area and region play
- 1980 — Moved to new state office building in June
- 1985 — Expanded to six classes for competition
- 1986 — First slow pitch softball championships
- 1991 — Dan Washburn became executive director on January 1
- 1991 — First Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame induction on March 23.
- 1994 — First basketball state finals
- 1995 — First fast pitch softball championship
- 1996 — First Super 6 football state finals
- 2001 — First baseball state finals
- 2006 — State Office moves to new facility in East Montgomery on July 1
- 2007 — Steve Savarese became executive director on August 1
- 2013 — Expanded to Seven Classifications
- 2016 — First bowling championships

## **SPECIAL PROGRAM**

### **Sports Hall of Fame**

The Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame is dedicated to preserving the rich tradition of high school athletics in Alabama. The purpose is to recognize individuals who make outstanding contributions to AHSAA member schools through their extraordinary efforts as coaches, administrators, officials and news media personnel. Their excellence stands out as shining examples for others to emulate.

The Hall of Fame is co-sponsored by the Alabama High School Athletic Directors and Coaches Association along with the AHSAA.

Candidates are judged on character, leadership, citizenship, service and achievement and contributions to member schools.

Hall of Fame nomination forms outlining the nominating procedure may be obtained from the AHSAA office. Those selected each year are honored at the annual Induction Ceremony and Banquet each March.

Completed nomination forms, due in the AHSAA by **October 15**, must be endorsed by a member high school of the AHSAA. Nominations remain active for three years, after which they must be resubmitted. The Hall of Fame Committee usually meets in January.

### **AN EDITORIAL:**

#### **Association Promotes Athletics\***

“The State and National Federation of High School Athletic Associations are agents of the high schools. They are devoted to the interests of high school boys and girls and promote these interests through providing the means for united effort by the men and women who administer the athletic activity of the school – principals, athletic directors, coaches, contest managers and the men and women who officiate games.

...“The athletic associations are sports direction agencies, primarily concerned with proper controls and strict regulations of athletic activities. Because of this, it is sometimes necessary to advocate limits which are not always popular with the press or with that portion of the public which does not always understand underlying principles and which centers its attention on the exceptional performer and on exhibitionism rather than on the more prosaic welfare of the many.

“There is a difference between sports promotion and sports direction. Promotion is based primarily on returns to the promoter. Direction is concerned primarily with benefits to all the participants and to spreading these benefits to constantly increasing numbers...

“The welfare of the schools demands a united front in sports direction policies and the high school associations provide opportunity for this unity. They must be kept strong.”

\*By H.V. Porter, Secretary Emeritus, National Foundation of State High School Athletic Associations, Chicago.

**ORIGINAL MERGER PLAN**  
of  
**ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND**  
**ALABAMA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**AND OTHER MATTERS PURSUANT**  
**TO COURT DECREE**  
**DATED APRIL 1, 1968**

The Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA), its individual members and officers thereof, and the Alabama Interscholastic Athletic Association (AIAA), its individual members and officers thereof, will be merged in accordance with this Plan so that there will be only one high school athletic association in the State of Alabama, to be officially known as and named the "Alabama High School Athletic Association," (hereinafter referred to as the "Merged Association").

**I**

**MEMBERSHIP**

There shall be only one high school athletic association in the State of Alabama. All public high schools in the State of Alabama shall belong to the Merged Association if said schools desire to become members of any athletic association, and if said schools meet the qualifications as specified in the Bylaws and Constitution of the Merged Association. The Bylaws and Constitution of the present AHSAA shall remain in full force and effect for the Merged Association, except where they conflict with this Merged Plan or with the Court Order Relating to Athletics, dated April 1, 1968. No application for membership shall be denied on grounds of race.

**II**

**ATHLETIC DISTRICTS**

Eight athletic districts shall be created and known as District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. The counties contained in each District shall be as follows:

**District 1**

Mobile, Baldwin, Escambia, Conecuh, Monroe, Clark, Choctaw, and Washington.

**District 2**

Covington, Geneva, Houston, Coffee, Dale, Henry, Barbour, Butler, Crenshaw and Pike.

**District 3**

Sumter, Marengo, Wilcox, Dallas, Lowndes, Montgomery, Autauga, Chilton, Bibb, Perry, Hale and Green.

**District 4**

Bullock, Russell, Macon, Lee, Elmore, Chambers, Tallapoosa and Coosa.

**District 5**

Tuscaloosa, Shelby, Jefferson and Walker.

**District 6**

Randolph, Clay, Talladega, Cleburne, Calhoun, St. Clair, Etowah and Cherokee.

**District 7**

Pickens, Lamar, Fayette, Marion, Winston, Franklin, Lawrence, Colbert and Lauderdale.

**District 8**

Blount, Cullman, Morgan, Marshall, DeKalb, Limestone, Madison and Jackson.

Each such athletic district shall have a District Board consisting of four members who must be a superintendent, principal, or teacher in a member school of the district. Three members of each District Board shall be white and one shall be Negro. The three members of present District Boards of the AHSAA shall continue to be members of the District Board of the Merged Association until their terms of office expire. Initially, the Negro member of each District shall be appointed by the Central Board of the present AIAA. As each member's term expires, the three white and one Negro member shall be elected by the member schools of the district.

**III****LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

A Legislative Council shall be created for the Merged Association and shall be composed of four District Board members from each of the eight Districts thereby making a total of 32 members on the Legislative Council (24 white and 8 Negroes).

The Legislative Council shall be the rule-making body of the Merged Association and shall make all rules and regulations and amendments to the Bylaws and Constitution.

**IV****CENTRAL BOARD OF CONTROL**

A Central Board of Control (hereinafter referred to as the "Central Board") of the Merged Association shall be created and shall be composed of twelve members (8 whites and 4 Negroes). The members of the Central Board shall be selected as follows: The present eight Central Board members of AHSAA shall continue to serve on the Central Board of the Merged Association until their term of office expires; they or their successors shall then be elected by their respective District Boards in accordance with Article IV of the Constitution. Four Negro members shall

be elected from and by the District Boards of two districts combined to form a Bi-district. There shall be four Bi-districts formed by combining the Districts as follows:

- (1) Districts 1 and 2
- (2) Districts 3 and 4
- (3) Districts 5 and 6
- (4) Districts 7 and 8

One Negro Central Board Member of the Merged Association shall represent each of the four Bi districts. Their election shall be accomplished prior to the effective date of the merger.

The Central Board of Control shall be the governing body or Executive Board of the Merged Association, having duties and responsibilities as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Merged Association.

## **V**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

The Executive Secretary of the present AHSAA shall continue to serve as Executive Secretary of the Merged Association. All other present employees of present AHSAA shall maintain their status and position in the Merged Association. A new position to be known as Associate Executive Secretary shall be created and this position shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Secretary from a list of three nominees submitted by the Central Board of the present AIAA.

## **VI**

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES AND SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION**

In order to meet the cost and expense of operating the Merged Association, the dues of all member schools shall be as follows:

- \$100 per year for 4A schools
- \$75 per year for 3A schools
- \$50 per year for 2A schools
- \$25 per year for A schools

The classification of schools shall be based on net enrollment in such schools as follows:

All high schools with a net enrollment in the upper three grades of 500 or more students shall be 4A schools.

All high schools with a net enrollment in the upper three grades of 224-499 students shall be 3A schools.

All high schools with a net enrollment in the upper three grades of 127-224 students shall be 2A schools.



All high schools with a net enrollment in the upper three grades of less than 127 students shall be classified A schools.

The Central Board of Control has the authority to reclassify schools whenever deemed necessary in order to implement the athletic programs of members schools. All classification is based on the net enrollment of the schools without regard to race.

## **VII RECRUITING OF ATHLETES**

The Merged Association considers the recruiting of athletes to be detrimental to amateur athletics at the high school level. To help minimize this problem, but to avoid interfering with the desegregation of schools in those school systems operating under freedom of choice plans, the Merged Association will adopt modifications of the former transfer rule as they apply to a student transferring for the first time to a school of predominantly the opposite race as follows:

1. In systems which do not operate freedom of choice plans, the transfer rule as stated in Rule 1, Section 11, of the Bylaws shall be enforced without change.
2. A student transferring for the first time to a school where his race is in the minority under a freedom of choice plan will not be subject to the one-year ineligibility rule, providing he was not induced to transfer for the purpose of participating in athletics.
3. All free choice transfers by students for the first time to schools where their race is in the minority shall be deemed to have been made in good faith without recruitment unless a complaint is filed by the coach or school official of the school from which the transfer was made. If any coach has reasonable cause to believe that one of his players, or former players, is being or has been recruited by any school official attempting to use the freedom of choice provisions to avoid the effect of the transfer rule, he shall not communicate with the player, but shall make his belief known to either the Executive Secretary or the Associate Secretary who will immediately conduct an investigation into the charges. Upon completion of the investigation, the Executive Director will rule on the player's eligibility to participate in athletics at the school to which the transfer is proposed based on his conclusion that the player either was or was not recruited.
4. In making his conclusion, the Executive Director may be guided by the following criteria:
  - (a) The standing and ability of the player in question
  - (b) The statements of the persons involved.



- (c) Whether there have been contacts between the athlete and officials or other interested persons representing the school to which the transfer is proposed.
- (d) The grade level of the student, and
- (e) Statements of other persons who may have firsthand knowledge of the facts.

**VIII  
OFFICIALS FOR ATHLETIC CONTESTS**

All officials used in athletic contests between high schools in the State of Alabama who are registered with the Merged Association shall be members of an Officials Association which is affiliated with the Merged Association. Such affiliated Officials Association shall accept for membership all registered officials without regard to race. Race or color will not be a factor in the assignment of officials, except that race will be considered to overcome the effects of the dual school system.

**IX  
TRANSFER OF ALL ASSETS**

All assets of the present two athletic associations (AHSAA and AIAA) including such assets as are held or owned by various district boards, conferences, or other governing bodies and consisting of all funds, bank accounts, records, books, office furniture and fixtures, equipment, automobile, and all other property, real, personal or mixed, of every kind, character, and description, and wherever situated, shall be transferred and delivered to the Executive Director of the Merged Association and shall become the property of the Merged Association.

**X  
EFFECTIVE DATE OF MERGER**

The effective date of the merger shall be July 1, 1968.

**XI  
SPORTS COMMITTEES**

The District Boards, as combined to form the Bi-districts for the purpose of selecting a Negro representative to the Central Board of Control, shall appoint a Negro representative from each Bi-district to serve on each of the following Sports Committees:

- |                |               |             |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| (1) Football   | (5) Tennis    | (9) Bowling |
| (2) Basketball | (6) Golf      |             |
| (3) Baseball   | (7) Wrestling |             |
| (4) Track      | (8) Swimming  |             |

## **XII CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

The Merged Association shall operate under the present Constitution and Bylaws of the AHSAA, except as otherwise provided in this Plan of Merger. After the effective date of the merger such exceptions shall be written into and become a part of the Bylaws or Constitution of the Merged Association.

## **XIII TERMINATION OF PRESENT ASSOCIATIONS**

After the effective date of this merger, the AHSAA and AIAA as now constituted and existing shall terminate and such Associations shall cease to exist. Thereafter there shall be only one high school athletic association in the State of Alabama and it shall and will be the Merged Association. The duration of the Merged Association shall be perpetual.

## **XIV ATHLETIC CONFERENCES**

Athletic Conferences, composed of member schools of the Merged Association, shall consist of all schools which desire to become members of the Conference and are located within the same general area and are of the same classification as other member schools of the Conference without regard to the racial composition of the schools.

## **XV ATHLETIC PROGRAMS, CONTESTS AND COMPETITION**

Effective May 1, 1968, as directed by the Court's Order Relating to Athletics, dated April, 1968, all athletic programs, contests and competitions, including track, basketball, baseball, football, cheerleader clinics and coaching clinics, where more than two schools participate, shall be conducted and held without regard to the racial composition of the schools. This includes programs, competitions and contests on county, district, conference, sectional, area, regional and State levels.

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## NOTES

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