



# OFFICIAL HANDBOOK

THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE IS A MEMBER OF THE  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



*Additional copies of this 2023-2024 Official Handbook may be obtained from:*

Minnesota State High School League  
2100 Freeway Boulevard  
Brooklyn Center, Minnesota 55430-1735  
Office: 763-560-2262  
Fax: 763-569-0499  
[www.MSHSL.org](http://www.MSHSL.org)

The most current version of the Official Handbook is always posted on the League website — [www.MSHSL.org](http://www.MSHSL.org)

**RESOLUTION  
IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION FOR  
SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO THE  
MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WHEREAS**, Suzy Guthmueller, Matthew Heier, Amanda Kaus, Astein Osei, John Ostrowski, Troy Stein and John Vraa duly elected or appointed members of the Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors, have with dedication and sincere interest served said Board on behalf of the boys and girls of Minnesota, and

**WHEREAS**, Suzy Guthmueller, Matthew Heier, Amanda Kaus, Astein Osei, John Ostrowski, Troy Stein and John Vraa have given generously of their time, talents and thoughtful energies to improve and expand the total program of activities and services for all school districts in the State of Minnesota,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Minnesota State High School League member schools, Board of Directors and its staff officially and formally express their collective appreciation and voice of thanks to said members.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in recognition for years of said service, this edition of the League's Official Handbook is hereby dedicated to Suzy Guthmueller, Matthew Heier, Amanda Kaus, Astein Osei, John Ostrowski, Troy Stein and John Vraa.



**Suzy Guthmueller**  
Centennial  
MSBA  
2021-2023



**Matthew Heier**  
Little Falls  
Governor's Appointee  
2019-2023



**Amanda Kaus**  
Rochester Century  
Music  
2019-2023



**Astein Osei**  
St. Louis Park  
MASA - Class AA  
2022-2023



**John Ostrowski**  
Dover-Eyota  
Regions 1A & 2A  
2019-2023



**Troy Stein**  
Edina  
Regions 5AA & 6AA  
2019-2023



**John Vraa**  
New London-Spicer  
Boys Sports  
2019-2023

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## FOUNDING PURPOSES

The Minnesota State High School League is organized for the following educational purposes:

1. To provide, promote, extend, manage and administer a program of activities for youth of the schools of the state on subsection, section and state levels in the fields of athletics, speech, music and dramatics on a competitive basis, as well as such other curricular and extracurricular activities as may from time to time be sponsored by the schools of Minnesota.
2. To establish uniform and equitable rules for youth in inter-school activities.
3. To elevate standards of sportsmanship and to encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools and their personnel.
4. To protect youth, member schools and their personnel from exploitation by special interest groups.
5. To provide mutual benefit and relief plans for the assistance of school students injured in athletic events or supervised school activities in meeting medical and hospital expenses incurred by reason of such injuries.
6. To serve the best interests of member schools and their students by providing a medium of cooperation and coordination in educational fields of endeavor and a series of related activities on a state-wide basis, which they individually could not achieve or accomplish for their students and which aid and assist the schools in maintaining a constantly improved program.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota State High School League provides educational opportunities for students through interscholastic athletic and fine arts programs and provides leadership and support for member schools.

**Education and Leadership for a Lifetime**

## BELIEFS

**We believe that...**

- Participation in school activity programs is a privilege and not a right.
- Sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence in all school-based activity programs.
- Students should have an equal opportunity to participate in all activities offered by their school.
- Ethical behavior, dignity and respect are non-negotiable.
- Student participants who choose to be chemically free must be supported.
- Collaborative relationships with parents enhance a school's opportunity to positively impact student success.
- Academic priorities must come before participation in athletic or fine arts activities.
- Positive role models and an active involvement in a student's life by parents and others are critical to student success.
- High school activity programs are designed for student participants, and adults must serve in a supportive role.
- The success of the team is more important than individual honors.
- Compliance with school, community and League rules is essential for all activity participants.
- Participation in school-sponsored activities must be inclusive, not exclusive.
- Ethical behavior, fairness, and embracing diversity best serve students and school communities.

## MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REPRESENTING	MEMBER	SCHOOL	FIRST ELECTED	TERM EXPIRES
Regions 1A & 2A.....	Brad O'Donnell .....	St. Clair .....	2023 .....	2027
Regions 3A & 4A.....	Bill Tauer.....	Tracy Area .....	2020 .....	2024
Regions 5A & 6A.....	Dave Rocheleau.....	Pierz .....	2021 .....	2025
Regions 7A & 8A.....	Brent Schimek .....	Deer River .....	2022 .....	2026
Regions 1AA & 2AA .....	Casey Indra.....	Winona.....	2022 .....	2025
Regions 3AA & 4AA .....	M. Denarvise Thornton, Jr. ....	St. Paul .....	2022 .....	2026
Regions 5AA & 6AA .....	Keith Cornell.....	St. Michael-Albertville.....	2023 .....	2027
Regions 7AA & 8AA .....	Gary Revenig .....	Monticello .....	2020 .....	2024

### Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

Class A .....	Jake Timm .....	Rushford-Peterson .....	2022 .....	2026
Class AA.....	James Smokrovich.....	East Ridge.....	2020 .....	2024

### Activity Representatives

Boys Sports .....	Mike Hennen.....	Forest Lake .....	2023 .....	2027
Girls Sports .....	Dawn Engebretson.....	Rockford .....	2020 .....	2024
Music .....	Mark Gitch .....	Wayzata.....	2023 .....	2027
Speech.....	Ceil McDonald .....	St. Paul .....	2020 .....	2024

### Minnesota School Boards Association

Kristi Peterson .....	Shakopee.....	2023 .....	2027
Jeanna Lilleberg.....	Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City ...	2021 .....	2025

### Minnesota Association of School Administrators

Class A .....	Don Peschel.....	Sauk Centre .....	2021 .....	2025
Class AA.....	Dr. Renee Corneille.....	St. Anthony-New Brighton .....	2023 .....	2027

### Governor's Appointees

MEMBER	HOME	FIRST APPOINTED	TERM EXPIRES
Dr. Julie Anderson .....	St. Cloud .....	2020 .....	2024
May Thao-Schuck .....	Woodbury .....	2021 .....	2025
LeRoy Staples Fairbanks .....	Cass Lake .....	2022 .....	2026
TBD .....	TBD .....	2023 .....	2027

## 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**James Smokrovich**  
East Ridge  
*President*



**Don Peschel**  
Sauk Centre  
*Vice-President*



**Bill Tauer**  
Tracy Area  
*Treasurer*



**Dr. Julie Anderson**  
St. Cloud



**Dr. Renee Corneille**  
St. Anthony - New Brighton



**Keith Cornell**  
St. Michael - Albertville



**Dawn Engebretson**  
Rockford



**LeRoy Staples Fairbanks**  
Cass Lake



**Mark Gitch**  
Wayzata



**Mike Hennen**  
Forest Lake



**Casey Indra**  
Winona



**Jeanna Lilleberg**  
Atwater - Cosmos - Grove City



**Ceil McDonald**  
St. Paul



**Brad O'Donnell**  
St. Clair



**Kristi Peterson**  
Shakopee



**Gary Revenig**  
Monticello



**Dave Rocheleau**  
Pierz



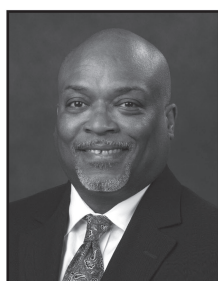
**Brent Schimek**  
Deer River



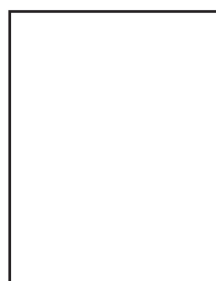
**May Thao-Schuck**  
Woodbury



**Jake Timm**  
Rushford - Peterson

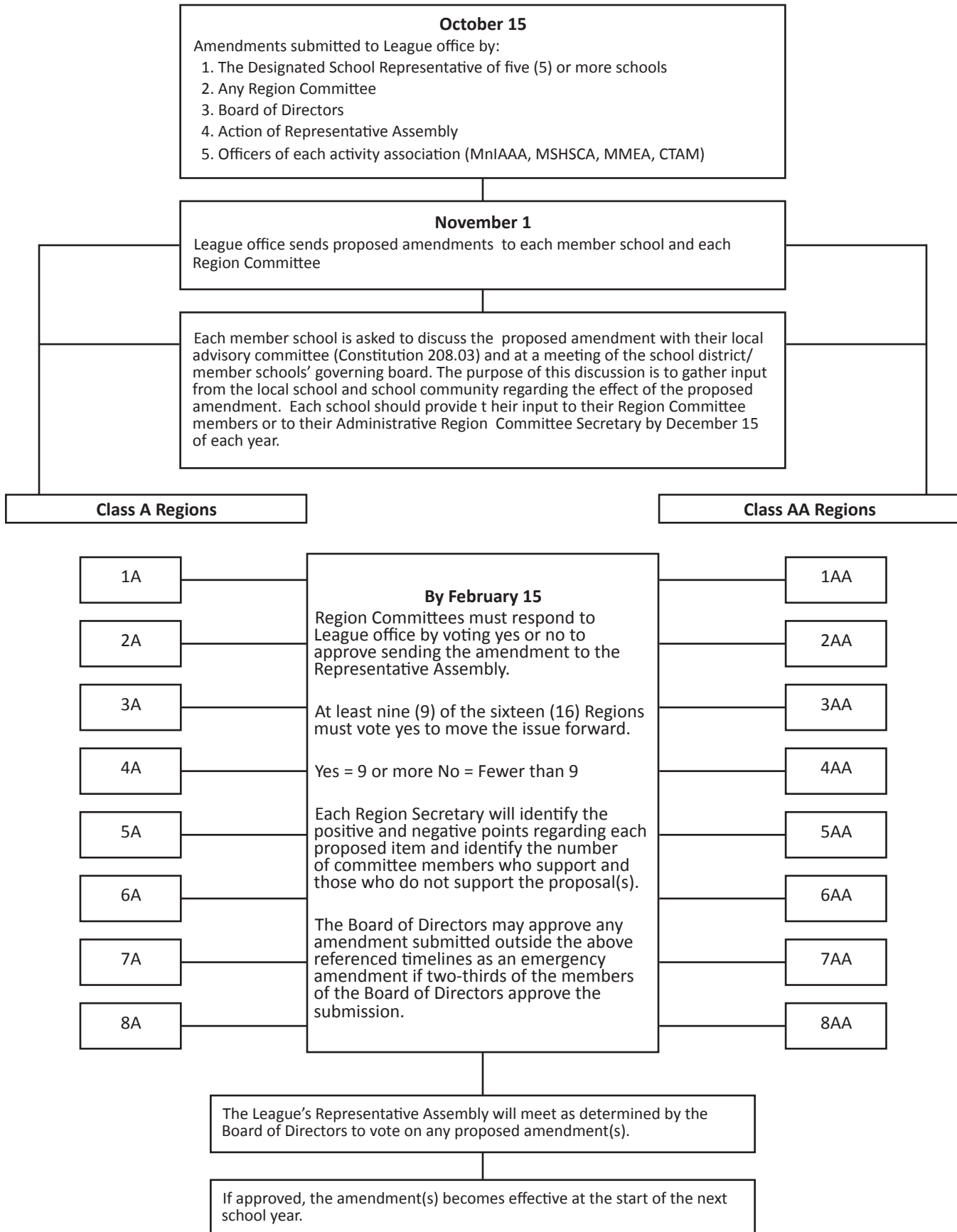


**M. Denarvise Thornton, Jr.**  
St. Paul



**TBD**  
Governor Appointee

Minnesota State High School League  
**REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCESS**



Minnesota State High School League  
**ACTIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROCESS**

[www.mshsl.org/activityadvisory](http://www.mshsl.org/activityadvisory)

Seasonally, the Activity Advisory Committee for each coaches/fine arts association submits their recommendations to the League office via the League website.

**Fall Activities - October 15**

**Winter Activities - February 15**

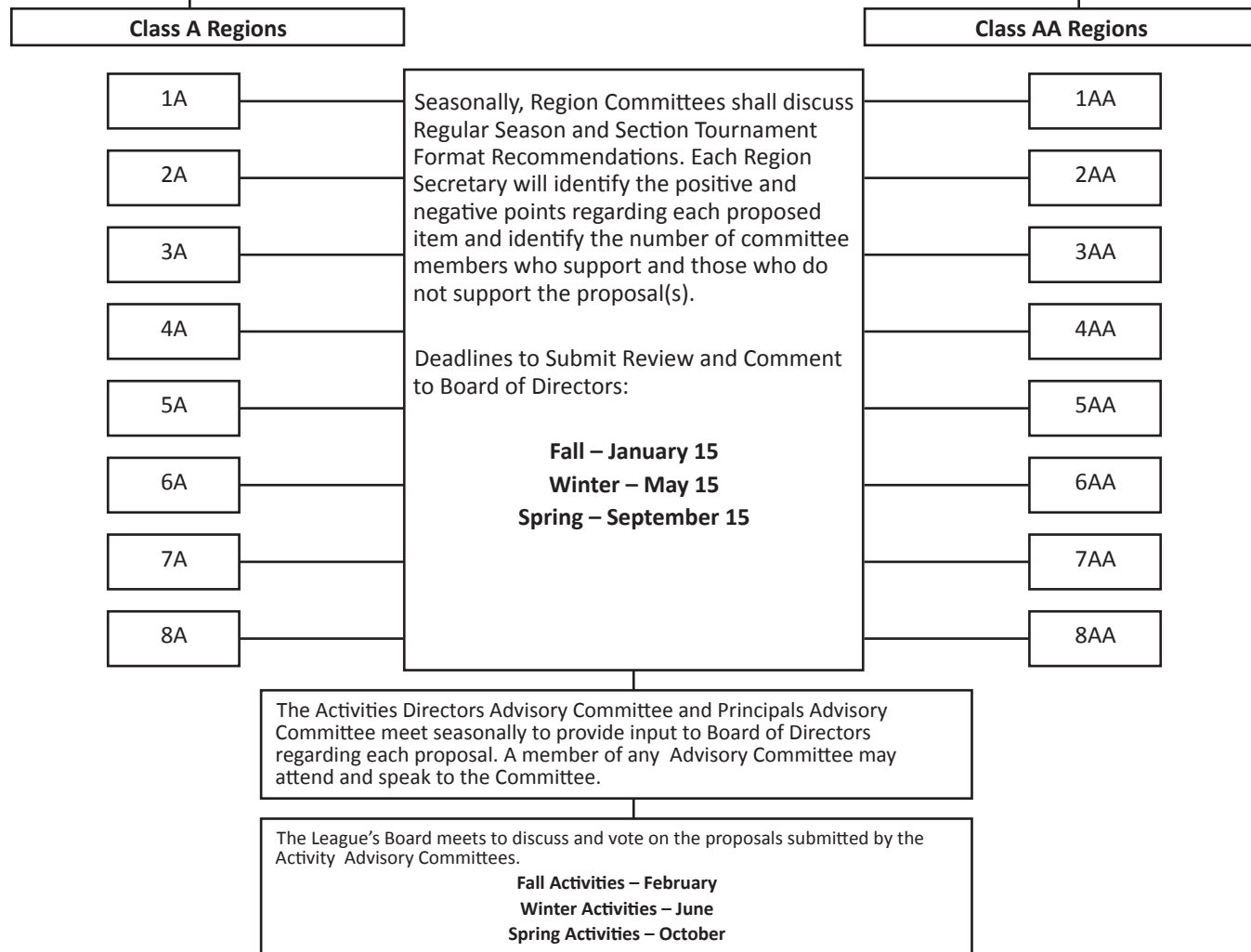
**Spring Activities - May 15**

Committee recommendations are advisory, and only the Board of Directors will make the final decision about any change to an activity.

**Categories for Advisory Committee Recommendations**

1. Awards (*Board of Directors Committee*)
2. State Tournament Recommendations regarding Format and Non-NFHS Rules or NFHS Experiments (*Board of Directors, Activities Directors Advisory Committee and Principals Advisory Committee*)
3. Regular Season and Section Tournament Format Recommendations (*Class A and Class AA Region Committees, Activities Directors Advisory Committee and Principals Advisory Committee*)
4. Staff Recommendations (to Tournament Staff)
5. State Tournament recommendations regarding Date(s) and Site(s) (*Board of Directors*)

The League office will meet with Region Secretaries to review Section Tournament Format Recommendations submitted by Coaches Associations.



***Recommendations submitted after the deadlines will not be accepted until the following year.***

## MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE 2023-2024 MSHSL STAFF and ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SECRETARIES

### 2023-2024 MSHSL OFFICE STAFF

Erich Martens, Executive Director  
 Bob Madison, Senior Associate Director  
 Phil Archer, Associate Director  
 Charlie Campbell, Associate Director  
 Lisa Quednow, Associate Director  
 Laura Mackenthun, Director of Information Systems  
 Rich Matter, Director of Finance  
 Amy Doherty, Assistant Director  
 Jason Nickleby, Assistant Director  
 Tim Leighton, Communications Coordinator  
 John Millea, Media Specialist

Marissa Anitzberger, Administrative Assistant  
 Shannon Foreman, Administrative Assistant  
 Jackie Gausam, Accounting Assistant  
 Randi Hill, Administrative Assistant  
 Susi Hollenbeck, Administrative Assistant  
 Amie Ince, Administrative Assistant  
 Pam Inniger, Administrative Assistant  
 Amanda Johnson, Executive Assistant  
 LaTayia McInnis, Administrative Assistant  
 Nancy Myers, Ticket Assistant  
 Ellen Rajkowski, Information Specialist

### 2023-2024 ADMINISTRATIVE REGION SECRETARIES

REGION	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
1A	Brad Johnson	507-993-7856	bj50johnson@gmail.com
2A	Dave Swanberg	612-756-2515	dave.swanberg80@gmail.com
3A	Bob Grey	320-894-9067	3aexecsec@gmail.com
4A	Rick Johns	651-706-3730	region4aexecsec@gmail.com
5A	John Vraa	320-212-5342	John.Region5A@gmail.com
6A	Chuck Evert	218-770-0137	cevert@arvig.net
7A	Chad Stoskopf	218-522-5555	cstoskopf@esko.k12.mn.us
8A	Todd Selk	218-820-4287	8aexecsec@gmail.com
1AA	Gary Addington	507-271-4348	garyaddington12@gmail.com
2AA	Jaime Sherwood	612-328-5688	region2aa@gmail.com
3AA	Dan Johnson	612-760-7577	DJ.MnIAAA@gmail.com
4AA	Jeff Whisler	651-329-5100	jeff.whisler17@gmail.com
5AA	Ray Kirch	763-567-9250	Region5aa@gmail.com
	Jim Colletti	763-910-1288	jeancolletti@usfamily.net
6AA	Nancy Manderfeld	612-590-9324	region6aa@gmail.com
7AA	Tom Lenarz	C: 218-391-4434 W: 218-879-3328 ext. 2103	tlenarz@isd94.org
8AA	John Ross	320-290-3392	region8aajr@gmail.com



## 2023-2024 MEMBER SCHOOLS by ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

## Class AA Members by Administrative Regions (129 Schools)

<b>REGION 1AA—17</b> Albert Lea Austin Byron Faribault Farmington Hastings Kasson-Mantorville Lakeville North Lakeville South Northfield Owatonna Red Wing Rochester Century Rochester John Marshall Rochester Mayo Stewartville Winona	<b>REGION 2AA—15</b> Chanhassen Chaska Delano Hutchinson Jordan Mankato East Mankato West Marshall Mound Westonka New Prague Orono Shakopee St. Peter Waconia Worthington	<b>REGION 3AA—16</b> Academy of Holy Angels Apple Valley Bloomington Jefferson Bloomington Kennedy Burnsville Eagan Eastview Park Prior Lake Richfield Rosemount Simley South Saint Paul St. Thomas Academy Two Rivers Visitation	<b>REGION 4AA—17</b> Cretin-Derham Hall East Ridge Hill-Murray School Mahtomedi North Roseville Area St. Anthony Village St. Paul Central St. Paul Como Park St. Paul Harding St. Paul Highland Park St. Paul Johnson St. Paul Washington Technology Magnet Stillwater Area Tartan White Bear Lake Area Woodbury
<b>REGION 5AA — 16</b> Anoka Blaine Centennial Champlin Park Columbia Heights Coon Rapids Fridley Irondale Maple Grove Mounds View Osseo Park Center Rogers Spring Lake Park St. Michael Albertville Totino-Grace	<b>REGION 6AA — 16</b> Benilde-St. Margaret's DeLaSalle Eden Prairie Edina Hopkins Minneapolis Edison Minneapolis Patrick Henry Minneapolis Roosevelt Minneapolis South Minneapolis Southwest Minneapolis Washburn Minnetonka Robbinsdale Armstrong Robbinsdale Cooper St. Louis Park Wayzata	<b>REGION 7AA — 16</b> Andover Cambridge-Isanti Chisago Lakes Cloquet Duluth Denfeld Duluth East Elk River Forest Lake Grand Rapids Hermantown Hibbing North Branch Princeton Rock Ridge St. Francis Zimmerman	<b>REGION 8AA — 16</b> Alexandria Area Becker Bemidji Big Lake Brainerd Buffalo Detroit Lakes Little Falls Monticello Moorhead Rocori Sartell Sauk Rapids-Rice St. Cloud Apollo St. Cloud Tech Willmar



## 2023-2024 MEMBER SCHOOLS by ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

## Class A Members by Administrative Regions (371 Schools)

<b>REGION 1A — 46</b> Alden-Conger Arcadia Charter School Bethlehem Academy Blooming Prairie Caledonia Cannon Falls Chatfield Cotter Discovery Public School of Faribault Dover-Eyota Fillmore Central Glenville-Emmons Goodhue Grand Meadow Hayfield Hope Lutheran	Houston Kenyon-Wanamingo Kingsland La Crescent-Hokah La Crescent Montessori & STEM School Lake City Lanesboro LeRoy-Ostrander Lewiston-Altura Lyle Mabel-Canton Medford Minnesota State Academy For The Blind Minnesota State Academy for The Deaf Pacelli	Pine Island Plainview-Elgin-Millville Randolph Riverway Learning Community Rochester Lourdes Rochester STEM Academy Rushford-Peterson Schaeffer Academy Shattuck-Saint Mary's Southland Spring Grove St. Charles Triton Wabasha-Kellogg Zumbrota-Mazeppa
<b>REGION 2A — 41</b> Belle Plaine Blue Earth Area Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart Butterfield-Odin United Cedar Mountain Cleveland Comfrey Fairmont Genesis Classical Academy G-F-W Glencoe-Silver Lake Granada-Huntley-East Chain Immanuel Lutheran	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Kato Public Charter Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial LeSueur-Henderson Madelia Mankato Loyola Maple River Martin County West Martin Luther Minnesota New Country School Minnesota Valley Lutheran Mountain Lake Mt. Lake Christian New Richland-H-E-G New Ulm	New Ulm Cathedral Nicollet Norwood-Young America Sibley East Sleepy Eye Sleepy Eye Saint Mary's St. Clair St. James Tri-City United Truman United South Central Waseca Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
<b>REGION 3A — 34</b> Adrian BOLD Benson Canby Central Minnesota Christian Dawson-Boyd Edgerton Ellsworth Fulda Hendricks Heron Lake-Okabena Hills-Beaver Creek	Jackson County Central Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg Lac qui Parle Valley Lakeview Luverne MACCRAY Minneota Montevideo Murray County Central Ortonville Pipestone Area Red Rock Central	Redwood Valley Renville County West Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Southwest Minnesota Christian Springfield Tracy-Milroy-Balaton Wabasso Westbrook-Walnut Grove Windom Area Yellow Medicine East

## 2023-2024 MEMBER SCHOOLS by ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

## Class A Members by Administrative Regions (371 Schools)

<b>REGION 4A — 74</b> Academy for Sciences & Agriculture Agape Christi Academy Avail Academy Avalon School Blake BlueSky Online Breck School Brooklyn Center Chesterton Academy of the Twin Cities Chesterton Academy – St. Croix Valley Christ's Household of Faith City Academy-St. Paul Community of Peace Academy Concordia Academy-Roseville Cristo Rey Jesuit Cyber Village Academy Eagle Ridge Academy Exploration FAIR School FIT Academy Charter School Fourth Baptist Christian Franklin Academy Gentry Academy Great River School Groves Academy	Hand in Hand Christian Montessori Heritage Academy Heritage Christian Academy Hiawatha Collegiate High School for Recording Arts Higher Ground Academy Hmong College Prep Academy Hope Academy International School of MN (The) Lakes International Language Academy Legacy Christian Academy Liberty Classical Academy Lincoln International Maranatha Christian Academy Math & Science Academy Metro Deaf School Metro Schools College Prep Minneapolis North Community Minnehaha Academy Minnesota Math & Science Academy Minnesota Online Minnesota Transitions Charter School Mounds Park Academy New Life Academy of Woodbury	North Lakes Academy Nova Classical Academy Open World Learning Parnassus Preparatory School Performing Institute of Minnesota Arts Perpich Center for Arts Education Prairie Seeds Academy Providence Academy RiverTree Academy Southwest Christian St. Agnes St. Croix Lutheran Academy St. Croix Preparatory Academy St. Paul Academy and Summit School St. Paul City School St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts St. Paul Humboldt Trinity School at River Ridge Twin Cities Academy Ubah Medical Academy United Christian Academy Unity Venture Academy Wellstone International West Lutheran
<b>REGION 5A — 51</b> Albany Annandale Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Braham Cambridge Christian Community Christian Dassel-Cokato East Central Eden Valley-Watkins Faith Christian School Foley Good Shepherd Lutheran Granite City Baptist Academy Harvest Christian School Hinckley-Finlayson	Holdingford Holy Family Catholic Holy Spirit Academy Holy Trinity Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Isle Kaleidoscope Charter Kimball Area Lester Prairie Litchfield Maple Lake Mayer Lutheran Melrose Area Milaca Mora New Century Academy New London-Spicer Ogilvie	Onamia PACT Charter School Paynesville Area Pierz Pine City Rockford Royalton Rush City Sauk Centre Spectrum St. Cloud Cathedral St. Cloud Christian School St. John's Prep Swanville Trilogy STEM Academy Upsala Watertown-Mayer
<b>REGION 6A — 42</b> Alexandria Community Christian Ashby Barnesville Battle Lake Bertha-Hewitt Brandon-Evansville Breckenridge Browerville Campbell-Tintah Chokio-Alberta Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton Fergus Falls Frazee Hancock Hawley	Henning Herman-Norcross Hillcrest Lutheran Academy Lake Park-Audubon Lake Region Christian School Long Prairie-Grey eagle Menahga Minnewaska Area Morris Area School New York Mills Osakis Park Christian Parkers Prairie	Pelican Rapids Pequot Lakes Perham Pillager Pine River-Backus Rothsay Sebeka Staples-Motley Underwood Verndale Wadena-Deer Creek West Central Area School Wheaton

## 2023-2024 MEMBER SCHOOLS by ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

## Class A Members by Administrative Regions (371 Schools)

<b>REGION 7A — 38</b> Aitkin Barnum Bigfork Carlton Cherry Chisholm Cook County Cromwell-Wright Crosby-Ironton Deer River Ely Esko	Floodwood Fond du Lac Ojibwe Greenway Harbor City International School Hill City International Falls Lakeview Christian Academy Littlefork-Big Falls Marshall School, Duluth McGregor Mesabi East Moose Lake Mountain Iron-Buhl Nashwauk-Keewatin	North Woods Northeast Range Northland Proctor Silver Bay (Wm. Kelley) South Ridge Stella Maris Academy Two Harbors Vermillion Country School Victory Christian Academy Willow River Wrenshall
<b>REGION 8A — 45</b> Ada-Borup-West Badger Bagley Blackduck Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Cass Lake-Bena Clearbrook-Gonvick Climax Crookston East Grand Forks Fertile-Beltrami FHL Academy Fisher Fosston Goodridge Greenbush-Middle River	Grygla-Gatzke Heartland Christian Academy Kelliher Kittson Central Lake of the Woods Lancaster Laporte Mahnommen Marshall County Central Nevis Norman County East Northome Park Rapids Area Red Lake County Central	Red Lake Falls Red Lake Riverside Christian School Roseau Sacred Heart Stephen-Argyle Central Thief River Falls TrekNorth Tri-County Ulen-Hitterdal Walker-Hackensack-Akeley Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Warroad Waubun Win-E Mac

The Minnesota State High School League bylaws are adopted and amended by the Minnesota State High School League Representative Assembly and the Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors. Bylaws appear in a non-italicized font. (Sample)

To assist member schools with the interpretation and application of the bylaws, the bylaws themselves may also contain definitions and policies that are approved by the Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors. This information will appear in an italicized font. (*Sample*)

# **ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE REVISED AND AMENDED\* 100.00**

*\* The Articles of Incorporation were revised and amended on April 24, 1974*

## **101.00**

The name of this corporation (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the "League") is: MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE.

## **102.00**

This corporation is organized for the following educational purposes:

1. To provide, promote, extend, manage and administer a program of activities for youth of the schools of the state on district, region and state levels in the fields of athletics, speech, music and dramatics on a competitive basis, as well as such other curricular and extracurricular activities as may from time to time be sponsored by the schools of Minnesota.
2. To establish uniform and equitable rules for youth in inter-school activities.
3. To elevate standards of sportsmanship and to encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools and their personnel.
4. To protect youth, member schools and their personnel from exploitation by special interest groups.
5. To provide mutual benefit and relief plans for the assistance of school students injured in athletic events or supervised school activities in meeting medical and hospital expenses incurred by reason of such injuries.
6. To serve the best interests of member schools and their students by providing a medium of cooperation and coordination in educational fields of endeavor and a series of related activities on a state-wide basis, which they individually could not achieve or accomplish for their students and which aid and assist the schools in maintaining a constantly improved program.

## **103.00**

In furtherance and extension of the foregoing purposes, this corporation shall have and may exercise all powers the same as natural persons might or could enjoy, including all powers given or granted to non-profit corporations under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of Minnesota, as well as any and all powers necessary to the enjoyment and exercise of the foregoing purposes.

## **104.00**

The location of the registered office of this corporation shall be in the City of Brooklyn Center, County of Hennepin, and State of Minnesota.

## **105.00**

The duration of this corporation shall be perpetual.

## **106.00**

The general management of the affairs of this corporation, subject to the limitations imposed by the Constitution shall be vested in a Board of not less than ten nor more than twenty directors, the exact number and manner of selection to be as is specified in the Constitution (its corporate bylaws) of the corporation and current Minnesota statutes.

Excepting for the foregoing requirements the number of directors may be changed from time to time in such lawful manner as the Constitution of the corporation shall provide. The power and authority of said Board shall be defined and enumerated in the Constitution of the corporation.

## **107.00**

On the dissolution of the Corporation, the entire net assets remaining after the payment of any and all liabilities and obligations of the Corporation shall be distributed exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for education, charitable or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

## **108.00**

The executive officers of this corporation shall consist of a president, a vice president, a treasurer, and an executive director, and such officers and assistants as the Constitution may provide. The president, vice president, and treasurer shall be elected from the membership of the Board annually at the first meeting of said Board in June of each year.

The executive director, who shall also serve as secretary of the corporation, shall be elected for such term and on such condition as provided in the Constitution of the corporation.

**109.00**

This corporation is not organized for profit. The corporation shall not issue capital stock. Members of this corporation shall have no personal liability whatsoever for corporate obligations, and the private property of the incorporators, directors and officers of this corporation shall not be subject to the payment of the corporate debts to any extent whatever.

This corporation shall not afford pecuniary gain, incidentally or otherwise, to its members.

**110.00**

The conditions, terms and qualifications for membership in the League shall be provided for in the Constitution of the League.

**111.00**

This corporation shall not have a corporate seal.

**112.00**

All legal instruments and official documents executed on behalf of this corporation shall be signed by the President or Vice President and Executive Director.

**113.00**

This corporation may have and adopt bylaws as are from time to time considered necessary for the regulation or management of the internal affairs of the corporation, which bylaws may for convenience be called and known as the "Constitution" of the corporation. Rules governing the various activities of the League shall be provided for in the Constitution.

**114.00**

1. Proxy and cumulative voting are prohibited.
2. Voting by the member schools may be conducted by mail without a meeting. When a vote is to be taken by mail, at least 75% of the member schools must participate in the balloting to have a quorum for the vote. The number of votes needed to adopt a given measure will be found elsewhere herein or in the Constitution. Notice of the fact that a mail vote is being taken must be given when conducting the vote.

**115.00**

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended as follows:

1. An amendment shall be proposed by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors directing that it be submitted for adoption to a meeting of the member schools, or when considered necessary, by taking a vote by mail among the member schools.
2. A two-third (2/3) favorable vote, assuming a quorum, shall be required for passage of any amendment, whether in a meeting or by mail vote.

# CONSTITUTION OF THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE 200.00

## 201.00 NAME

The name of this voluntary, nonprofit, incorporated association (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the “League”) is the Minnesota State High School League.

## 202.00 PURPOSE

In order that the League may assist and encourage the attainment of the overall objectives of secondary education in the State of Minnesota, the following purposes are established:

1. To provide, promote, extend, manage and administer a program of activities for youth of the schools of the state on district, region and state levels in the fields of athletics, speech, music and dramatics on a competitive basis, as well as such other curricular and extracurricular activities as may from time to time be sponsored by schools of Minnesota.
2. To establish uniform and equitable rules for youth in interschool activities.
3. To elevate standards of sportsmanship and to encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools and their personnel.
4. To protect youth, member schools and their personnel from exploitation by special interest groups.
5. To provide mutual benefit and relief plans for the assistance of school students injured in League sponsored activities in meeting medical, dental and hospital expenses incurred by reason of such injuries.
6. To serve the best interests of member schools and their students by providing a medium of cooperation and coordination in educational fields of endeavor and a series of related activities on a statewide basis, which they individually could not achieve or accomplish for their students and which aid and assist the schools in maintaining a constantly improving program.
7. To regularly review and evaluate the effectiveness of its program.

## 203.00 CORPORATE BYLAWS

This Constitution shall be and does constitute the corporate “Bylaws” of the League as that term is used in the Articles of Incorporation.

## 204.00 MEMBERSHIP

### 204.01 Regular Membership

Membership is extended to each Minnesota high school as approved by its governing board, high schools associated with state supported universities or colleges, and state supported institutional high schools. Schools must be doing a minimum of (3) years of senior high school work or (4) years of work for grades 9-12 accredited by the State Department of Education. Schools that have been members, however, may retain their membership when reclassified as a High School Department.

To be eligible for membership in the Minnesota State High School League, the governing board of each such school must pass a resolution applying for membership for each of its high schools in which it agrees to abide by and enforce the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations of the League.

Membership shall continue subject to payment of the annual dues and subject to the annual adoption by the governing board of each member school of a Resolution, in which it is agreed that such school will abide by and enforce the League’s Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws, and adopt as its own the League’s bylaws and regulations governing interscholastic competition in League sponsored activities and agrees to enforce the same.

### 204.02 Associate Membership

Associate membership may be granted to new schools doing accredited work for either grades 9 and 10, grade 10, grades 9-11, inclusive, or grades 10 and 11, provided they are otherwise eligible, pending the addition of a grade each school year until the 12th grade is added, at which time they qualify for regular membership. Associate members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of League membership and shall pay dues and fees as prescribed by its Constitution and Bylaws.

## 205.00 DUES

The annual membership dues shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall be payable by October 1 of each year. Schools failing to pay dues for any year are not eligible to participate in League activities for that year.

## 206.00 REFUND OF SURPLUS

The Board of Directors shall review the finances of the League at the end of each fiscal year and any funds which exceed 50% of the average total disbursements for the three previous years shall be refunded to the respective member schools on a pro rata basis, using the same formula set out in 205.00 governing dues.

## 207.00 ANNUAL AUDIT

All Minnesota State High School League accounts shall be audited annually by the State Auditor. A copy of this annual audit shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education, State of Minnesota, and each member school.

## 208.00 LOCAL CONTROL

### 208.01 Designated School Representatives

At the beginning of the League's fiscal year, the governing board of each member school shall designate two (2) representatives who are authorized to vote for the member school at all district, region and section meetings and on mail ballots where member schools are called upon to vote, such as district meetings, region meetings, and mail ballots.

One of the designated representatives shall be a member of the school's governing board and the other shall be an administrator or full-time faculty member of the member school.

In school districts with multiple schools, the designated representative from the school district's governing body may represent more than one school and is entitled to one vote for each school they represent.

### 208.02 Designated Activity Representatives

At the beginning of the League's fiscal year, the governing board of each member school shall select individuals to represent its school in the following areas: (a) boys sports; (b) girls sports; (c) speech; and (d) music.

### 208.03 Local Advisory Committee

Each school is urged to form an advisory committee for League activities. Committee membership is not limited to but shall include a school board member, a student, a parent, and a faculty member, to advise the designated school representatives on all matters relating to the schools membership in the MSHSL.

## 209.00 CLASS "A" AND "AA" REGION COMMITTEES: GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION

### 209.01 Region Committees

1. The Region Committee shall consist of a minimum of twelve (12) members. Only designated school representatives or individuals eligible to be designated school representatives are eligible to be selected to these twelve (12) positions.

A. If the committee does not include a representative of one sex, a representative of that sex shall be appointed by the committee. Appointees who are eligible are individuals who are eligible to be designated school representatives.

B. Additional committee members may be added at the discretion of each region committee. These positions are not limited to designated school representatives.

C. No member school may have more than two (2) representatives on the region committee.

2. Selection of Committee Members

Each Class "A" and "Class AA" Region shall be divided into four (4) geographically determined subregions.

A. Membership on the region committee shall include a minimum of two (2) members of boards of education or their designee; two (2) superintendents or their designee; two (2) principals or their designee; two (2) athletic directors; two (2) coaches (one (1) representing boys coaches and one (1) representing girls coaches); two (2) fine arts directors (one (1) representing music and one (1) representing speech/debate/one act play).

B. No member school may have more than two (2) representatives on the region committee.

C. The term of office for school administrators shall be four (4) years.

D. The term of office for coaches/activity directors shall be four (4) years.

3. Terms of Office

A. The term of office of the school administrator shall not exceed four (4) years, and the term of office for coaches and activity directors shall not exceed four (4) years. Committee members serving more than half of one term shall not be eligible for reelection or appointment to succeed themselves. They may be eligible for further elections or appointments.

B. Each of the four (4) geographically divided subregions of that region shall be numbered one (1) through four (4). Representation on the region committee shall be as follows:

	<u>2023-24 to 2026-27</u>	<u>2027-28 to 2030-31</u>	<u>2031-32 to 2034-35</u>	<u>2035-36 to 2038-39</u>
Board of Education	Subregion 4	Subregion 1	Subregion 2	Subregion 3
Superintendent	Subregion 1	Subregion 2	Subregion 3	Subregion 4
Principal	Subregion 2	Subregion 3	Subregion 4	Subregion 1
Athletic Director	Subregion 3	Subregion 4	Subregion 1	Subregion 2
Boys' Coaches		4		4
Speech		4		4
Girls' Coaches	4		4	
Music	4		4	

The rotation for subregion representation shall rotate from Subsection 1 through Subregion 4 and then repeat.

C. Elections of members to the region committee shall be conducted during the spring of the year and will be confirmed by the region committee at its spring meeting. A complete list of the region committee members shall be posted on the Administrative Region's League Web page by August 1 of each year.

D. Each region committee shall develop an advisory structure for each League-sponsored activity region level.



**209.02 Powers and Duties of the Region Committee**

1. The Region Committee shall be responsible for the immediate and general supervision of the region events assigned by the Board of Directors. Power to determine eligibility, to interpret eligibility bylaws, to penalize schools for bylaw infractions, and/or to present a tournament different from the policy established by the Board of Directors is not and shall not be within the authority of the Region Committee.
2. The Region Committee shall:
  - A. elect its own officers and designate their responsibilities;
  - B. when appropriate for each identified tournament, assign schools to a subregion as determined by the schools in that activity.
  - C. keep complete minutes on all meetings and of the region committee;
  - D. furnish a full report of the proceedings of all region committee meetings to the schools of the region and to the League office;
  - E. select the tournament managers and tournament committee for each tournament assigned by the Board of Directors. Each subregion should have equal representation on the tournament committee. If only a Region or Section tournament is held, membership on the tournament committee shall come from a representative geographic area of the assigned tournament teams; receive all finances from subregion and region/section tournaments; pay all bills for subregion and region/section tournaments; determine and send proportionate share/expense claims to the Region Committee(s) from which teams are assigned for governance purposes; and, send a report to the League Office relative to the finances and the participation of teams assigned to the Region tournament.
  - F. maintain a financial balance in accordance with Board of Directors policies.
  - G. provide for an annual audit of region funds;
  - H. perform such other duties as may properly come before the committee.
3. The region may employ a non-voting executive secretary or an executive secretary-treasurer on an annual basis according to the League's fiscal year.

**209.03 Region Meetings**

Each member school is entitled to two votes.

1. Regions may conduct organizational meetings either in the spring or fall of the year.
  - A. To receive input from the schools assigned to the region and to develop general plans for the conduct of region events assigned by the Board of Directors.
  - B. To elect a designated school board representative from each region to serve in the Representative Assembly for a term of two years.
    - (1) Elections in even-numbered regions will be held in the even-numbered years and elections in odd-numbered regions will be held in the odd-numbered years.
    - (2) A delegate is limited to a maximum of two (2) consecutive full two-year terms. Delegates are not eligible for re-election or appointment to succeed themselves following the maximum term.
  - C. To fill vacancies on the region committee.
2. The names of region committee members shall be sent to the League office and posted on the Administrative Region's League Web page not later than August 1 of each school year.
3. Special meetings of the member schools of the Region may be called at the discretion of the Region Committee.

**210.00 REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY****210.01 Function of the Representative Assembly**

The Representative Assembly is the legislative body of the Minnesota State High School League in making and changing bylaws. Its function is to consider all bylaw proposals set before it by the designated school representatives of member schools, region committees, the Board of Directors, and officers of the representative associations after recommendation by the League's Administrative Region Committees; to weigh the merit of such proposals in relation to the welfare of the League; and to accept or reject them as a part of the Activity Bylaws of the League or in the form of resolutions. It shall review reports of the League activities, finances and concerns.

**210.02 Organization**

1. Membership in the Representative Assembly shall consist of:
  - A. Three (3) designated school representatives from each of the League's sixteen (16) Administrative Regions.
    - (1) Each Administrative Region may elect designated school representatives from among the schools assigned to their Administrative Region, or
    - (2) the Region Committee may appoint members of the Committee to represent the wishes of the Region at the Representative Assembly.
  - B. The President of the Board of Directors.
  - C. Members of the Board of Directors shall act in an advisory capacity and shall not be eligible to vote.
2. Officers

The President of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the League shall be president and secretary, respectively, of the Assembly meetings. In case of a tie vote in the Assembly, the president shall cast the deciding ballot. The executive director does not have the right to vote.
3. Method of Election and Term of Office
  - A. Election and term of office for the members of the Representative Assembly shall be for a period of two (2) years.
  - B. During the 2005-2006 school year, members will be elected/appointed for two- (2) and three- (3) year terms. Members from Class "A" and Class "AA" Administrative Regions 2, 4, 6 and 8 will elect/appoint one member for a two- (2) year term and two members for a three- (3) year term. Members from Class "A" and Class "AA" Administrative Regions 1, 3, 5 and 7 will elect one member for a three- (3) year term and two members for a two-(2) year term.

- C. Following the initial election/appointment to serve as a member of the Representative Assembly, a delegate is limited to a maximum of two (2) consecutive two-year terms. Delegates are not eligible for reelection or appointment to succeed themselves following this maximum term.

### **210.03 Meetings and Their Purposes**

#### **1. The Annual Meeting**

- A. The Annual Meeting will be held in May of each school year or as determined by the Board of Directors.
- B. The purpose of the meeting is:
- (1) to review League activities, finances and concerns;
  - (2) to act on the agenda of proposed amendments and resolutions as approved by the majority of Administrative Regions;
  - (3) to initiate amendments and resolutions to be considered by the Representative Assembly at their next scheduled meeting if adopted by a majority vote of the Assembly; and
  - (4) to re-edit any proposed amendment and resolution if the Assembly approves by a majority vote. Re-editing shall not change the meaning or intent of the proposal.
- C. All legislative amendments and resolutions, as originally submitted, as re-edited or as initiated and passed by the Assembly, shall be distributed to all member schools.
- D. The Minutes of this meeting shall be published in the next issue of the Bulletin (or a special Bulletin) and distributed to all member schools.

#### **2. Special Meetings**

A special meeting of the Representative Assembly may be called for any purpose or purposes at any time by:

- A. the President of the Board of Directors; or
- B. written request from five members of the Board of Directors; or
- C. written request from fifteen (15) members of the Representative Assembly. Upon such written request sent by registered or certified mail or delivered in person to the President or Secretary of the Board of Directors, it shall be the duty of such officer forthwith to cause such notice of special meeting to be given to the members of the Representative Assembly, the Board of Directors, and any other persons entitled to notice of a meeting which shall be held not less than five (5) days nor more than thirty (30) days after the receipt of such request.

## **211.00 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **211.01 Election, Terms, Vacancies**

1. The management of the affairs of the Minnesota State High School League shall be vested in a Board of Directors as follows:
  - A. Four designated school representatives elected from the Class "A" regions - one from Regions 1-2; one from Regions 3-4; one from Regions 5-6; and one from Regions 7-8 for a term of four years.
  - B. Four designated school representatives elected from the Class "AA" regions - one from Regions 1-2; one from Regions 3-4; one from Regions 5-6; and one from Regions 7-8 for a term of four years.
  - C. Two representatives appointed by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota State School Boards Association.
  - D. Two representatives appointed by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals.
  - E. Two representatives appointed by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators. (3/8/2021)
  - F. Four activity representatives will be elected for a term of four years. One representative will be elected to represent:
    - (1) Boys Sports
    - (2) Girls Sports
    - (3) Music
    - (4) Speech

Each of the activity representatives must be from a member school and have been designated by the governing board of that school as its activity representative.

- G. Four members of the public appointed by the Governor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 128C.01.

#### **2. The Regions shall elect their Directors in accordance with the following schedule:**

##### **Class "A"**

Director representing Area 3 (Regions 5-6) - 2021  
 Director representing Area 4 (Regions 7-8) - 2022  
 Director representing Area 1 (Regions 1-2) - 2023  
 Director representing Area 2 (Regions 3-4) - 2024

##### **Class "AA"**

Director representing Area 1 (Regions 1-2) - 2021  
 Director representing Area 2 (Regions 3-4) - 2022  
 Director representing Area 3 (Regions 5-6) - 2023  
 Director representing Area 4 (Regions 7-8) - 2024

Once the initial election rotation has been established, election shall occur every four years as the director vacancy occurs.

The same schedules shall be continued each year.

### 3. Method of Election

#### A. Region Directors

- (1) A director shall be elected every fourth year by the member schools of the area (combined regions assigned by the Board of Directors for governance and representation purposes). The election shall be conducted between March 1 and May 1. Every member school has two votes to be cast by the designated school representatives.
- (2) Each member school may nominate one candidate. The candidate shall be an individual who is eligible to be a designated school representative.
- (3) The region committees of the area (combined regions) shall establish an election committee, establish election procedures, and conduct the election.

#### B. Activity Representatives

- (1) The Executive Board of each of the four activity associations shall select a slate of candidates, establish election procedures, and conduct the election. Only designated activity representatives of member schools are eligible for election. The Associations include:
    - (a) Boys Sports - combination of Minnesota State High School Coaches Association and Minnesota Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association;
    - (b) Girls Sports - Minnesota State High School Coaches Association for Girls Sports;
    - (c) Music - Minnesota Music Educators Association; and
    - (d) Speech - Speech Activities Association
  - (2) Elected by the designated activity representatives of the member schools in each activity area between March 1 and May 1 every fourth year as follows:
    - (a) Boys Sports and Music in 2023;
    - (b) Girls Sports and Speech in 2024.
4. In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of a director from any of the areas (combination of regions), a successor shall be appointed by the combined region committees. The new director shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.  
In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of an activity representative, a successor shall be appointed by the executive board of that activity association. The new representative shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
  5. A director who has served one (1) full four-year term on the Board shall be ineligible for any subsequent election or appointment to the Board.
  6. The term of office of each member of the Board of Directors shall begin on August 1 following their appointment or election.
  7. Directors shall not hold any other office in the Minnesota State High School League.
  8. The appointments made by MASA and MASSSP pursuant to paragraphs D and E above shall rotate between a representative from a "Class A" Region and a "Class AA Region".
  9. The initial terms of the MASA members commencing in 2021 shall be for 4 and 2 years respectively. Thereafter, each term shall be four years.

#### **211.02 Powers and Duties**

The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:

1. It shall elect one (1) of its directors as president, one (1) as vice-president, and one (1) as treasurer; each to hold office for one (1) year.
2. The executive director shall serve as secretary. The Board may also elect an assistant to the Treasurer from among the League staff.
3. It shall elect an executive director for a term of three (3) years and determine the compensation. It may elect an associate(s) or assistant(s) to the executive director and determine their compensation.
4. It shall have general supervision over all interscholastic contests between members of the League and shall make arrangements for and have full charge of all state tournaments and state interscholastic meets. At least one (1) member of the Board of Directors shall be present at all state championship contests.
5. It shall interpret all bylaws and provisions set forth in this Constitution, the Activity Bylaws and other bylaws and regulations of the League. The Board may delegate this responsibility to the executive director for periods between meetings. Interpretations given by the executive director shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors at its next meeting.
6. Upon a showing of special and unusual circumstances that warrant an exception, the Board shall have discretion to limit, modify or waive the application of the penalty for the violation of any bylaw. It shall also exercise authority over all eligibility problems and cases which are not specifically provided for.
7. It shall provide penalties for violation of the bylaws of the League when they are not specified in the Constitution and/or Activity Bylaws. It shall establish a due process procedure for a student, parent or guardian who wishes to contest a school's failure to certify the eligibility of a student.
8. When charges are made in writing against any school in the League, the Board of Directors, after giving ten (10) days' notice of time and place of hearing, shall consider the charges, assess penalties at its discretion and may, if it believes the offense merits such action, suspend the offending school for a period not exceeding one (1) year.
9. It shall divide the state into regions (sections), assign member schools to regions (section) for the purpose of carrying on League activities at those levels to determine who shall participate in state tournaments or contests.
10. It shall have control of all subregion, region and section contests, but each region committee is charged with their immediate management.
11. Directors on the Board of Directors shall attend meetings of their respective Region Committees in order to provide necessary liaison between the Board of Directors and the Region. Expenses shall be paid by the League.
12. It shall publish a complete summary of the proceedings of each Board meeting and each meeting of the Representative Assembly in the next issue of the Bulletin or in a special publication which will be sent to all member schools.

13. It shall arrange for and purchase a fidelity bond covering the paid employees of the League and the treasurers of the regions and districts.
14. After each meeting of the member schools and/or Representative Assembly, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to make changes necessary to harmonize existing provisions of the Constitution and Activity Bylaws with new amendments. The Board of Directors may reword, rephrase and/or rearrange duly adopted amendments to conform to the existing style and format of the Constitution and Activity Bylaws. The meaning and intent of the proposal may not be altered.
15. It may establish and maintain a retirement plan for its full-time employees.
16. It shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors deems to be necessary.

## 212.00 ACTIVITY BYLAWS

### 212.01 Formulating Bylaws

The League acting by and through its Representative Assembly will formulate bylaws governing the various activities sponsored by the League. These bylaws shall consist of General Bylaws applicable to all activities and Special Bylaws applicable to specific activities.

### 212.02 Amending Bylaws

Amendments of all such bylaws shall be made in accordance with the amendment procedure stated in 215.00 of this Constitution.

## 213.00 VOTING AND QUORUM

1. In all voting of member schools, the designated school representatives of the member school, or a duly designated alternate, shall be entitled to vote. At all meetings of the Representative Assembly, the member, or a duly designated alternate shall be entitled to vote.
2. At all meetings of member schools a quorum shall consist of 75% of all members. When votes are taken by mail 75% of all members must take part to constitute a quorum.
3. At all meetings of the Representative Assembly, a quorum shall consist of 75% of the total membership.
4. At all meetings of the Class "A" Regions, Class "AA" Regions and the Board of Directors, a simple majority shall constitute a quorum.
5. Unless otherwise provided for, a majority vote of those present, assuming a quorum, shall be sufficient for approval.

## 214.00 AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended as follows:

1. An amendment shall be proposed by a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors directing that it be submitted for adoption at a meeting of the member schools, or when considered necessary, by taking a mail vote of the member schools.
2. A two-third (2/3) favorable vote, assuming a quorum, shall be required for passage of any amendment, whether in a meeting or by mail vote.

## 215.00 AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL BYLAWS AND ALL ACTIVITY BYLAWS

The General Bylaws, all other Activity Bylaws of the League, and all League Resolutions shall be adopted and amended in the following manner:

### 215.01 Vote on Amendments and Resolutions

1. The bylaws of the League may be amended at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Representative Assembly by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present, assuming a quorum.
2. Resolutions may be adopted at any regular meeting of the Representative Assembly by a majority vote of the members present, assuming a quorum.

### 215.02 Time for Submission

Proposed amendments and resolutions shall be submitted to the Executive Director of the League by October 15 of each school year. By November 1 of each school year, the amendments that have been submitted will be sent to each of the sixteen (16) Region Committees. By February 15 of each school year, the Region Committees will respond to the League office regarding their support or rejection of the proposed amendment. Nine (9) of the sixteen (16) Region Committees must support a proposed amendment before it will be submitted to the Representative Assembly for consideration.

If a proposed amendment is supported but modified by a Region Committee, the modified amendment must be sent to the sixteen (16) Region Committees by February 1st of the school year for an additional vote by the Region Committees. By April 1 of each school year, the Region Committees must respond to the League office regarding any modified amendments they have reviewed. If the modified amendment is supported by nine (9) of the sixteen (16) Region Committees, the amendment will be submitted to the Representative Assembly for their consideration. If the amendment or the modified amendment is not supported by nine (9) of the sixteen (16) Region Committees, it will be sent back to the proposers for their reconsideration.

The amendment(s) that will be advanced to the Representative Assembly will be listed on the League's website, and they will become an agenda item for the Area Meetings held throughout the state each spring.

The Representative Assembly will meet at a time designated by the League's Board of Directors to deliberate and vote on any amendments that have been presented for their consideration. The Representative Assembly will have (1) an open forum for people to voice their concerns or support for an amendment, (2) a caucus of the Assembly members, (3) a report to the Assembly from each caucus group, and (4) a vote on the amendments presented to the Assembly.

The Board of Directors may approve any amendment submitted outside the above-referenced timelines as an emergency amendment if 2/3 of the members of the Board of Directors approve the submission.

### 215.03 Sponsors of Proposals

Proposed amendments and resolutions may be submitted:

1. By the designated school representatives of five (5) or more schools;

2. By any district or region committee;
3. By the Board of Directors;
4. By action of the Representative Assembly; or
5. By the officers of each activity association (Minnesota State High School Athletic Directors Association; Minnesota State High School Coaches Association; Minnesota State High School Coaches Association for Girls Sports; Minnesota Music Educators; Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota).

**215.04 Effective Date**

All amendments and resolutions approved by the Assembly become effective, unless otherwise specified, on August 1.

**215.05 Emergency Amendment Procedure**

In case of an emergency, the Board of Directors may, at its discretion, submit to the members of the Representative Assembly an amendment to the General Bylaws or the Activity Bylaws for approval by mail. A two-third (2/3) favorable vote, assuming a quorum, shall be required for passage of such an amendment. If passed, the amendment is effective immediately but only until the next regular meeting of said Assembly at which time the amendment shall be resubmitted for action by the Assembly.

# 100.00

## GENERAL ELIGIBILITY BYLAWS

Purpose: The following bylaws are intended to provide direction and assistance to school officials in the administration of the student eligibility program.

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*\*Please Note: These bylaws are not applicable for Fine Arts only students (Debate, Music, One Act Play, Speech, Visual Arts)*

The most current version of the Official Handbook is always posted on the League website — [www.MSHSL.org](http://www.MSHSL.org)

# 100.00 BYLAWS: GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

*For MSHSL bylaws 101-110, if a student does not meet the specific eligibility requirements of those bylaws the student is not eligible to participate in MSHSL sponsored programs. Participation includes, but is not limited to, training, practice, scrimmages and contests.*

## BYLAW 101.00

## AGE

**Cross Reference:** Bylaw 109 (Seasons of Participation) and Bylaw 110 (Semesters Enrolled)

A student who turns 20 during the 11th or 12th semester since first entering the 7th grade shall be allowed to participate through the completion of the 12th semester.

Students who participate in the Adapted Athletics Program shall be under 22 years of age. A student under age 22 who has started a sport season will be permitted to complete that sports season.

## BYLAW 102.00

## ATTENDANCE

Students must be attending school and classes regularly. Students who have been dropped because of irregular attendance, extended absence, or suspension from school are not eligible to participate in League-sponsored activities.

## BYLAW 103.00

## CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

**Cross Reference:** Bylaw 108 (Scholastic Eligibility)

*Please Note: For transfer eligibility purposes participation in a school program is considered full enrollment at that school.*

Students must be full time students according to the Minnesota Department of Education criteria. Students must be on track to meet the school's graduation requirements in six years (12 consecutive semesters) beginning with the first day of attendance in the 7th grade.

## BYLAW 104.00

## ENROLLMENT

**Cross Reference:** Bylaw 102 (Attendance) and Bylaw 403 (Cooperative Sponsorship)

1. Only students who are fully enrolled in a school are eligible to be placed on that school's eligibility roster and participate in League programs offered by the school the student attends. Exceptions: Co-ops, online, Bylaw 111.1.D(i)
2. Students enrolled in schools established for a special need serving one entire school district, may engage in League activities in the secondary school which provides service in the attendance area of the student's residence if:
  - A. the district wide school does not provide the activity; and
  - B. the student meets all other eligibility requirements; and,
  - C. the district wide school's senior high school student enrollment is fewer than 200 students.
3. **Home School Students:** Minnesota Statutes allow home schooled students to be eligible to participate in League- sponsored activities for the public school in their resident school district attendance area.
4. **Charter School Students:** Charter school students are eligible to participate in League-sponsored activities at their charter school or in a program cooperatively sponsored by the charter school and another member school or schools. For purposes of establishing residency, the public school attendance area where the charter school is geographically located shall be assigned to the charter school.

## BYLAW 105.00

## GRADE LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

**Cross Reference:** Bylaw 302 (Cities of the First Class), Bylaw 109 (Seasons of Participation) and Bylaw 303.4 (Junior High School Bylaws)

Participation in League-sponsored programs is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in grade 7, 8, and 9 may participate only if they are enrolled in a continuation school for that high school.

**Elementary students in grades K-6 are not eligible to participate in any League activities.**

### Definitions:

1. A **Continuation School** is one that is under the same administrative head and governing board.
2. A student in grades 7, 8, or 9, who attends a school under a separate administrative head and governing board; which does not have a continuation high school and where no other opportunity for participation on a high school team exists; is eligible to participate for a high school team provided the high school and the non-continuation school have established a joint agreement for participation in each League activity. The participation agreement for each activity or athletic program can be formed with:
  - 1) The public school in the public high school attendance area as determined by the district school board where the non-continuation school is geographically located. If the public high school in #1 above declines the request for participation agreement the non-continuation school may form a participation agreement with any other public high school; or



- 2) *Any non-public high school.*
3. *All participation agreements shall be established for a minimum of two years. If either or any of the schools involved in the participation agreement wish to dissolve the agreement, they may do so provided a minimum of one year's notice is given to the other school(s) unless the schools involved mutually agree to discontinue the agreement.*
4. *A non-continuation school can form only one participation agreement for each athletic or activity program.*

**BYLAW 105.00 INTERPRETATIONS****1. Q. Can students in grades 1-6 participate on junior high school teams?**

A. *The League has no jurisdiction in this area. Determinations such as this rest with the local boards of education. League bylaws govern students who participate at the sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity, or varsity level.*

**2. Q. Does the League have jurisdiction over junior high school fine arts and/or athletic programs?**

A. *No. League bylaws govern students who participate at the sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity level.*

**3. Q. Can junior high school students play on senior high school teams?**

A. *Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to participate on sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity and varsity teams if they are enrolled in a continuation school as defined in Bylaw 105 and if they meet all other League eligibility requirements.*

**4. Q. Is it okay for the coach's 6th grader to be on the sidelines at varsity football games and help as a waterboy or ball boy?**

A. *No. Only students in grades 7-12 are eligible to participate.*

**BYLAW 106.00****GRADUATES OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Students who have graduated from a secondary school, or who have completed the terminal or final grade of a secondary school, or who have earned a GED or diploma are not eligible for participation in any League activity. A student who graduates while a member of a team with a season in progress may complete the season if three or fewer weeks of the regular season, exclusive of League tournament play, remain.

1. International students, including Foreign Exchange Students, who have completed the terminal or final grade of high school are not eligible to participate in League-sponsored athletic programs at any level.
2. Students who have participated with a college or university team in an activity or sport sponsored by the League are ineligible for participation in any League-sponsored activity.

(8/1/2019: 106.1)

**BYLAW 107.00****PHYSICAL EXAMINATION**

Students must have a record of a physical examination performed by a licensed practitioner within the previous three years on file with the school prior to the student's participation. It is the recommendation of the League Sports Medicine Advisory Committee that the League Sports Qualifying Physical Examination (SQPE) form be used for the physical examination.

1. Health questionnaire: Each year a League health questionnaire must be completed by the student parent(s) or guardian(s) and kept on file in the school. The questionnaire could indicate the need for a physical examination prior to the student's participation.
2. After major surgery or serious illness or injury, the attending physician must certify in writing the student's readiness to return to competition.
3. SQPE Three Year Expiration: A SQPE is valid for three years. If it expires during a season a new exam is required if the student wants to continue participation.
4. Not required for participation in Fine Arts programs.

**BYLAW 107.00 INTERPRETATIONS**

**1. Q. Should the school submit to the League office copies of the health questionnaire and permission to resume participation following an illness or injury?**

A. No. The school has the responsibility to collect the required forms, and those forms should be kept on file in the school office.

**2. Q. Does the three year request for physicals run from school year to school year?**

A. No. The validity of the physical begins with the date of the physical exam and continues for the next three calendar years.

**3. Q. I am a track coach and one of my athletes was given a medical excuse that reads "Please excuse (athlete's name) from track since she has been experiencing some problems with her heart rate and medications". I responded by telling her she could not participate in anymore meets or practice until I get a Doctor's note stating she is clear to do so. She proceeded to call her mom and her mom came in and demanded that the athlete participate in a meet. My principal overruled my decision and told me she is allowed to participate and the fax from the Doctor was a misprint. What should I be doing?**

A. If that is the case the student will need medical clearance to resume participation.

**BYLAW 108.00****SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY****Cross Reference: Bylaw 103 (Credit Requirements)**

1. Students must be making satisfactory progress towards the school's requirements for graduation. The school where the student is fully enrolled and regularly attends shall determine satisfactory progress.
2. Students in special classes must be making satisfactory progress toward the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
3. Exceptions to Scholastic Eligibility:
  - A. If the school principal and personnel from an agency such as a residential treatment center, mental health clinic, county welfare department or family service agency diagnose the psychological needs of a student and jointly determine that effective treatment for the student includes the option of participation in League activities. This determination does not supersede any transfer or good standing eligibility suspensions.
  - B. If a student is transferred from one school to another upon the recommendation of a professional social service agency and is agreed upon by the principals of the schools involved. The League must be informed of this exception in a joint statement signed by the school principal and the director of the agency involved. Such documentation must be sent to the League office 10 days before participation in a League-sponsored activity.

**BYLAW 108.00 INTERPRETATION**

**Q. Does the League have a standard definition of "...satisfactory progress toward the school's requirement for graduation?"**

A. No. This is a minimum scholastic eligibility requirement. Students must meet the requirements established by the local Board of Education in order to be eligible to compete in League activities.

**BYLAW 109.00****SEASONS OF PARTICIPATION**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 101 (Age), Bylaw 110 (Semesters Enrolled), Bylaw 111.1.D(iii), Board Policy 109 and Bylaw 208 (Definition #8) Effective with the 7th grade class of 2011-2012.**

1. Students may not participate in more than one interscholastic season in a given sport in each school year or more than six seasons in any sport while enrolled in grades 7 to 12.
2. Participation, no matter how limited, will count as one season of participation.

**BYLAW 109.00 INTERPRETATIONS****1. Q. If a student participates at both the junior high and or varsity, J.V., or B-squad level in a sport, how is the length of his/her season determined?**

A. The beginning and ending of a sport season may be designated by the school according to the availability of personnel and facilities provided that the total number of weeks is not exceeded. Students who have not completed their maximum number of weeks may participate in the senior high program to complete the maximum number of weeks. For example, if the sport season is 12 weeks long and the student has had 10 weeks of participation in the junior high program, the student could not participate for more than two weeks in the senior high program. If the student had 12 weeks of participation in the senior high program, the student could not participate in the junior high program.

**2. Q. Can junior high students be moved up to play on sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity teams during a season?**

A. Yes. However, the length of the season, game and half limitations that apply to the sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity and varsity participants will apply if such a move is made. All contests in which a junior high player has participated must be counted toward the game and quarter limitations.

**BYLAW 110.00****SEMESTERS ENROLLED**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 101 (Age), Bylaw 103 (Credit Requirements), Bylaw 109 (Seasons of Participation)**

**Amended by Representative Assembly 11/17/20, 5/10/22**

1. Each student is eligible for participation in League-sponsored athletic activities for four consecutive school years beginning with their initial entrance into ninth grade. This school year limitation applies regardless of whether the student participates in athletic activities.
  - Students in grades 7 and 8 may participate in League sponsored athletics according to Bylaw 105.1.
  - Participation begins once a 7th or 8th grader practices or competes in League sponsored athletics.
  - Students are permitted one school year of participation in 7th grade and one school year of participation in 8th grade for League sponsored athletics.
2. This semester limitation does not apply to participation in fine arts or presenting partner activities.
3. Application for Additional Semester(s)
  - A. A student who experiences a substantial disruption to the student's education that is beyond their control may apply for additional semester(s) of eligibility.
  - B. The application may be submitted by the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), the member school, or both.
    - i. The application may be submitted when a student has experienced a substantial disruption to their education that is outside of the student's control and it is apparent that the student will exhaust their semesters of eligibility before graduation.
  - C. Additional semesters will not be granted where the student's educational experience as a whole has not been substantially disrupted.
4. A student who has exhausted their semester eligibility is not allowed to participate in MSHSL athletic activities at any level in any capacity, including competition, practices, scrimmages, jamborees, etc.
5. This bylaw is in addition to, and is not intended to supersede, any other bylaw.

A student who is a Minnesota resident and who has participated in a CSIET approved foreign exchange program in another country during one of their four academic school years (grades 9-12) may appeal to the Board of Directors for additional semesters of eligibility.

**Bylaw 110 Policy (6/7/22)**

*A student must meet the eligibility requirements of all MSHSL Bylaws to be eligible for participation in League-sponsored athletic activities.*

*It is the responsibility of each school to notify students of their consecutive school year eligibility.*

*The Board of Directors Eligibility Committee will review applications for additional participation eligibility. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) and/or the member school must provide information and documentation to support the application for additional semesters. The following are non-exhaustive examples intended to provide guidance for schools, students, and families with respect to how the MSHSL applies Bylaw 110.*

*A "substantial disruption to education beyond a student's control" is a circumstance that interferes with a student's ability to engage in the educational process. It may include, but is not limited to, the following:*

- *Documented medical condition requiring withdrawal from school due to circumstances beyond the student's control;*
  - *Withdrawal in lieu of discipline will not be considered as a reason to grant additional semester(s) of athletic eligibility;*
- *Family or other circumstances beyond the student's control that result in non-attendance or non-enrollment including homelessness, mobility, or other similar circumstances;*

*Continued on Page 28*

- *Students with limited or interrupted formal education ("SLIFE").*

A "substantial disruption to education beyond a student's control" is NOT the following:

- "Medical redshirts" where a student has suffered an injury preventing participation in athletic activities but has not experienced a substantial disruption to the education experience as a whole;
- A student who has been kept out of athletic competition solely to develop skills or extend athletic eligibility;
- A student who has repeated a grade due to age, for socialization reasons, or because of a transfer to another school;
- A student who has repeated a grade despite having already received academic credit for that grade;
- A student who missed out on the ability to participate in athletic activities because the athletic activity was cancelled, in whole or in part, for any reason (e.g. natural disaster, health pandemic, emergency, lack of participants, etc.).

A student who has participated in four consecutive school years of League-sponsored athletic activities since the initial entrance into 9th grade will not be granted additional semesters.

#### **BYLAW 110.00 INTERPRETATIONS**

**1.** A 7th grade student who participates in a League-sponsored athletic activity <sup>1</sup> would not be eligible for League-sponsored athletic activities in their second 7th grade year if they were to repeat 7th grade. During the second 7th grade year, the student would, however, be eligible to participate in non-League-sponsored athletic activities (e.g. middle school athletics). The student would then be eligible for League-sponsored athletic activities in their 8th grade year. If they were to repeat 8th grade, they would not be eligible for League-sponsored athletic activities in their second 8th grade year. The student would then have four consecutive school years of League-sponsored athletic eligibility upon their initial entrance into 9th grade.

**2. Q. If a student drops out of school, repeats a grade, or participates in an international exchange program, can that student have additional semesters of eligibility?**

A. No. A student's eligibility begins when the student enters 9th grade for the first time and continues, without interruption, for four consecutive school years.

**3. Q. How should the school years of eligibility be counted when a student has repeated a grade after the initial entrance into 9th grade?**

A. An example would be as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>School Year of Eligibility</u>
2017-2018	9	1
2018-2019	10	2
2019-2020	10 (repeated)	3
2020-2021	11	4
2021-2022	12	Not eligible

**4. Q. How should eligibility be counted when a student has repeated 7th or 8th grade?**

A. An example would be as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>School Year of Eligibility</u>
2016-2017	7	Eligible
2017-2018	8	Eligible
2018-2019	8 (repeated)	Not eligible if participated in League-sponsored athletic activities in 2017-18
2019-2020	9	1
2020-2021	10	2
2021-2022	11	3
2022-2023	12	4

<sup>1</sup> League-sponsored athletic activity means the interscholastic athletic activities listed in the Bylaw 500 series at the 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade level (typically B-Squad, Junior Varsity, and Varsity).

**BYLAW 111.00****TRANSFER AND RESIDENCE****1. DOMESTIC STUDENTS**

- A. A transfer student is eligible for varsity competition provided the student was in Good Standing on the date of withdrawal from the last school the student attended and one (1) of the provisions in Section (B) (below) is met.

**B. A transfer student is eligible for varsity competition if:**

- (i) **9th Grade Option:** The student is enrolling in 9th grade for the first time.
- (ii) **Family Residence Change:** The student transfers from one public school district attendance area to another public school district attendance area at any time during the calendar year in which there is a change of residence and occupancy in Minnesota by the student's parents. If the student's parents move from one public school district attendance area to another public school district attendance area, the student will be eligible in the new public school attendance area or a non-public school if the student transfers at the same time the student's parents establish a new family residence. (Please see Definitions for further explanation.)

OR

If the parents move from one public school district attendance area to another public school district attendance area, the student shall continue to be fully eligible if the student continues enrollment in the prior school for the balance of the current marking period or for the balance of the academic school year. If the student elects either of the current enrollment options above, the student will be fully eligible upon transfer to the new school in the public school district attendance area where the student's parents reside or a non-public school.

A student who elects not to transfer upon a parent's change in residence shall continue to be eligible at the school in which the student is currently enrolled.

- (iii) **Court Ordered Residence Change for Child Protection:** The student's residence is changed pursuant to a child protection order placement in a foster home, or a juvenile court disposition order.

- (iv) **Divorced Parents:** A student of divorced parents or parents who were never married, who resides with one parent and moves to reside with the other parent shall be eligible at the time of the move:

- (a) At the public school in the new public school attendance area as determined by the district school board where the new residence is located; or
- (b) At any non-public school.

The student may utilize this provision only one time during grades 9-12 inclusive.

The new residence cannot be located in the same public school attendance area as the previous residence.

*Please Note: This provision can only be applied the first time the student moves between parents and changes schools and only if the specific requirements of this provision are met. The intent of this provision is to provide varsity competition eligibility for a student who is living (solely) with one parent and who desires to move to live with the other parent. Additionally, a student of separated parents, who resides with one parent and moves to reside with the other parent shall be eligible at the time of the move.*

- (v) **Move From Out of State:** If a student's parents move to Minnesota from a state or country outside of Minnesota and if the student moves at the same time the parents establish a residence in a Minnesota public school district attendance area, the student shall be eligible at the first school the student attends in Minnesota.

**C. If none of the provisions in Section (B) (above) are met, the student is ineligible for varsity competition for a period of one (1) calendar year beginning with the first day of attendance at the new school.**

- (i) Students are immediately eligible for competition at the non-varsity level.
- (ii) A student may not obtain eligibility as a result of a transfer. If at the time of the transfer the student was not fully eligible in the previous school, the student shall be ineligible in the new school. A student who was not in good standing at the time of transfer shall be ineligible until the penalty from the previous school has been served.
- (iii) **Multiple Transfers:** A student who is serving a one-year varsity competition suspension as a result of a transfer shall have an additional varsity competition suspension for each subsequent (additional) transfer. A new, one- year varsity competition suspension will begin on the first day of attendance or the first day of participation in a fall sport practice at the new school each time the student transfers.

*Example: A 10th grade student transfers from School A to School B and first attends School B on September 10, 2019. The transfer eligibility determination for the student indicates the student is ineligible to compete at the varsity level for one calendar year, beginning with the first day of attendance at School B—September 10, 2019. The student will be eligible to compete at the varsity level on September 10, 2020.*

*The student decides to leave school B, transfers to School C, and first attends School C on October 10, 2019. The transfer eligibility determination indicates the student will have a one-year varsity competition suspension for the transfer to School C. The new, one-year suspension for the transfer to School C will begin on October 10, 2019. The student will then be fully eligible to compete at the varsity level on October 10, 2020.*

- D. Enrollment Options Program:** A student who transfers from one MSHSL member school to another MSHSL member school utilizing Minnesota Statute 124D.03 Enrollment Options Program, and who transfers without a corresponding change of residence by the student's parents shall select one of the participation options identified below.

*Please Note: The participation option is binding for one calendar year. For example, a student may not switch between the current and former school from season to season.*

- (i) Retain full eligibility for varsity competition for one (1) calendar year at the school where the student was enrolled prior to the transfer after which time the student shall become fully eligible at the school to which the student has transferred; or
- (ii) Be eligible only at the non-varsity level in the school to which the student has transferred for one (1) calendar year
- (iii) Participation is defined as practice, training, scrimmaging, tryouts and competing.

*Please Note: When a student chooses to participate at the Sending School (111.1.D.(i)) the student may not be eligible to compete at the varsity level if the most recent change of schools is not the student's first transfer.*

- E. **Return to Former School Policy:** A student who transfers from one MSHSL member school to another MSHSL member school is ineligible for varsity competition for a fifteen (15) calendar day period from the first day the student attends practice in the fall or attends classes in the new school for the first time.
- (i) Upon transfer, the student will be ineligible at the former school and may practice at the new school but may not compete in any varsity activity at the new school.
  - (ii) The student will retain full eligibility at the former school if the student chooses to return to the former school during the fifteen (15) calendar day period.
  - (iii) If the student remains at the new school, following the fifteen (15) calendar day period, the student will become eligible at the varsity level only when the student has fully met all of the transfer criteria and has been deemed to be eligible both by the new school and the League office.
  - (iv) If any of the transfer criteria has not been met, the student will be ineligible for varsity competition at the new school and must then choose between varsity eligibility at the former school or JV eligibility at the new school.
  - (v) The student may elect to decline the fifteen (15) calendar day period to become eligible to compete at the varsity level at the Receiving School once the school administration determine the student has met all of the varsity participation eligibility criteria.
  - (vi) A student may utilize this provision one time per 365 calendar day period.
- F. **Fine Arts:** Transfer students do not have to serve a transfer suspension for participation in Fine Arts programs.
- G. **Due Process:** The Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors has established a due process procedure for a student or parent who believes the bylaws of the League have been misinterpreted by the student's school administrator(s) who are charged by the school to determine the student's eligibility. A student who represents the student's school in competition between member schools at the varsity, junior varsity or sophomore B-squad level must be fully eligible to do so, and the student or the student's parents who wish to contest a school's failure to certify the eligibility of a student may do so as identified in the Transfer Student Eligibility Review Process found on page 32.

## 2. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- A. **Transfer eligibility for all international students, including Foreign Exchange Students, is not appealable.**
- B. **FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS — Cross Reference: Bylaw 106 (Graduates of Secondary Schools).** Foreign exchange students shall be limited to one calendar year of high school participation commencing with their first day of attendance. A foreign exchange student who is enrolled in and attending a Minnesota high school will be eligible to participate in varsity competition provided that the student meets all of the foreign exchange student **blind placement** conditions listed below.

*Please Note: Eligible at the public school in host family's resident district.*

- (i) The student must be under the auspices of, and be placed with, a host family by an international student exchange program that has been approved for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the U.S. Department of State.
    - (a) The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, student's parents, school, or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes (blind placement).
    - (b) The foreign exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to their athletic interests or abilities.
  - (ii) A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and the student's parents, and to the host family.
    - (a) Neither the school the student attends nor any person associated with the host school shall have input into the selection of the student.
    - (b) No member of the school's coaching staff, from any sport, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family. If a member of the school's coaching staff does serve as the host family, then the student is only eligible for competition at the junior varsity or lower level. (See Other International Students below)
  - (iii) The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa issued by the U.S. Department of State. The foreign exchange student must comply with all League eligibility requirements. A completed Foreign Exchange Student Registration Form must be provided to the high school principal and then kept on file at the high school. The electronic transfer document must be submitted and then approved by the League office before the student is eligible for varsity competition.
  - (iv) A Foreign Exchange Student who stays in the country for an additional year(s) under different status would be eligible at the JV level or below for any and all additional years as listed in C., as long as all other requirements are met.
- C. **OTHER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** An international student who is enrolled in and attending a Minnesota high school and who is not under the auspices of and placed by a Council on the Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) listed exchange program is ineligible for varsity competition. An international student will be eligible for junior varsity or lower level competition provided that the student meets all of the conditions listed below:
- (i) The student must possess a current 1-20 document issued by an approved school certified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) with an F-1 visa issued by the U.S. Department of State.
  - (ii) The student must provide the principal of the school the student attends an official untranslated transcript, as well as a transcript that is translated into English by an acceptable agent or agency, that indicates work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled.
  - (iii) The international student must pay tuition to the high school the student attends as prescribed in Section 625 of U.S. Public Law 104-208.



- (iv) The international student must comply with all League eligibility requirements, and a completed International Student Registration Form must be provided to the high school principal and approved by the League office before the student is eligible for junior varsity or lower level competition.  
(8/1/2019: 111.1.B.(iv), 111.1.C.(iii), 111.1.D.(iii), 111.2.A, 111.2.B.(iv), 111.2.C, 111.2.C.(i))  
(6/7/22: 111.1.B.(iv))

### **BOARD POLICY DEFINITIONS FOR BYLAW 111**

**Amended by Board of Directors 6/7/22**

*The Minnesota State High School League provides, promotes, extends, manages, and administers competitive activities for Minnesota youth, and the League's member schools have determined that student movement from school to school should be restricted. To accomplish this goal, the League adopted Bylaw 111 to restrict student movement between schools to prevent athletic transfers and ensure competitive equity amongst schools regardless of athletic ability. The League has found that to best achieve this goal, it does not determine whether a transfer was for athletic purposes but rather determines that all Transfer Students are varsity ineligible unless they meet one of the provisions listed in Bylaw 111.1.B or are granted varsity eligibility through the Transfer Student Eligibility Process.*

#### **1. Definitions**

- 1) **Change of Residence:** A change of residence is the actual physical relocation by the parents or guardians of a student with the intent to reside indefinitely at a new residence in Minnesota and terminate all occupancy of a previous residence. The change in residence must be bona fide, include other minor siblings and involve a transfer from one public school district attendance area to another public school district attendance area.
  - a. For purposes of eligibility determinations, the residence of a student shall be the bona fide location of the residence and must include occupancy by the students' parents or guardians in the public school attendance area. Both parents, except as otherwise provided herein, must physically reside at the residence on a regular basis for the duration of the student's enrollment.
  - b. If a student is married, the student's residence is determined by the bona fide residence where the student and the student's spouse actually reside.
  - c. In determining whether a change in residence is bona fide, a member school and the League may consider, but will not be limited to:
    - i. New mailing address of the parents or guardians
    - ii. Voting registration of parents or guardians that coincides with the new residence
    - iii. Driver's license registration that coincides with the new residence
    - iv. Purchase or rental agreements
    - v. Homestead classification
    - vi. Any reliable evidence of residency
- 2) **Electronic Transfer Portal:** The online platform used by the Sending and Receiving Schools to document transfers and determine eligibility.
- 3) **Emancipated Student:** An emancipated student is one who:
  - a. Has been a resident of the state of Minnesota for at least one full calendar year immediately preceding the date in question, and
  - b. Is totally self-supporting. Criteria to determine if a student is self-supporting may include, but is not limited to:
    - i. A notarized statement from the parent(s) or guardian(s) that they provide none of the student's support;
    - ii. Verification of employment or other means of financial support from the student's employer or supporting agency;
    - iii. Verification of rent payment by the student;
    - iv. Verification from a school that the student is accepted to attend as a resident student on the grounds of being emancipated;
    - v. Any other documentation requested by the Minnesota State High School League or member school.
  - c. If emancipated, a student's residence is determined by the bona fide residence where the student actually resides. Only MSHSL staff can determine emancipation status. MSHSL Emancipated Student status is reserved to those situations that are outside of the student's control that result in the student being on his or her own.
- 4) **Good Standing:** For purposes of this bylaw, the term "good standing" shall mean that on the official date of withdrawal from the last school attended the student was fully eligible at that school under all of the conditions and all of the eligibility requirements of that school as well as the eligibility requirements of the MSHSL of which that school is a member.
- 5) **Guardianship/Power of Attorney:** Guardianship or Power of Attorney shall not be accepted for the purpose of establishing the residence of a student except when the guardianship has been established pursuant to a child protection order for placement in a foster home or a juvenile court disposition order.
- 6) **High School:** A high school shall include grades 9 through 12.
- 7) **Initial Transfer Eligibility Determination:** The eligibility determination made by the Receiving School prior to submitting information in the Transfer Portal.
- 8) **Parent or Parents:** Parent shall mean biological or adoptive parents of the student. In the event of divorce, parent shall be the parent with legal and physical custody of the student. In the case of a child protection order, parent shall mean the facility assigned by a court pursuant to a child protection order, foster home placement or juvenile court disposition order.



- 9) **Participate or Participation:** Participation includes, but is not limited to, training, practice, scrimmages, and contests within a League-sponsored athletic activity. Participation begins on the first day a student practices or competes in a League-sponsored athletic activity.
- 10) **Public School District Attendance Area:** "Public school district attendance area" shall be understood to refer to the area assigned to a specific high school by a Board of Education and shall not refer to a school district except in cases in which only one high school exists in a school district.
- 11) **Receiving School:** The member high school now attended by the student is the "Receiving School."
- 12) **Residence:** For purposes of eligibility, a student may only have one residence. To determine residence for eligibility purposes, the public school district attendance area in which the home last occupied by both parents is located shall be considered as the family's residence.
- 13) **Sending School:** The high school last attended by the student is the "Sending School."
- 14) **Transfer or Transfer Student:** A transfer student is one who discontinues enrollment and attendance in any high school, public or non-public, home school, or online, located in a public school district attendance area and enrolls in any high school in Minnesota, or outside of MN. **Essentially, a transfer occurs anytime the school of record changes.** A transfer is considered complete when the student attends class at the new school or participates with an athletic program prior to attending school (fall season only), whichever is earlier.
- 15) **Transfer Eligibility Review Determinations:** Requests for review can be:
  - a. "varsity eligible" – Student is eligible for varsity competition.
  - b. "varsity ineligible" – Student is not eligible for varsity competition. The student can participate in practices, jamborees, scrimmages, and previews.
  - c. "insufficient" – The request does not provide enough information for varsity eligibility to be granted under one of the provisions in Bylaw 111.1.B(i)-(v) or one of the seven Board Policy Exceptions.
  - d. "considered by the Eligibility Committee" – The information provided could meet one of the provisions in Bylaw 111.1.B(i)-(v) or one of the seven Board Policy Exceptions and the request will be reviewed by the Eligibility Committee.
- 16) **Blind Placement:** A student who does not meet the blind placement conditions (111.2.B) shall be referred to as a "Direct Placement" student. Direct Placement students are ineligible to compete at the varsity level for one calendar year.
- 17) **Enroll:** For purposes of determining student eligibility a student is enrolled in a school when they attend classes or participate in a MSHSL sponsored program prior to attendance. Enrollment continues until the student graduates, enrolls in another school, completes a season in which graduation occurs, or ceases enrollment due to school or family decision.

**Cross-referenced in Bylaw 104 – Enrollment**

**2. Transfer Eligibility Review Process:**

- 1) Initial Transfer Eligibility Determination must be made by the Receiving School after the student has completed the transfer as defined above.
  - a. At the time of the initial transfer eligibility determination, the Receiving School administrator shall inform the student, parent(s)/guardian(s) of the Enrollment Options Program under Bylaw 111.1.D. The choice of participation under Bylaw 111.1.D is an "either or" decision and, once made, the student can only participate at that school. For example, the student cannot participate at the sending school for a fall sport and then participate at the receiving school for a winter sport.
    - i. If the student chooses to participate at the Sending School for one calendar year, these review procedures are not applicable.
    - ii. If, however, the student chooses to participate at the Receiving School, they are varsity ineligible for one calendar year unless one of the provisions in Bylaw 111.1.B(i)-(v) is met or one of the Board Policy Exceptions is granted.
      1. If the student, parent(s) or guardian(s) requests a review of the League's Transfer Eligibility Determination, then the student is varsity ineligible at the Sending School. For example, the student cannot choose to participate at the Receiving School, request a review, and if the review does not result in varsity eligibility at the Receiving School, then participate in varsity athletics at the Sending School.
- 2) League staff reviews the information within the Electronic Transfer Form and responds to the Receiving School agreeing or disagreeing with the Initial Transfer Eligibility Determination (the League's Transfer eligibility Determination").
- 3) The Receiving School will share the League's Transfer eligibility Determination with the student and family. If the student, parent(s) or guardian(s) requests a review of the Initial Transfer Eligibility Determination, the Receiving School shall be responsible for submitting a request for review to the League through the Electronic Transfer Portal. The request for review submitted by the Receiving School must include information and documentation meeting the documentation requirements outlined in this policy.
  - a. If the request for review is insufficient, the MSHSL will notify the Receiving School. Additional information and/or documentation not yet submitted to the MSHSL may be submitted within fifteen (15) business days of the notice of insufficiency. If supplemental information and/or documentation is not provided, the file will be considered closed and the student varsity ineligible with no further review.
- 4) The Sending School reviews the transfer eligibility request for review and must respond via the Transfer Portal whether the circumstances justify further review.
  - a. If the Sending School does not agree further review by the Eligibility Committee is justified, there is no further review.
  - b. If the Sending School agrees that further review by the Eligibility Committee is justified, it will be considered by the Eligibility Committee.

- 5) *The reviews by the Eligibility Committee begin the third week of August and are scheduled every other week thereafter through May, as needed.*
  - a. *The student/parent may attend the meeting and will be provided 15 minutes to present additional information regarding their eligibility request.*
- 6) *The Eligibility Committee will make an eligibility determination.*
- 7) *If the student is determined to be varsity ineligible, the student/parent may submit a written request to the Executive Committee for further review. The written request must identify why the Eligibility Committee determination was in error and should be reversed. Executive Committee review will be a paper review of the information and documentation provided. The Executive Committee review is final with no further review.*

### **3. Transfer Process Flow Chart**

- 1) *Receiving School makes Initial Transfer Eligibility Determination utilizing the Transfer Portal, based on information provided.*
- 2) *League staff agrees with the Receiving School's Initial Transfer Eligibility Determination or requests additional information or corrections.*
- 3) *Student/Parent provided Initial Transfer Eligibility Determination by the Receiving School.*
- 4) *Student/Parent asks the Receiving School to submit a Transfer Eligibility Review.*
  - a. *Receiving School submits a request for a Transfer Eligibility Review through the Transfer Portal.*
  - b. *If the request is insufficient, no further review.*
- 5) *Sending School reviews the request and responds in the Transfer Portal.*
- 6) *League staff will review the submitted request and documents and respond back to the Receiving School.*
  - a. *Eligibility Committee makes final eligibility determination. The reviews by the Eligibility Committee begin the third week of August and are scheduled every other week through May, as needed.*
  - b. *If Sending School does not agree further review is justified, no further review.*
  - c. *If request is insufficient, no further review.*
- 7) *Transfer Review Decision provided to Receiving School.*

### **4. Policy exceptions to Bylaw 111**

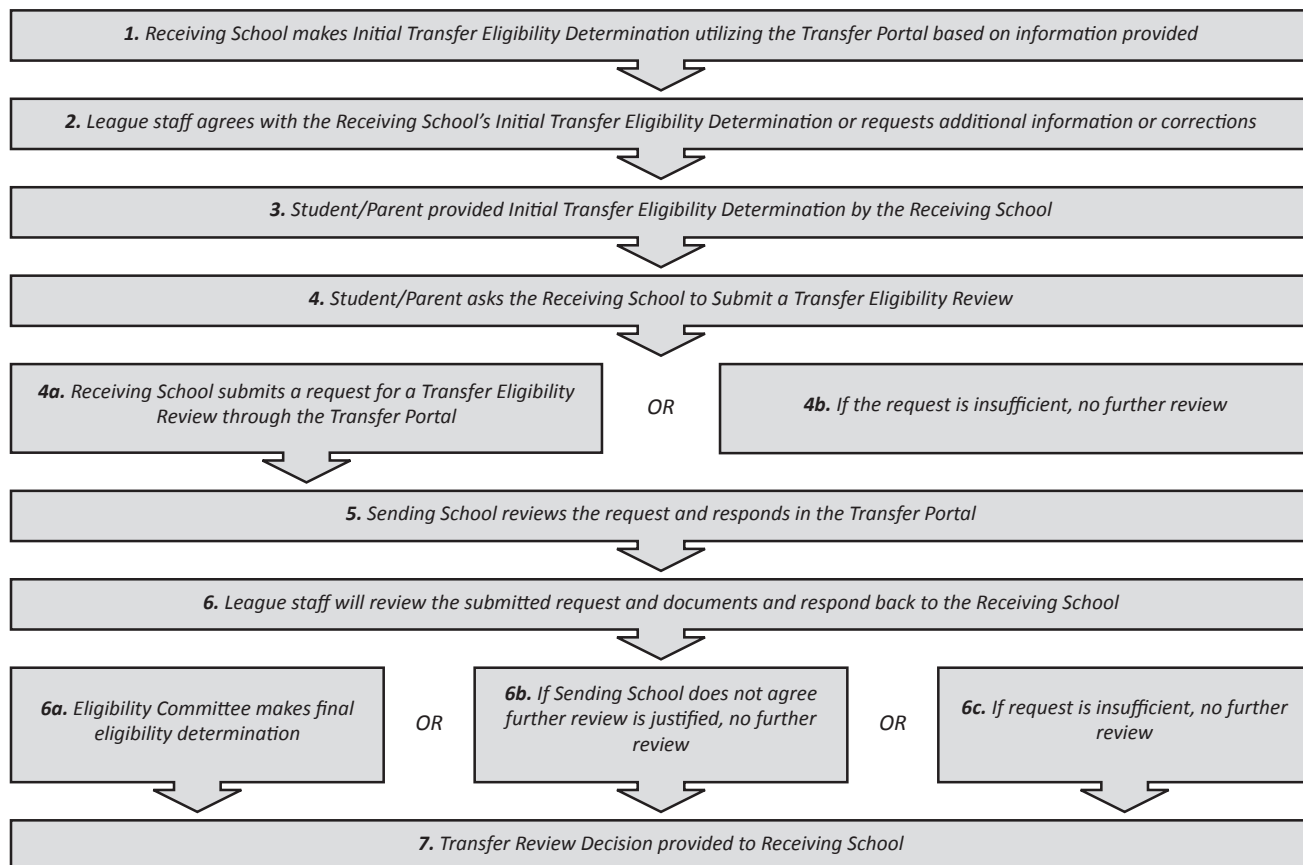
*A request for a review of an Initial Transfer Eligibility Determination is limited to the following circumstances:*

- 1) *Documented internal Board of Education policies regarding the movement of students within the school district.*
- 2) *Adoption, abandonment, or death of a parent.*
- 3) *A documented substantial negative change in the economic status of the student's parents which requires the student to withdraw from their current school and enroll in the public school located in the public school district attendance area where the student's parents reside.*
- 4) *School Student Bullying or Harassment—The provisions of MN Statutes 121A.03 and 121A.031 shall be applied. PLEASE SEE: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/safe/bprev/MDE087161>*
- 5) *Administrative error in addressing a student's initial eligibility.*
- 6) *Completion of a licensed program for treatment of chemical dependency or diagnosed mental health disorder provided all other eligibility rules are followed.*
- 7) *School Administrators Review—When the six transfer eligibility review exceptions above are not applicable, the Receiving School principal and activities director and the Sending School principal and activities director together may submit a written request to the MSHSL that circumstances exist which warrant a review of varsity eligibility by the MSHSL. The school administrators must identify the circumstances that exist and submit information and documentation to support their request for review of varsity eligibility. This transfer eligibility review exception is applicable only for students who transfer from one MSHSL member school to another MSHSL member school.*

**5. Documentation Requirements**

The following are examples of the types of documentation the League relies upon to make decisions regarding transfer eligibility for the transfer eligibility review exceptions in section 4.(1)-(7) above.

- 1) Schools must provide school policies used to support the intradistrict transfer.
- 2) Court ordered adoption decree, death certificate, documentation from state agency regarding abandonment or child protection (CHIPS).
- 3) Documents to submit include but are not limited to: the past three years Federal Tax Forms 1040 showing the Adjusted Gross Income, employer notification indicating the recent loss of income or loss of employment, or disability determinations from a medical professional that indicate a reduction in the ability to be employed. Discretionary spending decisions will generally not be considered.
- 4) The designated school staff member has investigated the report of prohibited conduct and determined a case of bullying or harassment pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 121A.03 and 121A.031.
- 5) Documentation shall be submitted by the school administrator that explains the error or errors made in the initial eligibility determination process.
- 6) Documentation from the director of the treatment program must indicate the student has successfully completed the treatment program. The League will take into consideration the treatment program director's recommendation that a change in schools will best serve the post-treatment needs of the student.
  - a. Record of consistent therapy or treatment over an extended period of time.
- 7) The written request from the administrators at both the Receiving School and Sending School must include documentation of the circumstances that justify additional review.
  - a. Circumstances NOT justifying additional review include but are not limited to:
    - i. School choice, family choice, curricular choice or co-curricular offerings at the Receiving school;
    - ii. Sibling preference or attendance;
    - iii. Athletic opportunities offered and/or levels of athletic competition offered at the Receiving School;
    - iv. Transportation reasons.



**BOARD POSITION STATEMENT re M.S. 124D.09 (POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS ACT — PSEO)**

Minnesota Statute 124D.09 provides a variety of options for high school students by enabling secondary pupils to enroll full-time or part-time in nonsectarian courses or programs in eligible post-secondary institutions. The credits earned by a pupil shall be counted towards the graduation requirements and are subject to area requirements of the school district.

The Minnesota State High School League will accommodate students under the above Statute to participate in League activity programs by establishing the following guidelines:

- i. A student taking classes on a full or part-time basis at an approved post-secondary institution in Minnesota is eligible to participate in high school activities at the high school where the student is enrolled and will graduate.
- ii. The student must meet all eligibility requirements, such as attendance, credits, semesters, age, transfer, and must follow all other eligibility bylaws of the League.
- iii. A student taking classes on a full or part-time basis at an approved post-secondary institution in Minnesota becomes ineligible for participation in all League activities if the student participates at a post-secondary institution in any of those activities which are sponsored by the League.

**BOARD POSITION STATEMENT re M.S. 123A.30 (ADOPTED BY THE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 4/25/85)**

Minnesota Statute 123A.30 allows schools with 7-12 enrollments of fewer than 375 pupils to enter into one or more agreements providing instruction of its secondary pupils in one or more districts. The Minnesota State High School League will accommodate students under the above statute by establishing the following guidelines:

1. Students must be attending a non-resident district on a full-time basis to be considered for participation in the League interscholastic programs.
2. Students would be eligible only for the activity programs sponsored by the non-resident school district where the tuition is paid by the board of education of the resident district.
3. If the non-resident district grants the degree, then League eligibility lies with the non-resident district.
4. If the resident district grants the degree, then League eligibility resides with the resident district.
5. The board of education of the resident district may accept only one option per agreement.
6. All decisions must be made by July 1 of the year attending and cannot be revoked until the termination of the agreement.
7. Students who attend a non-resident district must continue there during the life of the agreement between the two districts.

**COUNCIL ON THE STANDARDS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL (CSIET) APPROVED PROGRAMS**

The Council on the Standards for International Educational Travel has approved the following programs:

- Academic Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (AFICE)
- Academic Year in America/AIFS Foundation
- AFS-USA, Inc.
- American Councils for International Education
- American Cultural Exchange Service (ACES)
- American Home Life International (AHLI)
- American Homestay Services, LLC
- Amerigo Education
- AnB Education dba Summa Global Education
- Apex International Education Partners, LLC
- ARISE USA
- Aspect Foundation
- ASSE International Student Exchange Programs
- ASSIST, Inc.
- Association for Teen-Age Diplomats (ATAD)
- Ayusa International
- BEST Educational Solutions Today (BEST)
- Borderless Friends Forever Foundation, Inc.
- Boston Global Education
- C & T Education
- Cambridge Network
- Central Regional High School
- Children Around the World II, Inc.
- Children of All Nations
- Council for Educational Travel, USA (CETUSA)
- Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)
- Cultural Academic Student Exchange (CASE)
- Cultural Homestay International (CHI)
- DMD Private High School Program
- Education Travel and Culture, Inc.
- Educational Resource Development Trust (ERDT/SHARE!)
- Edu-inno inc
- Educatius Inc.
- EF High School Exchange Year
- Elite Ivy Education LLC
- Exchange Service International dba SLB Consulting Corp
- ExchangeMate International Education
- Face The World Foundation
- Foreign Links Around the Globe (FLAG)
- Forte International Exchange Association (FIEA)
- Foundation for Academic Cultural Exchange (FACE)
- Foundation for Worldwide International Student Exchange (WISE)
- German American Partnership Program, Inc. (GAPP)
- Global Horizons USA LLC
- Global Insights
- Global Student Services of America
- Greenheart Exchange
- Heritage Student Foundation
- High School in the USA (HSUSA) dba Global Cultural Exchanges
- iGoGo International
- International Cultural Exchange Services (ICES)
- International Education Student Exchange Program (INTER-ED)
- International Experience (iE-USA)
- International Fellowship
- International School of Minnesota
- International Student Exchange (ISE)
- Iowa Resource for International Service (IRIS)
- Ivy International Group (dba Tiancheng International Group Inc)
- Joy International Exchange Student, Inc.
- Lartin Brothers, LLC
- Laurasian Institution
- LPI Learning
- MLA Move Language Ahead (Study World Corporation)
- Nacel Open Door
- Newcomb Central School District
- NorthWest Student Exchange (NWSE)
- NW Services, Inc.
- OCEAN Organization for Cultural Exchange Among Nations
- Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
- Pan Atlantic Foundation
- Private and Public School F-1 Exchange (PSE)
- Program of Academic Exchange (PAX)
- Reflections International, Inc.
- Rotary Youth Exchange Programs
- School District of Janesville
- States 4-H International Exchange Programs
- STS Foundation
- Student American International (SAI)
- StudentRoomStay
- TBI-New Oasis Education
- Terra Lingua USA
- Three W International
- Trinity Collegiate School
- Twinn Palms, Inc.
- UCEUS Corp.
- United Studies, Inc.
- World Heritage International Student Exchange Programs
- World Link, Inc.
- Youth For Understanding USA (YFU USA)

# 100.00 BYLAWS: GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

## BOARD POLICIES

**re BYLAW 101.00: AGE RULE**

*A student who is disabled as set forth in Minnesota Statute 125A.02 and by the standards of the Minnesota Department of Education shall have their age determined as of September 1 of the calendar year of the school year for which the student seeks to participate. (Reference - Minnesota Statute, Section 125A).*

**re BYLAW 107.00: LICENSED PRACTITIONERS**

*That the Minnesota State High School League recognizes all licensed practitioners, as defined by Minnesota Statute Chapters 147 and 148, to provide pre-participation physicals that meet the requirement for participation in Minnesota State High School League- sponsored activities.*

**re BYLAW 108.00: SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY**

1. *Students are not required to be passing in their course work during a current marking period. However, they forfeit their eligibility for the next marking period in which they attend school if they are not making satisfactory progress towards the school's requirements for graduation at the end of the marking period.*
2. *A student who is ineligible for a school marking period may not participate in League activities until the new marking period officially begins. This means the first school day of the new marking period.*
3. *Work done in summer school for the purpose of removing scholastic deficiencies may be used in determining scholastic eligibility in athletics.*

**re BYLAW 109.00: SEASONS OF PARTICIPATION**

*The calculation of seasons of participation shall begin when a student first enrolls in the 7th grade. In the enforcement of this bylaw, a student will be regarded as being enrolled in the grade in which the student carries a majority of full or half-credit subjects. If an equal number of full or half-credit subjects are carried in two grades, the student will be considered to be enrolled in the lower of the two grades.*

# 200.00

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY BYLAWS

Purpose: The following bylaws are intended to protect and maintain eligibility once a student has participated as an individual or as a member of a team in League- sponsored activities.

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*\*Please Note: These bylaws are not applicable for Fine Arts only students (Debate, Music, One Act Play, Speech, Visual Arts)*

The most current version of the Official Handbook is always posted on the League website — [www.MSHSL.org](http://www.MSHSL.org)



# 200.00 BYLAWS: STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

## BYLAW 201.00

## AMATEUR STATUS

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 204 (Awards)**

**Cross Reference: 200 Bylaws Board Policies (Name Image and Likeness)**

1. A student may not participate in League-sponsored activities unless the student is an amateur in that activity.
2. A student loses their amateur status in that sport and becomes a professional if the student accepts any of the following for participation in school or non-school athletics:
  - A. a salary, cash or merchandise.
    - (i) Actual and reasonable reimbursement for transportation, food and lodging when paid in connection with travel to and playing in a contest or participating in a camp or clinic are not violations. Golf is governed by the United States Golf Association amateur rule.
    - (ii) A student may receive payment for officiating, instructing, teaching or coaching a sport without losing their amateur status in that sport.
  - B. a share in the season's profit.
  - C. an expense allowance for athletic tryouts.
3. A student loses their amateur status and becomes a professional if the student participates with a professional team or any team deemed by the MSHSL to be a professional team in a contest, or signs a contract with a professional team (i.e. Canadian Major Junior Hockey teams in the WHL, OHL and QMJHL are considered professional teams).
4. A student does not lose their amateur status if they participate in a tryout with a professional team as long as the student can document that the student has paid all fees and expenses and as long as the student does not participate in a contest.
5. A student can receive one expense paid tryout with a professional team as long as the tryout period does not exceed 48 consecutive hours.
6. It is recommended that awards and prizes for non-school participation should be of a symbolic nature. However, the acceptance of an award valued at less than \$100 retail when received for non-school participation will not constitute a violation.
7. A student cannot use athletic skills to promote or advertise products.
8. **Penalty:**  
A student who becomes a professional will be disqualified from further high school participation in that sport.

## BYLAW 202.00

## ASSAULT

1. Assault on any person including game officials will not be condoned by the League and will be dealt with by the school administration and the local authorities.
2. **Assault defined:**
  - A. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
  - B. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
  - C. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.
3. **Assault on a Game Official:**  
Assault shall mean any deliberate attempt by a participant to inflict bodily harm on an official, referee, umpire, judge, scorer, timer, or any other person.
4. **Procedure to Report an Assault on a Game Official:**
  - A. The assaulted person or representative must put the charge in writing within 48 hours of the event and send it to the Minnesota State High School League Office. If the charge is not submitted in writing within the specified period of time, the charge shall be waived.
  - B. This report will be forwarded to the principal of the school where the student is enrolled. If the student is home- schooled or enrolled in a charter school, the report shall be filed with the "host" school for the activity.
  - C. The principal, or in the principal's absence, the superintendent, shall conduct an immediate investigation and submit a report to the Executive Director of the League. In all cases, the student shall be ineligible for participation in League-sponsored activities until the decision is rendered.
  - D. The decision shall be submitted in writing to the student and the assaulted person or representative with a notification that the ruling may be appealed to the League's Board of Directors whose decision will be final.
5. **Penalty:**  
The student shall be disqualified from participation in all League-sponsored activities for a minimum of 4 weeks.
6. **Appeal:**  
In the case of an appeal, the student will be ineligible until the Board of Directors renders its decision.

Physical contact between a player and an official or a coach and an official:

Physical contact between a coach and an official or between a player and an official that results from disrespectful and/or unsporting behavior will not be tolerated. When the incident is determined to be an assault as defined in Bylaw 202, the process outlined in that bylaw will be followed. When the incident does not rise to the level of assault, the guilty party or parties will be suspended, as a minimum, from the next two consecutive varsity, interscholastic contests or two weeks (14 calendar days), whichever is greater. This penalty will be imposed during the season in which the offense occurs, when possible. The portion of the penalty that cannot be served during the current season will carry over to the next season in which the guilty party or parties play, coach or officiate. This policy applies to officials, coaches and participants—whoever is involved in causing the physical contact to occur.

**BYLAW 203.00****ATHLETIC CAMPS AND CLINICS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 207 (National and Olympic Development Programs)**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 208 (Non-school Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports)**

1. **Students:** Students may attend a camp or clinic at any time during the year provided that they meet the following requirements.

- A. **School, Camp or Clinic for a League-sponsored Activity**

Definition: A school, camp or clinic is defined as an instructional program which involves physical participation by the individual student.

- (i) **Criteria for participation at a specialized camp or clinic during the school year**

- a) The student makes application to the principal or designee prior to the camp or clinic participation.
    - b) The principal or designee:
      - (1) approves arrangements for the student to complete missed academic lessons, assignments, and tests; and,
      - (2) approves the absence by the student from school.

- (ii) **Camps/Clinics During the Summer**

- a) Non-school sponsored summer specialized camps or clinics do not require approval.
    - b) Student athletes must adhere to the following guidelines established by the Board of Directors.
      - (1) Camp or clinic participation fees must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), unless other arrangements are approved by the Board of Directors.
      - (2) The non-school camp or clinic program shall not include any type of competition with teams from another camp or clinic.
    - c) Guidelines for Schools:
      - (1) Schools may not issue uniforms or equipment to students for their personal use in non-school sponsored camps and clinics.
      - (2) Schools may rent or lease protective equipment such as helmets and shoulder pads to individual students/ sponsors of camps and clinics provided that the same rental fee is charged to all persons who want to rent equipment and that all rental equipment is inspected by qualified reconditioning companies prior to use by high school students.
      - (3) Schools may rent or lease their facilities to camps and clinics provided that the same rental fee is charged to all persons who want to rent the facility.
      - (4) Schools may approve the Summer Coaching Waiver for the members of their high school coaching staff (see Bylaw 208).

- B. **Elite National Camp/Tournament**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 207 (National and Olympic Development Programs)**

Bylaw 207.1 indicates athletes who wish to participate in an Elite or National event sponsored by the National Governing Board, must make application 30 days in advance of the event to the League for approval.

Bylaw 207.2 indicates that athletes who are invited to participate in Elite National camps or Elite National tournaments which are not sponsored by that sport's National Governing Body must make application 30 days in advance to the League for approval.

The applications can be found on the League Website. They are to be completed and approved by a school administrator and then sent to the League for final approval.

2. **Coaches:**

- A. **During the School Year Prior to and Following the High School Sport Season:** No full-time or part-time member of the high school coaching staff at the sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity level, paid or unpaid, shall own, organize, conduct, administer or instruct in a camp or clinic for athletes who have participated at the varsity, junior varsity, B-squad or sophomore level for that school during the school year.

- B. **During the Summer:**

High school coaches may provide coaching and training to members of their high school team provided that the high school coach has applied for and been approved for a summer coaching waiver. (See Bylaw 208.00 Summer Coaching Waiver) Summer contact time for athletic camps and clinics shall be from June 1 through July 31. With the exception of Baseball and Girls Softball, the summer waiver period also includes a one-week no-contact period in July — the week of July Fourth.

3. **Penalties:**

- A. **First Violation:**

The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of that season, whichever is greater.

**B. Second Violation:**

The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater.

**C. Third or Subsequent Violations:**

The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater.

**D. Applying the Penalty:**

If there are fewer events remaining in that sport season than are required to satisfy the penalty, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next season in that sport.

A senior who violates the bylaws at the end of a sport season will lose eligibility for two games in the next sport season in which the student participates.

**E. Progressive Penalties:**

Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing through the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

**BYLAW 204.00****AWARDS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 201 (Amateur Status)**

1. Awards presented to students shall be of a symbolic nature rather than those which have intrinsic value. School officials will make certain that awards approved conform to the letter, spirit and intent of the bylaw.
2. **Acceptable awards which are not a violation include:**
  - A. Game balls, medals, ribbons, trophies, golf balls, plaques, athletic insignia, cups and other items of little or no intrinsic value.
  - B. Honor banquets of a non-promotional nature, if they are held with the approval of the high school principal.
  - C. Free and reduced price admissions accepted from colleges or universities for their events if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
  - D. Awards of transportation, tickets and expense allowances, by member schools or clubs of member schools, for attendance at League-sponsored, and or college and university events if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
  - E. Awards of transportation and entertainment by colleges and universities for recruiting purposes, when carried on within the limitation of NCAA, NAIA, AIAW, if they have prior approval of the high school principal.
  - F. A scholarship award made on the basis of a combination of two or more factors such as scholarship, character, athletics and citizenship, made by a non-promotional type of organization to a graduating senior, if they have prior approval by the high school principal.
  - G. Awards for participation in non-school athletics which meet the provisions of the amateur bylaw.
  - H. Acceptance of a prize, including money, for a sport that is not conducted or sponsored by the League such as bowling, boxing, rodeo, free throw contests, hole in one contests, etc.
3. **Awards constituting a violation include:**
  - A. Items such as jackets, rings, jewelry, watches, merchandise, services, trips, free or reduced price admissions in which the value of the award(s) exceeds \$100 retail.
  - B. Awards made by individuals, business concerns, private enterprises, and service clubs, which do not conform to the limitations of 204.02 and are promotional in nature.
  - C. Free Tickets: The acceptance of a free ticket valued at more than \$100 is a violation of League bylaws if the ticket is presented as a result of participation in a League sponsored activity.
  - D. Reduced price tickets: The acceptance of a reduced price ticket if the full value of the ticket less the amount charged exceeds \$100. High school athletes may purchase a \$100 ticket or receive a free one from an organization without violating the bylaw if the same privilege is available to all other students.
4. Awards distributed by member schools: It will be a violation of League policy for a member school or a representative of a member school to establish, distribute or accept any awards not approved by the League for section, or state tournaments.
5. **Penalty:** The student shall be ineligible for all further high school competition. A school violating the bylaw is subject to suspension from membership in the League.

**BYLAW 204.00 INTERPRETATION**

**Q. Can senior student athletes receive scholarship money while in a spring sport? Our firemen give \$250 award to two senior athletes. Would it affect their eligibility if they received it before the spring season was over?**

A. A scholarship award is based on two or more factors such as scholarship, character, athletics and citizenship, made by a non-promotional type of organization to a graduating senior is acceptable. The award must have the approval of the principal.

**BYLAW 205.00****CHEMICAL ELIGIBILITY****Cross Reference: Bylaw 304.2 ("Denial Penalty")**

1. At any time during the calendar year, a student shall not, regardless of the quantity:
  - A. use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol;
  - B. use or consume, have in possession tobacco; or,
  - C. use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
  - D. use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away products containing or products used to deliver nicotine, tobacco products and other chemicals.  
 "Tobacco products" means: any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part or accessory of a tobacco product.
  - E. use or consume, have in possession, buy sell or give away any substance or product where the intent of such use of the substance or product is to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, except under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor. Such substances or products shall include, but are not limited to, synthetic drugs, gasoline, glue, aerosol devices, bath salts, and any substances addressed by Minnesota or Federal Law.
2. **Penalties for Category I Activities**  
**Definition - Category I Activities:** Those League-sponsored activities in which a member school has a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments.
  - Athletic Activities
  - Fine Arts Activities
    - 1) Debate
    - 2) Speech Activities including One Act Play - when a school schedules a season of interscholastic contests.
  - A. **First Violation Penalty**  
 The student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, whichever is greater, of a season in which the student is a participant.
  - B. **Second Violation Penalty**  
 The student shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
  - C. **Third or Subsequent Violation Penalty**
    - 1) The student shall lose eligibility for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
    - 2) A student who chooses to become a participant in a treatment program may become eligible for participation after a minimum period of six weeks after entering treatment if all of the following conditions are met:
      - a) The student is assessed as chemically dependent,
      - b) enters treatment voluntarily, and
      - c) the director of the treatment center certifies that the student has successfully completed the treatment program.
      - d) The treatment option cannot be used for the first or second violation. Successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program will satisfy only the most recent violation. Any other violations for which the penalty has not been satisfied must still be served in full.
  - D. **Applying the Penalty**
    - 1) Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the student's first violation and continuing throughout the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.
    - 2) Violation Confirmation Definition: The violation shall be confirmed when the administrator responsible for the athletics/activities program has informed the student that the student has violated a bylaw and is now under the penalty. The notification shall be verbal and also in writing.
    - 3) Counting Weeks:
      - a) The weeks shall begin on the date that the violation is confirmed by the school administrator and extend for the required number of calendar days.
      - b) For the purpose of this bylaw, a week is seven calendar days. The week starts the date the violation is confirmed and the student/student's parents or guardians are notified.
      - c) At the beginning of the season, practice and conditioning weeks are counted.
      - d) The student must participate in and complete the entire season in which the penalty has been applied for the penalty to count. As examples: a student cannot begin participation in a program at the start of the season, serve the penalty and then quit after the suspension has been served; nor can a student join a program after the season has begun, and serve the penalty.
    - 4) A student who is under penalty for a violation of a League bylaw may not join a second sport in the same season in order to fulfill a penalty.
    - 5) Practices, jamborees, inter-school scrimmages and previews are not interscholastic contests and may not be counted, however, the student is eligible to participate.
    - 6) A student who participates in both Category I and Category II activities shall serve the penalty prescribed for that violation in both Category I and Category II activities in which the student participates.

- 7) Denial Disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all inter-scholastic athletics for nine additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule, is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

3. **Penalties for Category II Activities**

**Definition - Category II Activities:** Those League-sponsored activities in which a member school does not have a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments.

Fine Arts Activities

- 1) Speech activities including One Act Play when a school schedules no interscholastic contests and participates only in the League-sponsored tournament series.
- 2) Music Activities.
- 3) Visual Arts Activities.

Each member school shall develop penalties which it will apply to the participants in these activities. A copy of the member school's policy shall be filed in the principal's office.

**BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – CANNABIS USE****1. Q. With the legalization of cannabis, is cannabis use a chemical violation?**

A. Yes, it is a chemical violation for a student to use or consume alcohol, tobacco, or **other chemicals**. Cannabis, like alcohol and tobacco, may be legal for use by adults of a minimum age but will be a chemical violation if used or consumed by a student athlete.

**2. Q. What if I am prescribed medical cannabis?**

A. It is not a chemical violation to use or consume a substance under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor if the substance is used according to the terms of a prescription issued for the student.

**BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – CATEGORIES OF ACTIVITIES****3. Q. Why are the League-sponsored activities divided into two categories?**

A. The structure of each activity determines the consequences for bylaws violations:

Category I: all athletic activities and those speech and debate activities WHICH HAVE A REGULAR SEASON of interscholastic contests prior to the League-sponsored tournament.

Category II: those music and speech activities WHICH HAVE NO REGULAR SEASON of interscholastic contests prior to the League-sponsored tournaments.

**4. Q. What is the basic difference between Category I and II bylaws?**

A. In Category I, a standard statewide penalty is prescribed, and in Category II, each member school shall prescribe the penalties which it will apply in those fine arts activities.

**5. Q. Can a member school change the standard penalties prescribed for the Category I activities?**

A. The League requires its member schools to adopt the bylaws as stated however, a school may adopt other local policies, provided the prescribed penalties are NOT LESSEMED, i.e., the school could not change the penalty for the first violation to be less than loss of eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, or the next six contests for the second violation, etc.

**6. Q. Do the statewide bylaws cover the summer vacation period?**

A. Yes. The League's bylaws apply year-round.

**7. Q. For Category II, is a member school required to develop and apply penalties to students who participate in music and speech?**

A. Yes. The basic bylaw for participants in all League-sponsored activities is that they shall not use mood-altering chemicals. Under their local bylaws, the school can elect to include a variety of locally sponsored activities as well as League-sponsored events for fine arts.

**8. Q. Can consequences for Category II activities be applied to Category I activities?**

A. No. A student must meet the consequences of both Categories.

**9. Q. How does a student who participates in two activities serve a chemical penalty/suspension?**

A. The suspension is served in the activity which takes the longest to complete the chemical suspension.

**10. Q. Can an injured student or an otherwise ineligible student serve a penalty or suspension for a violation of Bylaw 205— Chemical Eligibility?**

A. No. The student must meet all other eligibility requirements and must be participating in practice in order to serve the penalty or suspension for a violation of Bylaw 205.

**11. Q. Can an academically ineligible student serve a penalty or suspension for a violation of Bylaw 205— Chemical Eligibility?**

A. No. A student who is not academically eligible to participate in a contest cannot serve a penalty or suspension for a violation of Bylaw 205.

**12. Q. Can a student who is suspended from school count the out of school suspension days toward a penalty or suspension for a violation of Bylaw 205—Chemical Eligibility?**

A. No. The student must meet the school's student code of conduct requirements and the requirements of MSHSL Bylaw 206— Good Standing, in order to serve the penalty or suspension for a violation of Bylaw 205.

**BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – FIRST VIOLATION IN A STUDENT'S CAREER****13. Q. The penalty for the first violation requires that: "a student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater." When do you begin counting the weeks?**

A. If currently participating, you start counting the weeks the day the violation has been confirmed. Otherwise, the student serves the penalty the next time they participate.



**BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – FIRST VIOLATION IN A STUDENT’S CAREER (continued)****14. Q. For the first violation, could some athletes miss more than two contests during the two weeks?**

A. Yes, the penalty requires a minimum loss of two contests or two weeks, whichever is greater. During the two weeks of a season, some sports schedule more than two contests and the student is ineligible for all contests scheduled during those weeks.

**BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – SECOND, THIRD AND ADDITIONAL VIOLATION(S) IN A STUDENT’S CAREER****15. Q. A student commits a first violation by using tobacco. The student’s next offense is using alcohol. What is the penalty?**

A. It is a second violation, i.e., the first violation for use of tobacco and the second violation was for use of alcohol.

**16. Q. In the 10th grade, a student uses tobacco, in the 11th grade, the student uses alcohol; and in the 12th grade, the student uses a controlled substance. What are the penalties?**

A. The penalties are progressive beginning with the student’s first violation and continuing throughout the student’s high school career. The school records would indicate that the student’s first violation and loss of two contests and two weeks occurred in the 10th grade, the second violation and loss of three weeks and/or six contests occurred in the 11th grade, and the third violation and loss of four weeks and/or 12 contests occurred in the 12th grade. Penalties shall be served consecutively. (Penalties for subsequent offenses shall be served following completion of the service of the penalty for prior offenses.)

**17. Q. Can an ineligible student be in uniform on the bench or sideline?**

A. No.

**BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS****18. Q. Does the provision remain for students to be certified for reinstatement in League activities following their participation in a chemical treatment program?**

A. Yes. The special provision for reinstatement may be applied if after a third violation, a student on her/his own volition becomes a participant in a treatment program or if a student confides in his/her coach or other faculty member and requests help to get involved in a treatment program.

**19. Q. A student has not previous violations on record, but realizes she has problems with chemicals. The student is encouraged and supported by her parents to seek treatment. The student becomes part of an outpatient program. While still a member of this program, the basketball season begins. Is the student eligible?**

A. The student is eligible because no specific violation was confirmed and no penalty was administered. If the student admits to a specific violation or a reported violation is confirmed, the student would be ineligible for the period prescribed for the first/second or third violation.

**BYLAW 205.00 INTERPRETATIONS – CHEMICAL USE BY STUDENT PRIOR TO PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE ACTIVITIES OR FOLLOWING A LAPSE IN PARTICIPATION****20. Q. Do Bylaw 205 suspensions expire at the end of the academic year?**

A. No. The unserved suspension carries over from sport season to sport season and to each new school year until it is served.

**21. Q. If a student signs an eligibility form as a 10th grader and does not participate in 11th grade, would a violation in 11th grade apply?**

A. Yes. After the student signs the first eligibility form, the rules apply throughout the student’s high school career.

**BYLAW 206.00****GOOD STANDING AND GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS****Cross Reference: Fair Hearing Procedure 1.B.4****1. Good Standing**

In order to be eligible for regular season and League tournament competition a student must be in good standing.

**Definition:** The term “Good Standing” shall mean that the student is eligible under of all the conditions and eligibility requirements of that school as well as the eligibility requirements of the Minnesota State High School League.

**2. Student Code of Responsibilities**

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege which is accompanied by responsibility. As a student participating in League sponsored activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

*Continued on Page 47*

- A. I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.
- B. I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions.
- C. I will respect the rights and property of others.
- D. I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.
- E. I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.

3. **Penalty**

A student who is dismissed from school or who violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the school principal acting on the authority of the local board of education. The League specifically recognizes that certain conduct requires penalties that may exceed those penalties typically imposed for first violations. For example, when a student is suspended from school the student is not in good standing and cannot begin to serve the participation penalty until the student has completed the suspension from school and is returned to good standing.

4. **Student/Coach Ejection From a Contest**

A. **Notification to School Administration:** Coaches are responsible to inform their school administration regarding any ejection of a coach or student in their sport.

B. **Penalties:**

1) Student

- a) During the Regular Season: A student-athlete who is ejected from a game/meet, shall not participate in a game/meet for the remainder of that day. The student is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted game/meet at that level of competition and all games/meets in the interim at other levels of competition.
- b) Student Relationship to Team During Suspension: A player who is under suspension for an ejection may travel with the team and be in the locker room and on the sideline but may not be in uniform while under suspension.
- c) The second and subsequent violations carry a four regularly scheduled game/meet ineligibility penalty.
- d) During the League Tournament Series (Subsection, Section and State Tournament): A student athlete who is ejected from a game, meet or individual competition shall not participate in a game, meet or individual round of competition for the remainder of that day. The student is also suspended from the next scheduled round of team or individual competition in that tournament series.  
*A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.*
- e) If penalties are imposed at the end of the sport season or League tournament series and no contest remains, the penalty is carried over in that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior, the penalty will continue to the next sport season.

2) Coach

- a) During the Regular Season: Anytime a coach is ejected from a game/meet, the coach shall not coach the remainder of that day. The coach is also suspended from the next scheduled, rescheduled, or contracted date at that level of competition and all games/meets in the interim at other levels of competition.
- b) The second and subsequent violations carry a four regularly scheduled game/meet ineligibility penalty.
- c) During the League Tournament Series (Sub-section, Section and State Tournament): A coach who is ejected from a game/meet shall not coach the remainder of that day. The coach is also suspended from coaching the next scheduled round of team or individual competition in that tournament series. The penalty will be carried over into the next season for that sport.
- d) Coach Relationship to Team During Suspension: A coach who is under suspension for an ejection may not:
  - (1) have access to the locker room prior to the game, during half-time, or following the game;
  - (2) be seated in an area proximal to the team bench;
  - (3) ride the team bus to or from the contest; or
  - (4) serve in any official capacity as a coach, statistician, supervisor, etc. until the suspension has been served.

C. **Appeal:**

A basketball coach may appeal the penalty only when he/she is disqualified for technical fouls and his/her actions did not contribute to the disqualification. The appeal will be heard by the local school administration. A complete report must be sent to the League for review.

5. **Approved Attire for Awards Presentations:** Students participating in all League awards presentations must be in school-approved attire.

6. **Eligibility During League Tournaments (Subsection, Section and State):** A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies and League bylaws to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

- Behavior Expectations (6/6/23)***  
***To create safe, welcoming and inclusive environments in fine arts and sports in our school and competitions, I will:***
- *Lead by positive example and demonstrate respect and support for others.*
  - *Follow all MSHSL, school and venue expectations.*
  - *Refrain from using profanity or ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender-based comments, posts or messages directed at participants, coaches, officials, spectators, or team representatives.*
  - *Act as a responsible and respectful digital citizen who positively uses social media platforms.*
  - *Speak or act in support of others when they are harmed by words or actions.*
- 
- *Honor each contest and all involved, including participants, coaches, officials, spectators, and team representatives.*
  - *Hold high standards for myself, engage positively and demonstrate sportsmanship.*

BYLAW 207.00

NATIONAL TEAMS AND OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
FOR TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL SPORT ATHLETES

Cross Reference: Bylaw 203 (Athletic Camps & Clinics)  
Cross Reference: Bylaw 208 (Non-school Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports)  
*[Applications are on the League website.]*

1. **Participation on a National Team or in an Olympic Development Program:** During the school year, students who participate for their school in a sport may participate through training, try-out or competition on a National Team or in a United States Olympic Development Program provided the student receives an individual invitation from either the United States National Governing Body on the national level for that sport or from the United States Olympic Committee.
- A. **National Team Definition:** A National Team is a team selected by the national governing body (NGB) of the sport on a national qualification basis either through a defined selective process or actual tryouts for the purpose of international competition which requires the entries to officially represent the respective nations, although it is not necessary there be team scoring by nation. The Minnesota State High School League may permit participation by high school students on bona fide national teams which represent the United States.
- B. **Criteria for Approval for Participation on a National Team:**
- 1) The national team meets the definition stated above.
  - 2) The student makes application to the high school principal or designee at least 30 days prior to the national team participation.
  - 3) The principal or designee:
    - a) approves prior arrangements for the student to complete missed academic lessons, assignments and tests; and,
    - b) approves the absence by the student from a school-sponsored or state high school sponsored athletic event(s) involving a team in that sport.
- C. **Olympic Development Program Definition:** An Olympic Development Program is defined as a training program or competition which is conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee, or directly funded and conducted by the United States Olympic committee member national governing body (NGB) on a national level, or specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by the NGB as having potential for future participation in regional, national or international competition in that sport.

Official National Governing Bodies

Baseball .....	USA Baseball	Softball.....	Amateur Softball Association
Basketball .....	USA Basketball	Swimming .....	U.S. Swimming, Inc.
Diving.....	United States Diving, Inc	Synchronized Swimming.....	U.S. Synchronized Swimming, Inc.
Golf .....	U.S. Golf Association	Tennis .....	U.S. Tennis Association
Gymnastics .....	USA Gymnastics	Track and Field.....	USA Track & Field
Ice Hockey .....	USA Hockey	Volleyball .....	U.S. Volleyball Association
Skiing .....	U.S. Skiing	Wrestling .....	USA Wrestling
Soccer .....	U.S. Soccer Federation		

- D. **Criteria for Approval for Participation in an Olympic Development Program:**
- 1) The development program meets the definition stated above.
  - 2) The student makes application to the high school principal or designee at least 30 days prior to the Olympic development program participation.
  - 3) The principal or designee:
    - a) approves prior arrangements for the student to complete missed academic lessons, assignments and tests; and,
    - b) approves the absences by the student from a school-sponsored athletic event(s) involving a team in that sport.
  - 4) Swimmers seeking approval for participation during the school season in Junior National Competition must have a record of times for events that are within 3% of the cutoff time.

2. **Participation in Elite National Camp/Tournament:** Athletes who are invited to participate in Elite National camps or Elite National tournaments which are not sponsored by that sport's National Governing Body may make application 30 days in advance of the event to the League for approval.
3. **Penalties**
  - A. **First Violation:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of that season, whichever is greater.
  - B. **Second Violation:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater.
  - C. **Third or Subsequent Violations:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater.
  - D. **Applying the Penalty:**
    - 1) If there are fewer events remaining in that sport season than are required to satisfy the penalty, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next season in that sport.
    - 2) A senior who violates the bylaws at the end of a sport season will serve the complete suspension in the next sport season in which the student participates.
  - E. **Progressive Penalties:** Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing through the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

## **BYLAW 208.00 NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION AND TRAINING (TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL SPORTS)**

1. **During the High School Season:**  
**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10.C Definition (End of Season)**
  - A. A student who is a member of a high school team may not participate as an individual competitor or as a member of a non-school team in the same sport during the high school season. Participation Definition: Participation is defined as practice, training, scrimmaging, tryouts and competing. Exceptions:
    - 1) Baseball, softball and skiing.
    - 2) A student who is cut or who elects to drop from the squad shall be permitted to play on a non-school team in that sport.
    - 3) Non-school training during the high school season for athletes who qualify as individual competitors to the state tournament (Cross Country Running, Girls Gymnastics, Golf, Skiing, Swimming, Synchronized Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field, and Wrestling):
      - a) Lessons/Training: During the League high school season athletes may take lessons from professionals and other non-school coaches without limit as to where, when or who may provide the training. Athletes may not miss a high school practice, game, or meet to take a lesson or train for a non-school event. Athletes may take lessons/train with a non-school team/club during the high school season in the same sport;
      - b) Competition: Athletes may compete in non-school events/competitions that do not match the events in which athletes currently compete in high school competition.
  - B. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate on a non-school team or as an individual competitor in that sport.
  - C. A student may receive training through private lessons from a person who is not a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport.
  - D. Fees for non-school coaching or training must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) unless approved by the Board of Directors.
2. **During the School Year, Prior To and Following the High School Sports Season:**
  - A. A student may participate as an individual competitor or as a member of a non-school team provided that the student's participation is voluntary and not influenced or directed by a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport.
  - B. Students may not use any type of high school uniform.
  - C. A student may not receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport. Power skating and indoor soccer are included in this limitation.
  - D. A student may receive coaching or training including private lessons from a person who is not a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport.
  - E. Fees and expenses for non-school coaching, training or private lessons must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) unless approved by the Board of Directors.
  - F. **Participation in Captains Practice:** Captains Practice is primarily for the purpose of physical conditioning organized and conducted by the students. Students may participate in Captains Practice provided that salaried or non-salaried school personnel are not involved in any capacity. It is the responsibility of school officials to become aware of the preseason activities in their school district and to ensure that the spirit and intent of the League rules are observed.
  - G. **Participation in Open Gym:** Open gym refers to the use of school facilities for recreational activities. Students may participate in open gym if all of the following conditions are met:
    - 1) the school facilities are available for students to participate in a number of activities.
    - 2) the recreational activities are open to all students.
    - 3) there is no coaching of the skills and techniques of activities provided in the school interscholastic athletic program.

*Continued on Page 50*

- 4) there is no requirement for students to attend open gym activities as a prerequisite for membership on a high school team.

3. **Summer Vacation Period:**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10.I (Definitions - Summer)**

- A. Students may participate in camps, clinics/non-school teams, provided that these summer activities are voluntary and they are not influenced or directed to participate by a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport.
- B. A student may not use any type of high school uniform. Balls and goalie equipment may be issued for summer use. A student may rent personal protective equipment from the school, i.e. helmets and shoulder pads, for summer use only.
- C. A student may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved summer coaching for that sport.
- D. Fees and expenses for non-school coaching or training must be provided by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) unless approved by the Board of Directors.

4. **Summer Coaching Waiver:**

- A. Member schools shall have the authority to approve a coaching waiver for their salaried and non-salaried coaches. The summer coaching waiver grants permission to high school coaches to coach and instruct members of the high school team during the summer waiver period. The summer waiver period begins on June 1 and concludes on July 31. With the exception of Baseball and Girls Softball, the summer waiver period also includes a one-week no-contact period in July the week of July Fourth. During the no-contact period salaried and non-salaried coaches may not:

- 1) Have any contact with members of their high school program
- 2) Travel with members of their high school program
- 3) Supervise members of their high school program in an open gym, strength and conditioning program of any sport specific training session, or
- 4) Schedule any activity including leadership or team building programs.

There is no appeal or waiver for the no-contact period. Coaches who have been granted a summer coaching waiver by their high school to coach a summer league team may continue to coach that team through Labor Day if that team participates in an end-of-the-season tournament as a natural extension of the summer team season. Said exception must be approved, in writing, by the high school athletic director of that school.

**See a 10-Year Schedule of Coaches No-Contact Periods in Board Policy on Page 58**

- B. Summer Camp/Clinic Waiver:

Member schools shall have authority to approve a coaching waiver for camps and or clinics beginning on June 1 and ending on July 31. With the exception of Baseball and Girls Softball, the summer waiver period also includes a one-week no-contact period in July the week of July Fourth. There is no appeal or waiver for the no-contact period.

- C. Procedure for Granting Summer Coaching or Summer Camp/Clinic Waivers:

The designated school representative of the member high school shall document, in writing and keep on file in the school:

- 1) A letter of verification from the coach indicating an agreement to coach the students;
- 2) The official League Summer Waiver online request form that is available on the Coaches Dashboard.

5. **Auditions for College Teams:**

Students/Athletes who have been members of a varsity, junior varsity, B-squad or sophomore team are eligible to participate in tryouts or auditions for college or university scholarships and remain fully eligible to participate in that sport.

6. **Penalties:** Students in violation of the non-school competition and training rules during the high school season, during the school year prior to and following the high school season, and during the summer vacation period are subject to the following penalties.

- A. **First Violation:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of that season, whichever is greater.
- B. **Second Violation:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater.
- C. **Third or Subsequent Violations:** The student shall lose eligibility IN THAT SPORT for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater.
- D. **Applying the Penalty:**
  - 1) If there are fewer events remaining in that sport season than are required to satisfy the penalty, the loss of eligibility will continue into the next season in that sport.
  - 2) A senior who violates the bylaws at the end of a sport season will serve the complete suspension in the next sport season in which the student participates.
- E. Penalties shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing through the student's high school career. A student who is under penalty for violation of a League bylaw may not join a second sport in the same season in order to fulfill a penalty. Penalties shall be served consecutively.

7. **Definitions:**

- A. **High School Team or Squad:** These terms are synonymous and include all students who place themselves under the supervision, control and instructions of the coach assigned to that sport. Competition may be sponsored by a member school of the League at such levels as varsity, B-squad, junior varsity or sophomore.
- B. **Participation:** Membership on a team and listed on the school's Master Eligibility List.



**C. End of Season:****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10.C (Definitions – End of Season)****1) Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:**

- a) The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
- b) Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.

**2) School Team Practice and Competition:**

The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

- a) Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.

- b) Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.

**D. Summer:** Summer shall be defined as the period from the Saturday following the fourth Friday in May through Labor Day. Summer for the sport of soccer shall be defined as the day following the fourth Friday in May through the Sunday immediately prior to the official starting date of the MSHSL high school soccer season. Note: Students may participate in activities during the summer, as defined above, even though their high school sport season in the same sport has begun, i.e. students may play tennis tournaments or participate in road races through Labor Day. Soccer is excluded from dual participation as defined above.**E. Non-School Team:** A non-school team is defined as any group of players who receive coaching, training, uniforms or equipment or who participate in a practice/meet/game/contest/tryouts or a tournament.**F. Coaching, Training and Lessons:** Training shall be defined as receiving instruction in the techniques and skills of a particular sport.**G. Spontaneous Recreation:** Spontaneous, recreational activities are not included in the definition of non-school teams. Such activities could include: school-sponsored intramural teams, high school class teams for the purpose of inter-class tournaments, parent-student recreation teams or faculty-student games.**H. Season:** The season shall begin with the first official date practice is allowed and end with the individual's or team's elimination from further participation in a League tournament series.**I. Football Practice:** Practice is defined as the period of time a participant engages in coach-supervised, school approved, sport or conditioning-related physical activity, including stretching, running, conditioning or physical training in the skills and fundamentals. Team meetings and video sessions do not count as practice for the purpose of this policy.**J. Football Contact Practice:** Contact practice is defined as practice during which there is contact of a physical nature between players in the act of blocking and/or tackling. Contact with sleds or dummies, as well as minimum risk, close range contact, used to teach form blocking, form tackling and shed techniques is not considered to be physical contact.**K. Football Recovery Period:** Recovery period is defined as the time between the end of one practice or walk-thru and the beginning of the next practice or walk-thru. During these times athletes should rest in a cool environment (65- 80 degrees F), with no sport or conditioning-related activity permitted. Team meetings and video may be part of this recovery period if conducted in a cool environment.**BOARD POLICY DEFINITIONS FOR SUMMER FOOTBALL PRACTICE RESTRICTIONS****1. Introduction:** While there is much more to learn about safety and risk management for football, there is a growing body of knowledge in regard to safety and steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of injury and the long term, negative effect, on participants. Acclimatization to heat, equipment and contact is important, as are limitations on the amount of head impact exposures. Rest is also important for both conditioning and brain safety. The following policy has been developed with the intent to keep student athletes safe, while allowing coaches the opportunity to use the summer waiver period to teach football techniques and fundamentals that will assist their players in playing the game safely.**2. Policy:** The intent of practices in the summer is for the development of individual skills and techniques, with limited contact and physical conditioning. When scheduling and conducting practices, consideration must be given for the weather conditions (heat index).**A. Contact Practice:****(i) Only allowed after a minimum of:**

- One day of practice with only helmets and mouth guards, followed by:
- Two days of practice with shoulder pads and helmets, followed by:
- One day of practice with full pads.

**(ii) These four days do not need to be consecutive, but, if more than three consecutive days pass without a practice as defined above, a new four-day acclimatization period is required before a contact practice can be held.****(iii) After this initial acclimatization period, practices do not need to be consecutive days, but if more than four consecutive days pass without a practice a new four-day acclimatization period is required before a contact practice can be held.**

Re-acclimatization is not necessary if there are not contact practices and practices do not include heavy conditioning.

**B. Number of Practices:** During the Summer Coaching Waiver period (June and July) an individual or team may not participate in more than eleven days of practice as defined above, with no more than four practices may be a "Contact Practice" (as defined above). Days and practices at a team camp count toward these limits.



**C. Length of Practice:**

(i) During the summer waiver period, a practice, as defined above, is:

- Restricted to **2 hours** or less for each individual player.\*
- A second practice or training session of **2 hours** or less may be held in the same day, but there must be at least a 2 hour recovery period between practices.
- No more than one practice per day may be a "Contact Practice."
- A contact practice may not be conducted on consecutive days
- If two practices are held in one day, only one practice may be held the next day if practices are conducted on consecutive days.
- Up to one additional hour per day can be spent in video sessions and/or team meetings.
- A student may not participate in more than a total of 5 hours of practice, team meetings, video sessions, or other type of training in one day.
- Individuals or teams may conduct a single practice up to four hours in length if the following criteria is met:
  - Full pads are not worn for more than 30 minutes; shoulder pads and helmets not more than 2 hours
  - There is a minimum of 30 minutes of recovery for any practice that is longer than 2 hours (this must be done in segments of at least 10 minutes (3 breaks of 10 minutes each or 2 breaks of 15 minutes each)
  - No Thud or Live Action
  - No heavy conditioning
  - Focus is on teaching skills and fundamentals

**Note:** At team camps, run by colleges or universities, with two or three consecutive days of practice, players may participate in two practices per day (with two-hour recovery period) and a total of 4 practices with contact ("thud" or "live action"). These practices count towards the summer limitations for days and number of contact practices. A third practice (after a recovery period) may be held for walk-thru and/or 7 on 7. During the third practice no pads other than helmets, no contact, and no heavy conditioning.

(ii) 7 on 7 – can be conducted (with no pads or with helmets only) with no physical contact. 7 on 7 practices count toward the eleven day limit, and both practices and competitions will count toward the two practice per day limit. Days on which there is 7 on 7 competitions only (organized leagues or tournaments with teams from other schools) do not count toward the eleven day limit.

**3. Definitions:**

- A. **Practice** is defined as the period of time a participant engages in coach-supervised, school approved, sport or conditioning-related physical activity, including stretching, running, conditioning or physical training in the skills and fundamentals. Strength training and team meetings or video sessions do not count as a practice for the purpose of this policy.
- B. **Levels of Contact** as defined by USA Football. Levels of Contact focuses on varying intensity levels throughout practices, to build player confidence, ensure their safety and prevent both physical and mental exhaustion. Six intensity levels are used to introduce players to practice drills which position them to master the fundamentals and increase skill development.
- (i) **AIR:** Intensity = 0 Players run a drill unopposed without contact.
- (ii) **BAGS:** Intensity = 1 Drill is run against a bag or another soft-contact surface.
- (iii) **CONTROL:** Intensity = 2 Drill is run at assigned speed until the moment of contact; one player is pre-determined the 'winner' by the coach. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet when involved with contact.
- (iv) **RESTRICTED CONTACT:** Intensity = 3 Teaching safe & proper techniques (block, shed, tackle) involving shoulder pads, and wearing helmets for protection. Contact above the hips only with hands, shoulders and chest. Keep the head out! Use quick whistle; no gang-tackling or cut blocking/tackling. Players stay on their feet when involved with contact.
- (v) **THUD:** Intensity = 4 Drill is run at assigned speed through the moment of contact; no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill.
- (vi) **LIVE ACTION:** Intensity = 5 Drill or scrimmage is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground.
- C. **Contact Practice** is defined as a practice during which drills and/or team work includes "Thud" or "Live Action," as described above. There are no restrictions on "Air," "Bags," "Control," and "Restricted Contact." The Contact portion of this practice may not exceed 30 minutes.
- D. **Recovery Period** is defined as the time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice. During this time athletes shall rest in a cool environment (60-80 degrees F) with no sport or conditioning-related activity permitted. Team meetings and video may be part of this recovery period if conducted in a cool environment.
4. **Penalty:** Penalties will be dependent upon the seriousness of the offense and can include, but are not limited to: censorship of the Head Coach, suspension of the coach or other staff members from coaching one or more games, or suspension from the post-season.

**BYLAW 208.00 INTERPRETATIONS**

1. **Q. May a student on a cross country or track team compete in a 1/2 marathon, marathon, fun run, road race, or a race for a cause, e.g., Race for the Cure, during the season?**

A. Yes, provided that the distance run in the competition is different in length than high school cross country running or track events. Swimmers would likewise be able to compete in non-school competition in events significantly different in length than high school swimming events.

**BYLAW 208.00 INTERPRETATIONS (continued)****2. Q. Can high school coaches participate as a player on a non-school league team or in games during open gym with students they coach on their high school team?**

A. No. It is the philosophy of the Minnesota State High School League that students should have the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities prior to and following the high school sports season provided that these activities are voluntary and not influenced or directed by a salaried or non-salaried member of the student's high school coaching staff. The presence of the student's high school coach as a participant violates the intent of the rule which seeks to prevent school personnel from exerting undue influence on students to participate on non-school teams or attend open gym.

**3. Q. I am the head coach of the high school wrestling program and a member of my high school wrestling team is going to compete at a national tournament in April. Can I coach him at the tournament?**

A. The provisions of MSHSL Bylaw 208—Non-School Competition and training are quite clear. You cannot coach members of our high school team outside of the season, except during the summer waiver period.

**4. Q. During summer waiver practices, can a player from another school practice with our players? For example, if a cousin is visiting here for the summer, can he practice?**

A. There is no such thing as summer waiver practices. Remember, the summer waiver gives your coach permission to have coaching access to his or her student athletes. It is not a school function, it is not your school team, and your school has no responsibility. Your coach is an independent contractor—not acting in his/her official capacity as a high school representing the school.

**5. Q. Is it permissible for a student to participate on a non-school sponsored team and on a school team at the same time?**

A. Yes. A student may participate on a non-school sponsored team and a school sponsored team at the same time provided the non-school team is not in the same sport. Exceptions: Baseball, Girls Softball, Skiing.

**6. Q. May non-school teams use school facilities/equipment?**

A. In as much as these are non-school teams, schools may not provide school facilities or equipment. However, schools may lease/rent facilities/non-personal equipment (volleyball standards, wrestling mats, personal protection equipment such as helmets and shoulder pads, etc.) as they would for any other non-school group or organization in accordance with the school's non-school facility use policy. School uniforms may not be used by non-school teams. This also includes the use of school transportation. Non-school teams must lease/rent the school vehicles.

**7. Q. May students who have been members of a school athletic squad attend specialized sport camps and or clinics during the school year?**

A. Yes. A student who has been a member of a varsity, B-squad, junior varsity, or sophomore team in a given sport may attend a school, camp or clinic in that sport during the school year provided the student receives approval from the high school principal and the student's high school coach in that sport does not own, organize or coach the clinic.

**8. Q. What may a coach do and not do before and after the high school season with his/her high school athletes?****A. MAY DO**

- 1) Provide camp and non-school team information to athletes if approved for a summer waiver and authorized by your athletic director to do so.
- 2) Coaches approved for summer coaching may provide coaching during the prescribed time period. Ref. Bylaw 208, Summer Coaching Waiver.

**MAY NOT DO**

**During the school year, prior to and following the sport season and outside of the approved summer coaching waiver period:**

- 1) May not provide coaching, instruction, training, etc. to any member of their high school team, B-squad, J.V. or varsity other than during the season or under the summer waiver.
- 2) May not influence or direct a player's non-school play. This includes:
  - a) Directing athletes to play in a league or attend a camp or clinic.
  - b) Place athletes on a roster; develop or organize a team roster; draft players for a team; select, secure, evaluate or otherwise influence the placement of athletes on a team for leagues, tournaments, camps or clinics other than those athletes approved for the summer coaching waiver.
- 3) May not direct or unduly influence an athlete to participate in open gym, captain's practice, or non-school teams, leagues or camps.
- 4) May not organize, supervise, direct or otherwise be involved in the organization of captain's practice.

**BYLAW 209.00****SEXUAL/RACIAL/RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT/VIOLENCE  
AND HAZING IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED ATHLETIC AND FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES****Cross Reference: Bylaw 206 (Good Standing and General Eligibility Requirements)**

1. A student shall not engage in sexual, racial or religious harassment or sexual, racial, religious violence or hazing during the school year or any portion of an activity season which occurs prior to the start of the school year or after the close of the school year.
2. Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment and Hazing Violations
  - A. Penalty for Category I Activities: Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment and or Hazing Violations.
    - 1) **First Violation:**  
The student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.
    - 2) **Second Violation:**  
The student shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
    - 3) **Third or Subsequent Violations:**  
The student shall lose eligibility for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant.
    - 4) **Progressive Penalties:**  
Penalties for sexual harassment violations shall be progressive beginning with the first violation and continuing throughout the student's high school career. Penalties shall be served consecutively.
  - B. Penalty for Category II Activities: Sexual, Racial, Religious Harassment and or Hazing Violations.  
Each member school shall develop penalties which it will apply to the participants in these activities. A current copy of the member school's policy shall be kept on file in the member school.
3. Sexual, Racial, Religious Violence and or Hazing Violations:  
Penalty for Category I and II Activities:  
The student shall lose eligibility for the next 12 calendar months.

**Definitions:**

1. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq., and Minnesota Statutes Sections 363A, the Minnesota Human Rights Act.
  - A. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature.
  - B. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:
    - 1) verbal, written/graphic harassment or abuse;
    - 2) subtle pressure for sexual activity;
    - 3) inappropriate patting or pinching;
    - 4) intentional brushing against the individual's body;
    - 5) demanding sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
    - 6) demanding sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status;
    - 7) any unwelcome touching of a sexual nature.
2. Sexual contact is a physical act committed with sexual or aggressive intent. Sexual contact involves the touching of another person's intimate parts or forcing another to touch one's intimate parts, either above or below one's clothing, and includes, but is not limited to:
  - A. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts, either same sex or opposite sex;
  - B. coercing or forcing sexual contact on another;
  - C. coercing or forcing sexual penetration on another;
  - D. threatening to force sexual contact or penetration on another.

Intimate parts include the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast of a human being. Sexual penetration means sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any intrusion however slight into the genital or anal openings of an individual's body.
3. Racial harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct relating to an individual's race when the conduct:
  - A. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
  - B. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
  - C. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.
4. Racial violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race.
5. Religious harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct which is related to an individual's religion when the conduct:
  - A. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
  - B. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
  - C. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

6. Religious violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, religion.
7. Hazing:
  - A. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose.
    - 1) No student, teacher, administrator, coach, volunteer, official or employee of a school shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing.
    - 2) No teacher, administrator, coach, volunteer, official or employee of a school shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing.
    - 3) Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
    - 4) This policy applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property and during and after school hours.
    - 5) A person who engages in an act that violates League policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.
    - 6) The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, official, or employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.
  - B. Hazing may include but is not limited to:
    - 1) Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body;
    - 2) Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;
    - 3) Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health of the student;
    - 4) Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school;
    - 5) Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.
  - C. "Student organization" means a group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.
  - D. Reporting Procedures
    - 1) Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy.
    - 2) The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent.
    - 3) Teachers, administrators, officials, volunteers, and employees of the school district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall inform the building principal immediately.
    - 4) Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignment.
  - E. Reprisal
 

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, coach, official or employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

#### School Actions and Responsibilities

1. **Responsibilities under M.S. 121A.03, subd.2** Any person who believes that she or he has been the victim of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or any third person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute sexual harassment or sexual violence by a student participant in League-sponsored activities should report the alleged acts immediately to a responsible school district official or directly to the Human Rights Officer designated by that district's policy.
2. **Investigation Process** The School District Human Rights Officer, upon receipt of a report or complaint alleging sexual harassment or sexual violence shall immediately authorize an investigation. The investigating party shall provide a written report to the Superintendent of Schools and the District Human Rights Officer or other designated official within the time frame required by the school district policies.
3. **School District Action and Consequences** Any School District action taken pursuant to this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota Statutes and School District policies.
  - A. Upon determination that the complaint is valid, the School District will take such disciplinary action as it deems necessary and appropriate to end sexual harassment and sexual violence and prevent its recurrence.

- B. The results of the investigation will be reported in writing to the complainant and the student(s) named in the complaint by the School District. The report will document the disciplinary action taken as a result of the complaint, eligibility affected by the disciplinary action and the date when the student will return to good standing and be eligible to participate in League-sponsored activities.
- C. The student(s), their parent/guardian will be informed of their due process for the loss of eligibility.
- D. Complaints, investigations and resolutions will be handled as discreetly as possible, with information being shared with those having a need to know and in accordance with the legal obligations of the member school.

#### **200 BYLAWS INTERPRETATIONS – GENERAL**

1. **Q. Can a student practice during a period of ineligibility?**  
A. Yes. Practice is encouraged for the student to maintain conditioning and contact with the team and coach.
2. **Q. Are students ineligible during appeal of the ineligibility ruling by the school?**  
A. Yes. They are ineligible during the appeal process.
3. **Q. Must a student remain out for the activity to receive credit for contests missed?**  
A. Yes. If a student is cut from the team or quits, the consequences remain until the next season of participation.
4. **Q. Do practice and conditioning weeks at the beginning of the season count?**  
A. Yes. When a violation occurs prior to the opening of the season, count the first two weeks of the season. For a first violation, the student's eligibility returns on the third Monday of the season or the day after the second contest, whichever is longer.
5. **Q. During the period of ineligibility, can a student participate in jamborees, inter-school scrimmages and previews?**  
A. Yes. Jamborees, inter-school scrimmages and previews are not interscholastic contests and the student is eligible to participate.
6. **Q. When can a contest be counted if contests are changed by weather or other factors?**  
A. A postponed or cancelled contest cannot be applied to the penalty.
7. **Q. After a third violation, must a student be assessed as chemically dependent to be eligible for reinstatement in League activities after completing a treatment program?**  
A. Yes. The student must be assessed as chemically dependent, and become a participant in a treatment program. After a minimum period of six weeks after entering the program, the student may be certified for reinstatement by the director or counselor of the treatment program. Receiving counseling for chemical abuse does not qualify for reinstatement under this provision.

#### **200 BYLAWS INTERPRETATIONS – DEFINITIONS AND COUNTING CONTESTS**

8. **Q. What is the meaning of the phrase, "next consecutive interscholastic contests"?**  
A. Following confirmation of the violation, the student would lose eligibility to participate in the next contests which occur in a CONSECUTIVE CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE. The contests cannot be selected.
9. **Q. When a student participates on both "A" and "B" squad teams, how do you count the number of contests?**  
A. A student who participates on the varsity and junior varsity teams loses eligibility at the highest level of competition (i.e. varsity) and all other lower levels of competition until the penalty is satisfied. A student could not be moved from one squad to the other for the purpose of counting contests.
10. **Q. How are multiple contests counted?**  
A. Count violations as scheduled for that sport. For example:
  - 1) Double-headers count as two contests;
  - 2) Volleyball or wrestling - for tournaments which are listed as one contest, count one contest;
  - 3) If triple-headers, count as three, etc.
  - 4) Each game of a tournament scheduled in girls basketball, boys basketball, hockey, baseball, and softball should count as a game toward fulfilling the penalty.

#### **200 BYLAWS INTERPRETATION – LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS**

11. **Q. A team or individual advances to a League-sponsored tournament. How are the loss of contests tabulated?**  
A. Each contest scheduled for a team within the League-sponsored tournament would count as one contest. Each match or round of individual competition would count as one contest.



# 200.00 BYLAWS: STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

## BOARD POLICIES

### **re BYLAW 201: NAME, IMAGE and LIKENESS (6/7/22)**

Pursuant to Bylaw 201.00, a student may not participate in League-sponsored activities unless the student is an amateur in that activity. A student loses their amateur status in a sport if the student accepts salary, cash, or merchandise for participation in the sport whether the participation occurs in school or outside of school or uses their athletic skills to promote or advertise products. A student who loses their amateur status is disqualified from further high school participation in that sport.

This policy governs students engaging in commercial activities using their NIL. This includes any situation where a student-athlete promotes or endorses a product or service in exchange for a fee, or otherwise generates income through the use of their NIL, regardless of whether the activities relate to athletics. "Pay for play" (receiving payments simply for being a student-athlete) and improper recruiting inducements remain prohibited.

In addition to complying with this policy, student-athletes who engage in commercial activities using their NIL must also comply with any other applicable MSHSL bylaws and policies, and any applicable school policies. It is the student's responsibility to know and understand any NCAA requirements before engaging in covered activities. In order to protect eligibility, students are encouraged to closely review League rules and policies prior to engaging in any activities covered by this policy. League staff are available to answer questions regarding specific cases as they arise.

International students may also be subject to local laws and rules from their home countries, as well as U.S. immigration laws and rules related to their Student Visa.

### **NAME, IMAGE AND LIKENESS**

A student may earn compensation from the use of their name, image and likeness ("NIL") consistent with current MSHSL regulations and provided:

- The compensation is not contingent on specific athletic performance or achievement (e.g., financial incentives based on points scored).
- The compensation (or prospective compensation) is not provided as an inducement to attend a particular school ("recruiting") or to remain enrolled at a particular school.
- The compensation is commensurate with market value.
- The compensation is not provided by the school or an agent of the school (e.g., booster club, foundation, etc.).
- The NIL activities do not interfere with a student-athlete's academic obligations.
- A student does not miss athletic practice, competition, travel, or other team obligations in order to participate in an NIL opportunity.

### **PERMISSIBLE NIL ACTIVITIES**

#### Teaching/Instructing/Coaching

Pursuant to MSHSL Bylaw 201.2.a(ii), a student may receive compensation for officiating, instructing, teaching or coaching skills in a sport/activity. A student may use their NIL to promote or advertise the availability of such instruction, provided they adhere to school policies for renting facility space in a manner consistent with the general public and compensation is paid by the lesson recipient (or the recipient's family member) and not another individual or entity.

#### Advertising Commercial Product or Service

A student may receive compensation for the use of their NIL in non-school promotional activities and to advertise or promote the sale or use of a commercial product or service, provided there is no school involvement and no MSHSL or school logos, marks, or mascots are used in the advertisement or promotion. A student may not wear or display a school uniform or any other school issued apparel in any endorsement or advertisement.

#### Autographs

A student may receive compensation for their autograph in conjunction with a non-school promotional activity; however, no MSHSL or school logos/marks may be used in conjunction with the sale of the autograph. Compensation for an autograph during a required team related activity (e.g., team community service event) or other school event (music concert, play, etc.) is prohibited.

#### Representation

A student may use the services of a professional service in the following NIL activities:

- Advice, representation, and marketing of NIL activities;
- A student is not permitted to use a professional service provider for NIL activities who is an employee or independent contractor of the member school.
- A fee arrangement must be consistent with typical industry arrangements and must not be discounted as a result of athletic ability.



**PROHIBITED NIL ACTIVITIES**

*A student is not permitted to sell items provided by the school until the student has exhausted eligibility for high school activities. The use of MSHSL or school marks and logos is prohibited for any NIL activity. A student may not reference their involvement in high school activities at their school when promoting a business activity. Students are not permitted to promote activities associated with the following: gaming/gambling; alcoholic beverages, tobacco, cannabis, or related products; banned or illegal substances; adult entertainment products or services; contraceptive product and/or sexual enhancement products; or weapons (e.g., firearms). A student’s NIL may not be used by an equipment company or manufacturer to publicize the fact the school uses its equipment.*

**VIOLATIONS**

*A student who is in violation of this policy is not in good standing and may lose eligibility in one or more activities or athletic programs.*

**re BYLAW 208.4: SUMMER COACHING WAIVER NO-CONTACT PERIOD**

*The Summer Waiver No-Contact Period dates consistently run Saturday through Friday, except when July 4th occurs on a Friday (\*Use Monday as the start for the years when July 4th occurs on a Friday. This protects the integrity of the holiday weekend). There is no appeal or waiver for the no-contact period. The approved dates are:*

2024	June 29 – July 5 (Saturday – Friday)
2025	June 30 – July 6 (Monday – Sunday) *
2026	July 4 – July 10 (Saturday – Friday)
2027	July 3 – July 9 (Saturday – Friday)
2028	July 1 – July 7 (Saturday – Friday)
2029	June 30 – July 6 (Saturday – Friday)
2030	June 29 – July 5 (Saturday – Friday)
2031	June 30 – July 6 (Monday – Sunday) *
2032	July 3 – July 9 (Saturday – Friday)
2033	July 2 – July 8 (Saturday – Friday)

# 300.00

## ADMINISTRATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY BYLAWS

Purpose: The following bylaws are intended to provide direction and assistance to school officials in the administration of the student eligibility program.

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The most current version of the Official Handbook is always posted on the League website — [www.MSHSL.org](http://www.MSHSL.org)

# 300.00 BYLAWS: ADMINISTRATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

*A Fair Hearing Procedure is provided for all students who wish to appeal a school's determination of a student's eligibility.*

## 1. Fair Hearing Procedure

Section 211.02.8 of the Constitution of the Minnesota State High School League provides a Fair Hearing Procedure for a student, parent or guardian to appeal a school's determination of ineligibility of a student pursuant to the student's violation of a League bylaw.

- A. The purpose of the Fair Hearing Procedure is to allow a local hearing panel to review the decision of the school representatives regarding the student's declaration of ineligibility. All rulings must be consistent with League bylaws. Only the Board of Directors has the constitutional authority to waive the application of the penalty for the violation of any bylaw.
- B. These Fair Hearing Procedures apply to all eligibility situations where a student, parent or guardian contests the school's eligibility decision EXCEPT in the situations identified below.
  - 1) The student admits to the violation.
  - 2) The student neither admits to nor denies the violation, but accepts and serves the penalty.
  - 3) The sole issue in question is the determination by the school to impose a penalty greater than the minimum League suspension for the violation.
  - 4) The principal's decision regarding the school's eligibility requirements for the student, including student code of responsibilities. (See Bylaw 206.1 and 206.2)

## 2. General Eligibility Review Process

Bylaw 305 - Master Eligibility List and Bylaw 306—Responsibility for Student Eligibility indicates it is the responsibility of the school administrator to determine the eligibility of all students who participate in League-sponsored programs offered by their schools. When a student's eligibility is in jeopardy due to an alleged violation of the League bylaws and policies, the school will conduct an investigation. The investigation will begin on the day the school is first notified of the alleged violation and it shall conclude within ten (10) school business days. At the conclusion of the investigation the school must make a determination of the eligibility status of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the member school to notify the student, parent or guardian in writing of the eligibility determination. The written notification must also include a copy of the Fair Hearing Procedure and the Acknowledgement of Rights.

- A. A student, parent or guardian may contest a school's eligibility decision as follows:
  - 1) Within ten (10) school business days of the documented notification regarding eligibility, the student, parent or guardian must request a hearing on the school's eligibility decision. The written request for hearing must include a statement outlining the basis for the claim of eligibility.
  - 2) The school administrator shall convene a hearing panel of from three (3) to five (5) members within ten (10) school business days after receipt of the request for hearing. The hearing panel may include a member of the School Board, a member of the school's administrative staff and a member of the school faculty, or the school may elect to have the hearing conducted by an independent hearing officer.
    - a) Any member of the school staff who was involved in the investigation or the initial eligibility determination cannot serve as part of the hearing panel.
    - b) One member of the hearing panel must be identified as the chair.
    - c) The school must send the notification of the hearing by certified mail or personally deliver it to the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
    - d) The student's parents(s) or guardian(s) must be provided a minimum of three (3) school business days notice beginning with the receipt of the notice of the hearing.
    - e) The notice shall state the date, time, and place of the hearing.
    - f) The student shall have a right to be represented by a person of the student's choice, which may include legal counsel.
    - g) All costs of the hearing incurred by the school shall be borne by the school.
  - 3) The hearing panel shall:
    - a) **Designate** one of the panel members as the chair.
    - b) **Make** an audio recording of the hearing and preserve a written record pending ultimate outcome of the matter.
    - c) **Hear** the complete evidence on the matter.
    - d) Determine if the school's declaration of ineligibility is supported by a preponderance of evidence and is consistent with League bylaws. When making this determination, the committee shall meet on its own and no other persons shall be present or participate in any way in the committee's deliberations.

- e) *Issue written findings of fact, conclusions and determination. The written findings, conclusions and determination shall be sent by registered mail or personally delivered to the student, parent or guardian and the Executive Director of the League within four (4) school business days of the conclusion of the hearing. The findings, conclusion and recommendations shall be stated in sufficient detail to apprise the parties of the basis and reason for the determination. The chair of the hearing panel shall be responsible for composing the written findings and shall sign the findings on behalf of the hearing panel.*
    - f) *Within ten (10) school business days of receipt of the determination of the hearing panel the Executive Director of the League or his designee shall either affirm or overrule the determination made by the school hearing panel based on compliance with League bylaws. If the decision of the hearing panel is overruled, then the Executive Director shall notify the school and the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) of his decision registered mail. If the decision of the hearing panel is affirmed, notification shall be sent by first class mail.*
  - B. *A student, parent or guardian may **appeal** the decision of the hearing panel or Executive Director of the League to the League Board of Directors. To appeal, the student, parent or guardian must:*
    - 1) *Submit a written notice of appeal to the Executive Director of the League and a copy to the school principal. The notice of appeal must be personally delivered or postmarked within ten (10) school business days of the receipt of the written findings of fact, conclusions and determination from the school hearing panel or the decision of the League Executive Director. The notice must outline the basis of the appeal.*
    - 2) *The written request for a League-level fair hearing will be reviewed by League staff. Within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the written request the League will contact the student, parent or guardian to indicate whether the rationale warrants a League-level fair hearing. An extension to the ten (10) day notification window may be made by mutual agreement.*
    - 3) *If the appeal request is granted the hearing shall be scheduled on a mutually acceptable date.*
    - 4) *The appeal by an Independent Hearing Officer shall be a review of the proceedings and the record of the local hearing panel decision or the decision of the League Executive Director.*
    - 5) *The proceedings of the appeal shall be recorded and preserved pending the ultimate disposition of the matter. In the event that the audio recording or the written record is inadequate for review, the hearing officer may remand the case back to the local school district for a new hearing.*
    - 6) *The appeal shall be heard by an Independent Hearing Officer. If all parties agree, the hearing may be conducted by telephone; or the hearing may consist of an independent review of the local level record which shall include the documents presented at the hearing and the written arguments.*
    - 7) *The student shall have a right to a representative of the student's choice, which may include legal counsel.*
    - 8) *Within four (4) business days of the oral presentation made at the League level, the Independent Hearing Officer shall make a recommendation to the League Board of Directors. The recommendation shall be in writing and based upon the record, including the oral and written presentations of the parties from the local level hearings. The recommendation of the Independent Hearing Officer will govern the student's eligibility until action by the League Board of Directors or by the League Executive Director acting on behalf of the League Board of Directors.*
    - 9) *The League Board of Directors will review and officially act upon the matter at its first regularly scheduled meeting following the receipt of the Independent Hearing Officer's decision.*
    - 10) *The decision of the League Board of Directors shall be final.*
    - 11) *If any of the procedural steps identified in sections **2.A.1, 2.A.2, or 2.A.3** above are omitted during the local level hearing and the Independent Hearing Officer finds that the student has been prejudiced, the Independent Hearing Officer may direct the school to rehear the case at the local level. If a rehearing is required, a new local hearing panel shall be used.*
  - C. *A violation of the technical provision of the Fair Hearing Procedure, made in good faith, is not a defense to the disciplinary procedure unless the student can show actual prejudice as a result of the violation.*
- 3. **Eligibility Appeal Procedures for a Transgender Student**
  - A. **Introduction.** *In accordance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations, the Minnesota State High School League allows participation for all students consistent with their gender identity or expression in an environment free from discrimination with an equal opportunity for participation in athletics and fine arts.*
  - B. **Transgender Eligibility Appeal Procedures.** *The application to appeal a transgender eligibility determination is limited to the following circumstances:*
    - 1) *The school must have made a determination of ineligibility based on the student's gender identity after receiving information that the student has a consistent gender identity or that the gender identity is sincerely held as part of the student's core identity and the gender identity is different from the student's sex assigned at birth and that the student wishes to participate in athletics in a manner consistent with the student's gender identity.*
    - 2) *The appeal must be submitted to the MSHSL Executive Director or Executive Director's Designee and may include, but is not limited to, the following:*
      - a) *The student's current transcript, school registration and any additional relevant information.*
      - b) *The written statement from the student and the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) affirming the consistent gender-related identity and expression to which the student self-relates.*
      - c) *Statements from individuals such as, but not limited to parents, friends, and/or teachers, which affirm that the actions, attitudes, dress and manner demonstrate the student's consistent or sincerely held gender-related identification and expression.*
      - d) *A written statement from an appropriate health-care professional, acting within the scope of his/her licensure that verifies the existence of the student's consistent and uniform gender-related identity or sincerely held gender-related identity.*
      - e) *Any other evidence that the gender identity is sincerely held as part of the person's core identity as may be required by the school or the MSHSL office relative to the eligibility determination.*

Continued on Page 62

- 3) When the MSHSL Executive Director or the Executive Director's Designee has received the appeal from the student, the Executive Director or the Executive Director's Designee shall contact an Independent Hearing Officer who will review the submitted information.
- 4) In addition to the review of submitted information, the Independent Hearing Officer may:
  - a) communicate with experts, within their scope of licensure, with experience in gender identity health care.
  - b) communicate with the Minnesota Department of Education, Office of Monitoring and Assistance.
  - c) communicate with legislative counsel relative to existing state laws, rules and procedures.
  - d) communicate with representatives of the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights regarding Title IX and related laws, rules, guidance and procedures.
  - e) review any other pertinent information as may be necessary in order to render a decision that complies with state and federal laws, rules and regulations.
- 5) Following a complete review of the information, the Independent Hearing Officer's recommendation shall be effective until reviewed by the MSHSL Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- 6) If the Independent Hearing Officer affirms the eligibility of the student, the student will be eligible to participate in MSHSL activities consistent with the student's gender identification for the balance of the student's high school eligibility.
- 7) Any decision of the Hearing Officer shall take into account the exemptions for religious affiliated non-public schools as set out in Minn. Stat. 363A.24, 363A.26, 20 U.S.C. 1681(a)(3) and 34 C.F.R. 106.12(a).

Amended on February 4, 2016 as recommended by the MN Department of Education; Division of Compliance and Assistance on December 17, 2015.

#### 5. IEP/504 Appeal Procedure

- A. **Introduction.** Minn. Stat. 128C.02, subd. 5(c) requires the MSHSL to "...adopt league rules making a student with an individualized education program who transfers from one public school to another public school as a reasonable accommodation to reduce barriers to educational access immediately eligible to participate in league-sponsored varsity competition on the same basis as other students in the school to which the student transfers. The league also must establish guidelines, consistent with this paragraph, for reviewing the 504 plan of a student who transfers between public schools to determine whether the student is immediately eligible to participate in league-sponsored varsity competition on the same basis as other students in the school to which the student transfers."

**Please Note:** The MSHSL Board of Directors approved M.S. 128C.02, subd. 5(c) to include all MSHSL member schools on June 1, 2015.

- B. **Procedure.** The following procedure was approved by the MSHSL Board of Directors for students with an individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan on August 5, 2014.

**Step 1:** A student/the student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will submit, in writing, information to the Executive Director of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) identifying:

- a) The barriers to educational access they believe are present at the school (sending school) in which the student is enrolled; and
- b) The school (receiving school) to which the student intends to enroll; and
- c) The specific programming available at the receiving school that will constitute a reasonable accommodation to reduce barriers to educational access.

**Step 2:** Upon receipt of the letter from the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) the Executive Director of the MSHSL shall contact the school principal/activity director/IEP/504 case manager at the sending school to:

- a) Affirm that the sending school has met with the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and has discussed the identified barriers to educational access; and
- b) Affirm that the school believes the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) believe that there are barriers to educational access as identified in the letter submitted to the Executive Director of the MSHSL; and
- c) Ask if the principal/activities director/IEP/504 case manager believes the transfer to the public school identified in the letter from the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) is athletically motivated.

**Step 3:** At the same time the letter is sent to the sending school the Executive Director of the MSHSL shall contact the school to:

- a) Affirm that the receiving school has met with the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to discuss the identified barriers to educational access at the sending school; and
- b) Affirm that the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) believe that there are barriers to educational access at the sending school as identified in the letter submitted to the Executive Director of the MSHSL; and
- c) Affirm, given the information identified by the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s), that opportunities are available at the receiving school to reduce the identified barriers to educational access; and
- d) Affirm, to the extent possible, that the transfer from the sending school to the receiving school is not athletically motivated.

**Step 4:** The Executive Director of the MSHSL will review all of the information submitted by the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s), the sending school and the receiving school and will render a decision relative to the eligibility of the student.

**Step 5:** If the student/student's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) wish to appeal the decision of the Executive Director of the MSHSL, they may do so, in writing, and an Independent Hearing Officer shall be called to review the documentation provided and render an eligibility determination.

**Step 6:** The determination of the Independent Hearing Officer shall be final pending action by the MSHSL Board of Directors at their next regularly scheduled meeting.



**BYLAW 301.00****CERTIFYING STUDENT ELIGIBILITY****Cross References: Bylaw 103 (Credit Requirements) and Bylaw 104 (Enrollment)**

1. Only students who are fully enrolled in and attending your school are eligible to participate for your school in League sponsored activities. (Unless otherwise approved by League staff under the provisions of MSHSL Bylaw 111)
2. Not later than three days prior to the first interscholastic competition each member school shall:
  - A. Place on file in the school a complete Master Eligibility List of all students planning to participate in athletics, fine arts, dance team and cheerleading for that activity year;
  - B. Furnish a copy of the Master Eligibility List to the League office upon request;
  - C. Furnish a copy of the Master Eligibility List to member schools that request a copy.
3. Additions to the Master Eligibility List will be certified prior to competition.

**BYLAW 302.00****CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS ELIGIBILITY RULES**

Member schools in cities of the first class may be governed by their own student eligibility bylaws when competing against schools from their own school district. The Constitution and Activity Bylaws of the League shall govern all interscholastic contests and meets which involve schools outside the city school system as well as in section and state tournaments and meets.

**BYLAW 303.00****ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION BROCHURE FOR ATHLETIC AND FINE ARTS ACTIVITIES****Cross References: Bylaw 105 (Grade Level Eligibility), Bylaw 109 (Seasons of Participation), Bylaw 110 (Semesters Enrolled)**

1. School officials are required to provide a copy of the "Eligibility Information Brochure" to each student interested in participating in League-sponsored programs.
2. Prior to practice or participation, the student and one parent or guardian must sign and return one copy of the Eligibility Information Brochure to the student's school. The student's signature will certify that they have read and understand the bylaws. The parent's or guardian's signature will acknowledge the receipt of the copy that is to be retained by the family. The copy containing the signatures will be placed on file in the school. This must be accomplished before a student may be placed on the school's Master Eligibility List.
3. **School Officials Responsibilities:**
  - A. read, discuss and explain the bylaws in the "Eligibility Information Brochures" to the high school student body;
  - B. post copies of the "Eligibility Information Brochures" in appropriate areas in the high school; and
  - C. furnish copies of the "Eligibility Information Brochures" to the local press with a request that they be published.
4. **Junior High School Bylaws:** Eligibility bylaws do apply to junior high school students who are participating in senior high school activities. Eligibility bylaws do not apply to a junior high program (grades 7-8-9) unless a school has taken formal action to adopt them.

**BYLAW 304.00****INELIGIBLE STUDENT**

1. Ineligible students shall not be used by mutual agreement of member schools. The penalty for a violation of this bylaw shall be suspension of both schools for a period of one calendar year from the date of the violation.
2. An ineligible student who participates in any League sport, shall be disqualified from all interscholastic athletics for nine additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility.
3. **Applying the Penalty:**
  - A. **The Game or Meet:**
    - 1) If an ineligible student is used in any interscholastic contest, whether deliberately or inadvertently, forfeiture of the game and honors for team sports and points and honors for individual sports shall be automatic and mandatory.
      - a) **Team sports:** In football, basketball, volleyball, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and baseball, the game and honors shall be forfeited.
      - b) **Team/individual sports:** In cross country, wrestling, gymnastics, skiing, swimming, track, golf, tennis, and synchronized swimming, any points and or honors won by an ineligible participant individually or as a member of a relay or other team shall be forfeited.
    - 2) If a student's eligibility is in jeopardy due to an alleged violation of the bylaw on mood-altering chemicals or non-school competition, the student will be allowed to participate pending completion of the investigation without jeopardizing team points, team honors, or victories. The investigation shall be completed within 10 calendar days.
  - B. **The Contestant:**
    - 1) The penalty will not apply to a student's eligibility when the infraction is due to either the bylaw on mood-altering chemicals or non-school competition, unless the student denies violation of the bylaw, is allowed to participate and is subsequently found guilty of the violation.
    - 2) Should the ineligibility be due to the improper application of the bylaw on Enrollment, 104.00; Attendance, 102.00; Transfer, 111.00; or Credit Requirements, 103.00 and the student is not responsible for causing the error, it will be regarded as an error by those administering the bylaws and school officials will be held responsible. In such case, the League Board of Directors may adjust the penalty against the student.
    - 3) **Practice While Ineligible:** The League bylaws apply only to competition against another team in a game or meet. The question of whether to allow a student to practice when ineligible is one of local determination.



**C. The School:**

The Board may penalize the school official or school officials responsible for an error under powers granted in the League Constitution, 213.02, if they judge the error by school officials to be deliberate, intentional, or sufficiently careless to warrant such special action.

**BYLAW 305.00****MASTER ELIGIBILITY LIST****Cross Reference: Board Policy 305**

1. The Master Eligibility List is an official declaration made by the principal indicating the names and data included within it are accurate and valid and that the individuals named are fully eligible to represent their school in all League activities. The data on the Master Eligibility List certifies that all students, as a group:
  - A. are carrying sufficient credits to graduate in four years after entering the 9th grade;
  - B. have passed the required physical examination before starting athletic, dance team or cheerleading practice;
  - C. have not been in attendance in grades 9-12 inclusive for more than eight consecutive semesters (four years);
  - D. have signed the Eligibility Information Brochure which is required for athletics, fine arts, dance team and cheerleading.
2. In the case of a transfer student, it is the responsibility of the receiving school to secure the necessary transcript and transfer information from the school(s) previously attended by the student before certifying that student's eligibility. It shall be the responsibility of the high school principal to review the eligibility requirements for all students, especially the transcript and other records for transfer students before signing the Master Eligibility List.
3. Receiving schools must include the data required below on the Master Eligibility List for all transfer students:
  - A. the school from which the student has transferred.
  - B. the date of enrollment at the student's new school.
  - C. the condition of transfer if applicable, which grants eligibility for the student to participate in varsity athletic contests.

**BYLAW 305.00 INTERPRETATIONS**

1. **Q. At what point does a student become eligible in a school, and when should that student's name be placed on a Master Eligibility List?**

A. Any student who represents a member school **MUST** meet all of the League eligibility requirements before the student can compete as a representative of that school. Administrators must carefully review eligibility requirements for students who represent their school.
2. **Q In our community there is a private school which is not a member of the League. Can students from that school participate on teams in our school since the parents live in our community?**

A. No. A student is eligible for participation only in the high school in which the student is fully enrolled.
3. **Q Whose responsibility is it to provide the names of student participants for the Master Eligibility List in a cooperatively sponsored activity?**

A. The responsibility for the Master Eligibility List lies with each member school.
4. **Q Whose names should be listed on the Master Eligibility List?**

A. League bylaws govern students who participate at the sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity level. Therefore, the information about any student, grades 7-12, who participates on any of these teams needs to be included on the Master Eligibility List.

**BYLAW 306.00****RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

1. The designated administrator of a member school shall be held completely and solely responsible to certify that all students representing their school in League sponsored activities are properly enrolled and meet all of the eligibility requirements of the League. When a violation of the bylaws occurs, school administrators are expected and required to enforce the penalties prescribed in the bylaws.
2. It is not the responsibility of League officials to certify the eligibility status of students representing member schools. It is the responsibility of the League to examine and rule on all evidence submitted in relation to purported and actual violations of League bylaws and regulations. It is also the responsibility of the League to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that League activities realize the purposes for which they were established and are maintained.
3. **Administrative Error:** If the action or interpretation of League bylaws by a school official causes a student to become ineligible, the school must submit a report to the League including the following:
  - A. Complete report of the incident.
  - B. Identify the administrator responsible for the error.
  - C. Description of the administrative sanctions the school has imposed on the responsible administrator; and
  - D. An administrative plan to insure that all League bylaws are properly interpreted and followed.

**BYLAW 307.00****UNDUE INFLUENCE ON STUDENTS**

1. It shall be a violation for any school representative to exert undue influence on students to participate on non-school teams or to participate in camps, clinics, open gym, captain's practice or other activities. A School representative shall not require or demand participation in a camp or clinic or on a non-school team as a condition of membership for a school team.
2. An alleged violation will require a letter of inquiry from the League office. On the basis of the response from the member school to the letter of inquiry, the Board of Directors may choose to appoint a committee to conduct a full investigation. It shall be an obligation of the member school to cooperate with this investigating committee and to provide all information pertinent to the investigation.
3. **Penalty**  
A confirmed violation will result in a fine to the member school.
  - A. On the first offense, the fine shall be \$500.
  - B. On the second offense, the fine shall be \$750.
  - C. On the third offense, the fine shall be \$1,000.
4. **Appeal**  
All appeals by school representatives, including coaches, who have been found to be in violation of this bylaw shall be heard by an independent hearing officer at the local level.

**BYLAW 308.00****UNDUE SOLICITATION OF A STUDENT**

1. Any verbal or written contact initiated by a representative of another school soliciting the transfer of a high school student or junior high school student to participate in a sport will be considered as asserting undue influence, for which the school may be publicly censured, removed from tournament competition, or suspended from the League. If the contact is initiated by an individual who is not a representative of a school, that individual's name shall be recorded and a warning issued. If a further violation is reported relative to this individual, they will be considered to be a representative of the school, and the school may be subject to a suspension from League-sponsored activities.
2. Unless reliable evidence to the contrary is presented, the Board of Directors shall accept as prima facie evidence of undue influence: awarding of tuition, allowance for board/room, allowance for transportation, priority in assignments of jobs, cash or gifts in any form, or any other privilege or consideration accorded if not similarly available to students not participating in athletics.
3. An alleged violation will require a letter of inquiry from the League office. On the basis of the response to the member school from the letter of inquiry, the Board of Directors may choose to appoint a committee to conduct a full investigation. It shall be an obligation of any member school to cooperate with this investigating committee which shall include a full disclosure of all records, scholarships, and information pertinent to the investigation.
4. **Penalty:**
  - A. Student: Undue influence by any person connected or not connected with the school which results in securing or retaining the attendance of a student in a school shall cause the student to be ineligible for one calendar year.
  - B. School: Any verbal or written contact initiated by a representative of another school will be considered as asserting undue influence, for which the school may be:
    - 1) Publicly censured;
    - 2) Fined;
      - a) On the first offense, the fine shall be \$500;
      - b) On the second offense, the fine shall be \$750;
      - c) On the third offense, the fine shall be \$1,000;
    - 3) Removed from tournament competition; or
    - 4) Suspended from the League.

# 300.00 BYLAWS: ADMINISTRATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY BOARD POLICIES

## **SCHOOL INSURANCE FOR STUDENTS**

*Catastrophe Plan. The League Board of Directors shall make available a special Catastrophe Accident Insurance policy. Questions concerning the policy should be directed to:*

Dissinger Reed, A Division of HUB International  
9200 Ward Parkway, Suite 500  
Kansas City, MO 64114

**Office:** 913-491-6385

**Fax:** 913-491-0527

[www.dissingerreed.com](http://www.dissingerreed.com)

# 400.00

## ADMINISTRATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAM BYLAWS

Purpose: The following bylaws are intended to provide direction and assistance in the administration of League-sponsored activities.

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The most current version of the Official Handbook is always posted on the League website — [www.MSHSL.org](http://www.MSHSL.org)

400.00 BYLAWS:

ADMINISTRATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

BYLAW 401.00

CHEERLEADING

Cheerleaders will be required to qualify under the following eligibility bylaws: Age, 101.00; Credit Requirements, 103.00; Enrollment, 104.00; Physical Examination, 107.00; Seasons, 109.00; Semesters, 110.00 and Chemical, 205.00.

*Note: Board Policy indicates Bylaw 206 Good Standing and General Eligibility Requirements is now applicable.*

BYLAW 402.00

CONTEST RULES

The following rules, except as modified by the League, shall govern all interschool competition in the respective sport or activity. League rule modifications are printed in the current Athletic Rules and Policies Manual in the section designated for each activity. The Rules and Policies Manual is available on the League website.

1. National Federation Rules Books:
- |                       |                            |                     |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Baseball              | Gymnastics, Girls          | Swimming and Diving |
| Basketball            | Hockey                     | Track and Field     |
| Cheerleading (Spirit) | Lacrosse, Boys             | Volleyball, Girls   |
| Cross Country Running | Soccer                     | Wrestling           |
| Football              | Softball, Girls Fast-Pitch |                     |
2. Sport Association Rules Books:
- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Badminton, Girls .....             | United States Badminton Association’s Official Rules of Play and Court Officials Handbook                 |
| Golf .....                         | United States Golf Association  |
| Tennis .....                       | United States Tennis Association  |
| Lacrosse, Girls .....              | US Lacrosse endorsed by the NFHS  |
| Skiing .....                       | Federation International de Ski & National Collegiate Athletic Association                                |
| Synchronized Swimming, Girls ..... | United States Synchronized Swimming Association as modified and approved by the League Board of Directors |
3. Dance Team .....
- Competition rules as adapted by the League Board of Directors
4. Adapted Bowling .....
- Competition rules as adapted by the League Board of Directors

BYLAW 403.00

COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP OF AN ACTIVITY  
BY TWO OR MORE MEMBER SCHOOLS

**Purpose of Cooperative Sponsorships (11/17/20)**

*Cooperative Sponsorships of MSHSL programs are established for the purpose of creating, growing, and maintaining education-based opportunities through programs that provide access for all students to a broad range of activities. These agreements support student participation in programs that are sustainable (financial, participation numbers, other etc.), have access to suitable facilities, provide appropriate levels of competition, and create communities for students. Through these agreements, member schools are expected to promote cooperation, partnership, sportsmanship and the beliefs of the MSHSL.*

1. Cooperative sponsorship of an activity by two or more member schools will be considered under the following conditions. Class A and Class AA refers to the school size for placement into Administrative Regions and does not refer to the tournament classification to which a school may be assigned for a particular sport. For purposes of administering this bylaw, the largest 128 schools by enrollment shall be Class AA, and the rest of the schools shall be Class A.
- A. When any member school cooperatively sponsors an activity with any other member school(s), 100% of the total enrollment of the largest member school in the co-op and 50% of the enrollment of the other member school(s) in the co-op school be combined to determine the appropriate competitive classification.
- For the purposes of the competitive section placement process, the geographic location of the cooperative sponsorship will be the geographic location of the school with the largest MSHSL enrollment.*

**Cooperative sponsorship between two or more member schools.**

**MSHSL Sponsored Activities:**

Badminton, Girls	Football	Soccer, Adapted
Baseball	Hockey, B/G	Softball, Adapted
Basketball, B/G	Lacrosse, B/G	Softball, Girls Fast-Pitch
Bowling, Adapted	Music	Swimming and Diving, B/G
Cross Country Running, B/G	One Act Play	Synchronized Swimming, Girls
Debate	Skiing, Alpine, B/G	Tennis, B/G
Dance Team	Skiing, Nordic Ski Racing, B/G	Visual Arts
Golf, B/G	Speech	Volleyball, Girls
Gymnastics, Girls	Soccer, B/G	Wrestling
Floor Hockey, Adapted		

**2. Newly formed Cooperative Sponsorships**

A. Each school that wishes to cooperatively sponsor an MSHSL activity must provide:

- 1) the documented need for the co-op including participation numbers for each school at all grade levels 7-12, facilities available, financial impacts or benefits and appropriate student data that indicates interest in the program.
- 2) a summary of the steps each school has taken to promote participation in the activity for which a cooperative sponsorship is proposed and what is the future intent of the program.
- 3) a written review and comment regarding the proposed cooperative sponsorship from:
  - a) the AD of each member school of the conference/conferences in which the proposed cooperative sponsorship school(s) participates.
  - b) the AD of each school in the most current competitive section or sub-section in which the proposed cooperative sponsorship will participate
  - c) the Secretary of the Region Committee in which the largest school in the proposed cooperative sponsorship competes as reviewed at a Region Committee meeting OR by contacting the Region Committee members, individually, for their response.

In each instance in letters a-c above, a simple majority of the schools in the conference, section(s) and the Region Committee must approve the proposed cooperatively sponsored activity before any of the required information can be submitted to the MSHSL office.

- 4) any other information as may be deemed informative for the MSHSL Board of Directors in making a final determination regarding the proposed cooperative sponsorship.

B. Appeal to Add a Cooperative Sponsorship:

The League Board of Directors will provide a hearing process for any member school requesting an exception to any cooperative sponsorship not approved per MSHSL Bylaw 403.2.A or 403.4.B. The request for a hearing shall be submitted in writing and sent to the Executive Director of the Minnesota State High School League prior to the first day of that sport season.

C. Appeal to Review an Existing Cooperative Sponsorship:

By October 15th of the school year in which the League completes the two-year competitive placement cycle, any conference or school(s) within the section in which members of the cooperative sponsorship competes can request a review in writing of any existing cooperative sponsorship to the Executive Director of the MSHSL provided the reason for the request fully details why the Board of Directors should consider such review of the cooperative sponsorship. The process for a review of an existing cooperative sponsorship is available through the League Office.

**3. Cooperative Sponsorship with Charter Schools (Non-Exclusive Cooperative Sponsorship)**

Charter schools who are members of the Minnesota State High School League and who are organized as prescribed by M.S. 124E.03 may have multiple non-exclusive cooperative sponsorships in the same League-sponsored activity with public schools provided that:

- A. The Charter School does not have its own team in that activity;
- B. The Charter School student(s) return(s) to the public school in the attendance area of the public school where the student(s) officially resides with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s);
- C. The Charter Schools, on behalf of the student(s) officially enrolled in the Charter School, comply with all of the eligibility and financial requirements prescribed by the public school in the attendance area where the student(s) officially resides with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).
- D. The boards of education of the public school(s) and the Charter School agree to cooperatively sponsor the activity and complete the required League cooperative sponsorship form(s).

**4. Application Procedure**

- A. Each member school participating in a cooperative sponsorship must register and pay as an individual school to participate in each cooperatively sponsored activity.
- B. The governing boards of participating member schools must jointly make the application to the League Board of Directors.
  - 1) The request must include a resolution adopted by each board of education stating the purpose for sponsoring a joint team or activity.
  - 2) Each application for a cooperative sponsorship must include the requirements as identified in 403.2.A.
  - 3) Deadline for Application: Requests for a cooperative sponsorship must be submitted to the League not later than 30 days prior to the first day of practice for that sport season to be considered for that sport season. Decisions for applications for cooperative sponsorship activities will be determined by the League at the next Board of Directors meeting.
- C. Cooperative sponsorship agreements must be for a minimum of two years. Cooperative sponsorship agreements will be continuous following the first two-year agreement unless an application for dissolution is submitted as outlined in MSHSL Bylaw 403.8.
- D. Any member school(s) who add a co-op later than 30 days prior to the first day of practice in that sport may request the Board of Directors to review the request as identified in 403.2.B.

**5. Transfers Between Schools with Cooperative Programs**

When a student transfers from one school to another school that cooperatively sponsor a program or programs the student shall remain fully eligible in all programs that are cooperatively sponsored. MSHSL Bylaw 111—Transfer and Residence, shall be used to determine the student's eligibility for the programs that are not cooperatively sponsored.

**6. Home Schools and Charter Schools**

Home schools and Charter schools joining the League and entering into cooperative sponsorship agreements after September 1 will be allowed a late registration provided they can show evidence from their local school administration that they had no knowledge of the League deadline dates, process, etc.



**7. Identification of Cooperatively Sponsored Teams**

The official school identification in tournament programs and press releases for cooperatively sponsored teams will be listed as indicated on the cooperative sponsorship resolutions submitted by the schools.

**8. Reviewing, Amending, Dissolving a Cooperative Sponsorship**

- A. Cooperative Sponsorship agreements must be reviewed by representatives from all schools involved every two years. Amendments to the cooperative sponsorship may not be unreasonably denied by the participating schools.
- B. If either or any of the schools involved in the cooperative sponsorship wish to dissolve the agreement, they may do so provided a minimum of one year's notice is given in writing to the other school(s) unless the schools involved mutually agree to discontinue the cooperative sponsorship agreement.
- C. Requests to dissolve the cooperative sponsorship must be submitted to the League not later than the first day of practice for that sport season. Decisions on all applications will be determined by the League at the next Board of Directors meeting.
- D. The dissolution request must include a resolution stating the purpose for dissolving the cooperative sponsorship.
- E. Any conference or competitive section school(s) in which the members of the cooperative sponsorship activity competes may ask the MSHSL Board of Directors to review the co-op approval as identified in 403.2C.
- F. The Board of Directors may establish a committee to review all requests.

**BYLAW 403.00 INTERPRETATION*****Q. What procedure should be followed when an additional school is to be added to an existing cooperative sponsorship agreement?***

- A. *Cooperative sponsorship is an agreement between two or more member schools. When an additional school is to be added to an existing cooperative sponsorship agreement, a new application must be submitted on behalf of all of the schools that are going to be involved in the new agreement. At the same time application for dissolution should be submitted for the existing agreement. The new agreement creates a Cooperative Sponsorship that must be in place for two years.*

**BYLAW 404.00****LOCAL CONTROL**

Member schools may, if they so desire, prescribe eligibility bylaws that are more restrictive than those of the League. They may not adopt bylaws which lessen the effect of or change League bylaws except as noted in 302.00

**BYLAW 405.00****MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION  
IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS**

Team: A member school must schedule a minimum of three interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League-sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

Individual: Nordic and Alpine skiers must compete in at least three separate high school meets to be eligible to enter section competition.

**BYLAW 406.00****PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Group and individual physical development programs open to all students between the close of one season and the opening of the next season are encouraged. The use of high school gymnasiums and other athletic facilities during the same period is also encouraged. Coaching of sport techniques and skills to students who have participated on high school teams is a violation of the bylaw and should not be included in a program which emphasizes physical development rather than skills and techniques of specific sports. Chalk talks/"skull sessions" emphasizing sport skills and techniques are a violation of the bylaw. There shall be no requirement for athletes to participate in the program as a criteria for being on a high school team. Activities conducted by secondary students and sanctioned camps or clinics are exceptions to this bylaw.

**BYLAW 407.00****PROTESTS AGAINST DECISIONS OF CONTEST OFFICIALS**

1. Protests against decisions of contest officials will not be honored.
  - A. League officials will render an interpretation to all parties involved as to the proper application of contest rules in cases protested if the complete facts are presented, in writing, to the League office. Such interpretations, however, will not alter the outcome of the contest. The decisions of contest officials are final.
  - B. It is recognized that errors in interpretations and application of bylaws and in judgment situations are inevitable. However, the orderly and sportsmanlike conduct of high school activities requires that officials' decisions must be honored and be final.
  - C. Video recordings will not be used to overrule an official's decision or change the outcome of the game, meet or contest.
2. It is strongly recommended that contest officials be agreed upon well ahead of the date for all dual and tournament contests. School officials are expected to employ the best-qualified contest officials available and to place the operation of the contest entirely in their hands. Contest officials include referees, umpires, judges, timers, scorers and others responsible for the direct operation of a contest.

**BYLAW 408.00****REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF LEAGUE BYLAWS**

1. Any protests against a member school for violation of League bylaws shall be made in writing to League officials. The protest shall:
  - A. be made within 24 hours after receipt of information, and;
  - B. set forth the known facts, sources of information, witnesses and the time such data became known.  
Failure to make the report as required will not relieve the offending school of its responsibility. Such negligence may jeopardize the standing of the official and or the school for withholding evidence.
2. League officials shall make an immediate report of the information received to the superintendent or principal of the school in which a violation is suspected.
3. If there is insufficient time to complete an official investigation and to rule on it prior to the next contest or contests, the student(s) may participate subject to the condition that the full penalty of the bylaw will apply to such contests and to the student(s) if the charges are substantiated. The school must determine who is responsible for the violation and censure the responsible party or apply other administrative sanctions as may be appropriate. The school must notify the League of its action.
4. Nothing in this section may be considered as voiding the responsibility and duty of League officials to investigate eligibility of students or violation of bylaws received in an unofficial or less official form.

**BYLAW 409.00****RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS**

1. **Faculty Representative**  
Contesting teams or individual contestants shall be accompanied by a member of a school's administration, faculty or coaching staff. The school representative shall be responsible to act on behalf of the member school.
2. **Conduct of Teams, Students and Spectators**  
School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held.
3. **School Responsibility to Inform and Enforce League Bylaws**  
The member school has a responsibility to educate student athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on League bylaws and policies that could affect their participation in League sponsored activities. Further, the member school should monitor its compliance with League eligibility requirements.

**BYLAW 409.00 INTERPRETATION**

***Q. What action should be taken if the coach of a school team who is the only coach present at a contest, is ejected from the contest and removed from the immediate playing area?***

***A. With no remaining coach present, the school may not continue to participate. The contest should be terminated and forfeited to the opponent, and a Special Report should be filed with the League by the officials involved.***

**BYLAW 410.00****SANCTIONS****Cross Reference: 400 Bylaws Board Policies (Sanctions Out-of-State)**

1. **Intrastate Tournaments and Multiple Meets**  
No sanction form is required. The administrator of the tournament or multiple dual meet shall be responsible for adherence to the limitations and requirements as listed in MSHSL Bylaw 413.
2. **Interstate Tournaments and Multiple Meets**  
Sanctions must be secured for the following interstate tournaments and dual meet contests.
  - A. Interstate dual contests requiring more than 600 miles round trip travel.
  - B. All interstate tournaments or contests in which three or more teams participate in team sport activities (i.e., basketball, volleyball, hockey, wrestling, soccer, lacrosse, softball and baseball).
  - C. All interstate tournaments or contests in which five or more schools participate in track, tennis, golf, cross country, gymnastics, swimming, synchronized swimming and skiing unless both of the following conditions exist:
    - 1) participants are all Minnesota schools or members of another state high school athletic association affiliated with the National Federation of State High School Associations, and no more than one is not a member of a state league affiliated with the NFHS; and
    - 2) only teams of a conference or within a radius of 100 miles of the site participate.
3. **Limitations and Requirements for Intrastate/Interstate Tournaments and Multiple Meets**  
The Board of Directors has the authority to establish policies for intrastate/interstate tournaments and multiple meets. The following minimum conditions will apply:
  - A. Contests must be sponsored by or be under the control of:
    - 1) a member school of the League,

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- 2) a college or university,
- 3) a high school that is a member of another state high school athletic association affiliated with the National Federation of State High School Associations, or
- 4) a member of a recognized High School Athletic Association.
- B. All participants must be:
  - 1) members of the League and or
  - 2) members of a recognized High School Athletic Association.
- C. There are no limitations to the number of participating teams for intrastate tournaments, or interstate tournaments, which are scheduled in a bordering state — Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota — and the adjacent Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Ontario.
- D. Interstate tournaments scheduled in all other states and Canadian provinces are limited to four teams.
- 4. **Procedure for Securing Interstate Sanctions**  
The sponsoring school must request and complete sanction forms and return to the League office a minimum of 30 days before the contest.

**BYLAW 411.00****SCHEDULING OF CONTESTS**

- 1. All contests in which member schools participate shall be scheduled and arranged by the official representative of the schools concerned. Contests may be scheduled and played only when all of the Bylaws of the League are observed.
- 2. Member schools may schedule contests with non-member schools, provided that:
  - A. The non-member school follows all of the eligibility guidelines and bylaws of the state high school athletic/activity association in the state where the school is located; and
  - B. The state high school athletic/activity association is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations and offers the athletic activity as one of the state association's official list of competitive activities; and
  - C. The participation by the non-member school has been approved for competition by that state high school athletic/ activity association and the MSHSL.
- 3. All contests in which member schools participate shall be covered by a contract signed by the official representative of the schools involved. Such contracts may be canceled only:
  - A. by written mutual consent of the official representatives of the school parties to the contract;
  - B. by written approval of the Region Committee or Board of Directors respectively for subsection, section and state contests.
- 4. Member schools shall not:
  - A. schedule or play contests with schools under suspension from League membership (violation of this bylaw is sufficient grounds for suspension of the offending school from League membership),
  - B. schedule or participate in games with any "all-star" team or teams,
  - C. schedule or play a preliminary game to a professional contest,
  - D. schedule or participate in a contest, game or meet following the state tournament in that sport,
  - E. schedule a game or practice on Sunday, (dance team and cheerleading may request an exception to the policy to perform at a national event),
  - F. schedule their J.V. or B-squad to participate in a game, meet or tournament against another school's varsity unless all participating schools count that contest/tournament as one of the total allowed varsity contests,
  - G. engage in any meet or meets, training, practice or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season in that sport.  
*Please Note: MSHSL Board policy indicates member schools may schedule contests that take place in bordering states or providences.*
- 5. **Precinct Caucus Day**  
Games, meets or contests are not to be played after 6:00 p.m. on Precinct Caucus Day. Precinct Caucus Day is established as the first Tuesday in February in all even-numbered years.
- 6. **Election Day**  
Public secondary schools. Except for regularly scheduled classes, public secondary schools, located in the political subdivision in which an election is held, may not hold a school sponsored event between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on the day that an election is held. National, state and local elections apply equally.
  - A. "regularly scheduled" election is one which:
    - 1) is a primary election; or
    - 2) is a general election; or
    - 3) is a township election.  
*Please Note: Beginning in 2020, presidential nomination primary elections will take place on the first Tuesday in March of a presidential election year unless the major party chairs agree on a different date by March 1 of the previous year.*
  - B. NOT included in the above is an election which:
    - 1) is a special election; or
    - 2) is a postponed election; or
    - 3) is an election whose date is difficult to anticipate.

## 7. Sundays and Legal Holidays

- A. Sundays: League bylaws prevent the scheduling of practice, games, meetings, pictures or scrimmages on a Sunday for all League-sponsored activities including dance team and cheerleading.
- B. Legal Holidays: League bylaws do not prevent scheduling games on a legal holiday; however, the Board discourages schools from scheduling games on legal holidays and withholds sanctions for those events requiring a sanction.

## 8. Jamborees

- A. All Jamborees may be conducted following five separate complete days of organized practice. Participation in a jamboree will not count as a game or match.
- B. Basketball, football, hockey, lacrosse, girls volleyball: Each participating team is limited to a maximum of one-half of the length of a regulation contest. It is strongly recommended that all squad members have an opportunity to participate.
- C. Wrestling: Each individual contestant will be limited to one two-minute match (period).

## 9. Lightning/Threatening Weather

When weather conditions present a threat to the safety of participants and spectators, the host school superintendent or his/her designee has the authority to postpone or suspend the contest. The policies for each sport would determine whether and how the contest would be resumed.

## 10. Definitions:

A. End of the Week:

Thursday shall be defined as being the end of the week for purposes of scheduling the first game of any sport season. Contests can be scheduled for that Thursday.

B. Practices Required Before Game:

This bylaw does not apply to an individual athlete but is a team requirement. Obviously there should be great concern in deviating from the team policy for individuals. This is a health and safety regulation and compromise on it could raise serious questions should an injury be associated with inadequate conditioning or training.

C. End of Season:

## 1) Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:

- a) The season shall end when the student or the student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
- b) Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.

## 2) School Team Practice and Competition

The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

- a) Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series, until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
- b) Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.

D. Practice:

Practice shall be defined as sport-specific training and instruction involving students from your school and the approved coaches and instructors from your school.

E. Contest:

Any event involving two or more schools as identified in the MSHSL-approved sport-specific rules book and which follow the MSHSL rules, policies and Bylaws. All contests will count as one toward the maximum number of games allowed during that sport season.

F. Inter-School Scrimmage:

Any sport-specific training, instruction or interaction that involves members of your high school program with individuals or students who are not members of your high school program and who are not students at your school.

The intent of the scrimmage rule has always been to allow interscholastic scrimmages. By definition, an interscholastic scrimmage involves high school students only. Scrimmages or practices with college, community college or other non-school programs are not allowed.

Each athletic program is allowed three calendar dates to hold three days of scrimmages or two days of scrimmages and one jamboree day.

Schools participating in scrimmages:

- MAY—use a time clock in order to approximate certain game situations during which coaches may want to give instruction to their athletes.
- MAY NOT—participate in sessions that approximate or equal actual game conditions. For example, a hockey scrimmage cannot have three, seventeen minute periods.
- MAY—use officials.
- MAY NOT—use a scoreboard or other device to keep score or show points scored.
- MAY NOT—keep an official or unofficial score.
- MAY NOT—keep an official or unofficial scorebook.
- MAY—use practice jerseys.
- MAY NOT—use game uniforms or any other school identifying apparel.
- MAY NOT—advertise or promote the scrimmages.

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- MAY NOT—charge admission of any kind, or accept free will donations.

G. Alumni Participation in Practice:

- 1) Alumni from your school may participate in your school's sport-specific practices and not count against one of your three allowable scrimmage dates.
- 2) All alumni practice participation must be approved in advance by the athletic director. **MSHSL catastrophic insurance will not cover any participation that involves current students from your school and alumni from your school.**
- 3) An Alumni game, if not played under the conditions described in F, must count toward the limit of games allowed.

H. Alumni Coaches:

All alumni or any other individuals who volunteer to assist with the coaching or instruction of student athletes at your school must be approved in advance by the athletic director and must be identified as volunteer assistant coaches for your school. Minnesota Statute 123B.03 subdivision 1, requires background checks for all individuals who provide athletic coach services for your programs.

Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 123B.03, subdivision 1, as amended by Laws 2008, chapter 75, section 1, is amended to read:

*"Subdivision 1. **Background check required.** (a) A school hiring authority shall request a criminal history background check from the superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension all individuals who are offered employment in a school and provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services in a school regardless of whether any compensation is paid."*

I. Summer:

Summer shall be defined as the period from the Saturday following the fourth Friday in May through Labor Day. Summer for the sport of Soccer shall be defined as the day following the fourth Friday in May through the Sunday immediately prior to the official starting date of the MSHSL high school Soccer season. Note: Students may participate in activities during the summer, as defined above, even though their high school sport season in the same sport has begun, i.e. students may play tennis tournaments or participate in road races through Labor Day. Soccer is excluded from dual participation as defined above.

J. Shared Facilities:

Two or more schools sharing a facility for sport-specific training and instruction will be defined as a practice as long as there is no interaction between the students from each of the schools. For example, if two schools share a swimming pool it will be a practice if school A trains in lanes 1-3 and school B trains in lanes 4-6.

**BYLAW 411.00 INTERPRETATION**

**1. Q. Is an alumni game counted as a scrimmage?**

A. The information in Bylaw 411 clearly defines scrimmages and contests. Depending on how the participation with the alumni is set up it will either be a practice or game. Scrimmaging against alumni does not count toward the three allowable calendar dates for scrimmages.

**2. Q. Can we use paid officials for a scrimmage?**

A. Yes. Officials can be compensated at a rate mutually agreed upon by the official and the school.

**3. Q. Can a high school team practice, train, scrimmage or compete with a college program?**

A. No. A MSHSL high school team cannot participate, practice, train, scrimmage or compete with or against a college program.

**BYLAW 412.00**

**SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

**1. Competitive Activities:**

Adapted Bowling  
Adapted Hockey  
Adapted Soccer  
Adapted Softball  
Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country Running  
Dance Team\*  
Football  
Golf  
Hockey  
Lacrosse

Alpine Skiing  
Nordic Ski Racing  
Soccer  
Swimming and Diving  
Tennis  
Track and Field  
Wrestling  
Girls Badminton  
Girls Basketball  
Girls Cross Country Running  
Girls Golf  
Girls Gymnastics

Girls Hockey  
Girls Lacrosse  
Girls Nordic Ski Racing  
Girls Alpine Skiing  
Girls Soccer  
Girls Fast-Pitch Softball  
Girls Swimming and Diving  
Girls Synchronized Swimming  
Girls Tennis  
Girls Track and Field  
Girls Volleyball

\* *Dance Team, in its current form, may not rise to the level of a gender equity activity for the purpose of Title IX. Schools may individually seek approval from the Minnesota Department of Education to have Girls Dance Team programs recognized as a sport. (See Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Statement below)*

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Competitive activities for students with disabilities, the number and type of activities along with modifications necessary to adapt the activities to the identified students, shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors.

## 2. Non-Competitive Activities:

Cheerleading

Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Statement: Determining whether an activity is a sport:

*In determining whether an activity is a sport, OCR will consider on a case-by-case basis:*

- *Whether selection for the team is based upon objective factors related primarily to athletic ability;*
- *Whether the activity is limited to a defined season;*
- *Whether the team prepares for and engages in competition in the same way as other teams in the athletic program with respect to coaching, recruitment, budget, try-outs and eligibility and length and number of practice sessions and competitive opportunities;*
- *Whether the activity is administered by the athletic department; and,*
- *Whether the primary purpose of the activity is athletic competition and not the support or promotion of other athletes.*

*OCR may also consider other evidence relevant to the activity, which might demonstrate that it is part of an institution's athletic program. Such evidence that may be considered includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:*

- *Whether organizations knowledgeable about the activity agree that it should be recognized as an athletic sport;*
- *Whether the activity is recognized as part of the interscholastic or intercollegiate athletic program by the athletic conference to which the institution belongs and by organized state and national interscholastic or intercollegiate athletic associations;*
- *Whether state, national and conference champions exist for the activity;*
- *Whether a state, national, or conference rule book or manual has been adopted for the activity;*
- *Whether there is state, national, or conference regulation of competition officials along with standardized criteria upon which the competition may be judged; and,*
- *Whether participants in the activity/sport are eligible to receive scholarships and athletic awards (e.g. varsity awards).*

## BYLAW 413.00

## GAME OFFICIALS

1. The League may register officials for high school athletic contests and may adopt rules and regulations governing their qualifications for membership and advancement.

2. Use of Registered Officials:

Fully eligible officials shall be employed for all varsity-level interscholastic contests in:

Baseball	Hockey, Adapted Floor	Swimming and Diving
Basketball	Lacrosse	Synchronized Swimming, Girls
Dance Team	Soccer	Track and Field
Football	Soccer, Adapted	Volleyball, Girls
Gymnastics, Girls	Softball, Adapted	Wrestling
Hockey	Softball, Girls Fast-Pitch	

When eligible officials are not available, the Board of Directors may in case of emergency grant any member school a limited number of waivers. Unless a waiver is granted, only eligible officials may work in a varsity contest.

3. Suspension of Officials:

The Board of Directors may suspend the eligibility to officiate of any game official for a violation of the standards prescribed by the League or for conduct unbecoming high school athletics.

The number of eligible officials for varsity level regular season contests:

Baseball	Minimum: Umpire-in-chief (1) and one (1) field umpire. Optional: Umpire-in-chief (1) and two (2) or three (3) field umpires.
Basketball	Minimum: Referee (1) and an umpire (1). Recommended: Referee (1) and two (2) umpires.
Dance Team	Routines in dual or triangular competitions must be judged by a minimum of two (2) judges, with one (1) serving as the superior judge. Routines in competitions where there are four (4) teams or competitions with four (4) teams or less, where teams perform multiple times must have three (3) to five (5) judges, with one (1) serving as the superior judge. In competitions where there are five (5) or more teams/ routines, there shall be a minimum of five (5) judges, with seven (7) or more recommended. One (1) judge shall serve as the superior judge.

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Football	Minimum: Four (4) official crew – referee, umpire, linesman and line judge. Recommended: Five (5) official crew – referee, umpire, linesman, line judge and back judge.
Gymnastics, Girls	Minimum: Two (2) judges per event, one (1) superior judge. During non-conference non-MSHSL qualifying meets or tournaments and with the consent of all participating coaches, one (1) judge per event may be used.
Hockey, Adapted Floor	Minimum: Referee (1). Recommended: Two (2) referees. Optional: Two (2) referees and one (1) linesman.
Hockey	Minimum: Two (2) official system consisting of two (2) referees. Recommended: Three (3) official system consisting of one (1) referee and two (2) assistant referees, two (2) referees and one (1) linesman, or one (1) referee and two (2) linesman. Optional: Four (4) official system consisting of two (2) referees and two (2) linesman.
Lacrosse, Boys	Minimum: Two (2) officials. Recommended: Three (3) official system.
Lacrosse, Girls	Minimum: Two (2) officials. Recommended: Three (3) official system.
Soccer, Adapted	Minimum: Referee (1). Recommended: Two (2) referees.
Soccer	Minimum: Two (2) official system – one (1) head referee and one (1) referee. Recommended: Three (3) official system – one (1) referee and two (2) assistant referees or the three (3) whistle system.
Softball, Adapted	Minimum: Umpire (1). Recommended: Two (2) umpires.
Softball, Girls	Minimum: Umpire-in-chief (1). Recommended: Umpire-in-chief (1) and one (1) field umpire. Optional: Umpire-in-chief (1) and two (2) or three (3) field umpires.
Swimming and Diving	Minimum: Referee/starter (1), may serve as diving referee. Recommended: Referee (1) and starter (1), either may serve as diving referee.
Synchronized Swimming, Girls	Minimum: Three (3) competitive judges, one (1) of whom must be a referee.
Track and Field	Minimum: One (1) official (either the referee or starter). Recommended: Two (2) officials – referee (1) and starter (1).
Volleyball, Girls	Minimum: First referee (1) and second referee (1).
Wrestling	Minimum: Referee (1). Optional: Referee (1) and one (1) assistant referee.

Eligible Officials Not Required for Varsity ("A") Squad Contests:

- Badminton, Girls
- Cross Country Running, Boys and Girls
- Golf, Boys and Girls
- Nordic Skiing, Boys and Girls
- Alpine Skiing, Boys and Girls
- Tennis, Boys and Girls

*Note: While eligible officials are not required for the above activities, schools are encouraged to secure individuals with a thorough knowledge of the rules in that activity.*

Use of Non-Registered/Ineligible Officials or Less Than the Minimum Required

*When there has been a determination that less than the minimum number of officials as stated above or a non-registered/ineligible official has been used as an official in a varsity contest, without the school having received a waiver from the MSHSL office, the following will occur:*

- *The home team or whoever is responsible for hiring the officials will be fined: \$250 first offense, \$350 second offense (during the same school year), \$500 third offense (during the same school year).*
- *Activities/Athletic Administrator will be censured.*
- *When an unregistered/ineligible official is used, the offending person will be suspended from completing the eligibility process, as a minimum, for the next four consecutive varsity, interscholastic contests or four weeks (28 calendar days), whichever is greater.*
- *When an assigner is involved they will be censured and the Association will drop to probationary status as a Charter/Legacy Association—no official may be recommended to the State Tournament and the association may not have representation at MSHSL Meetings for one calendar year.*

*In order to avoid situations in which non-registered/ineligible officials are used, officials must double check to make sure they are fully eligible, and that their partners are fully eligible, before working any varsity assignment. Assigners must check the ArbiterSports eligibility list to make sure they only assign officials who have a Reciprocity, Regular Season, Section Tournament or State Tournament eligibility badge. Schools must check to make sure that only officials with an eligibility badge work their varsity events.*

*To aid in this process, all officials will be required to show proof of their eligibility by showing a copy of their ArbiterSports profile page with their photo and eligibility badge visible. This can be copied and printed from the ArbiterSports profile page or can be shown with a phone or other digital device. Someone representing the home school shall ask the officials to show their eligibility badge prior to working a varsity event. This can be done by the Athletic/Activities Director; site manager; coach, or other authorized school personnel. An event shall not start until all officials have proven that they are currently eligible in that sport; or a waiver to use less than the minimum required or a non-registered/ineligible official has been granted by the MSHSL.*

# 400.00 BYLAWS: ADMINISTRATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS BOARD POLICIES

## **WOMEN IN OFFICIATING: EMPLOYMENT**

*It is the policy of the Minnesota State High School League to work affirmatively to encourage, promote and ensure fair and equal treatment in the employment of women as officials for high school activities and sports contests at the local level through League tournaments.*

## **CLASS COMPETITION (1/10/96) (12/2/10) (12/6/18)**

### **A. Criteria for Sponsorship of an MSHSL State Tournament: At least one of the following criteria must apply:**

- 1) A sufficient number of teams have registered for an activity as defined below.
- 2) The Board of Directors, at their discretion, may approve a state tournament if substantial evidence indicates that the conduct of this event would encourage equitable and statewide growth in that activity.

### **B. Criteria for Sponsoring State Tournaments if Fewer Than 32 Teams Participate:**

- 1) The Board of Directors may choose to cease sponsorship of a state tournament when the number of participating teams is fewer than 32 for three (3) consecutive years or at any time as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
- 2) The tournaments in that activity will terminate at the conclusion of the regular season.

### **C. Criteria for Limiting Tournament Competition at the Section Level When More Than 32 Teams Participate:**

- 1) The Board of Directors may sponsor a state tournament in an activity which is an exception to the bylaws if it is determined that non-school competition and training opportunities have not created statewide competitive inequities for the high school program.
- 2) The Board of Directors may elect to discontinue League sponsorship of a state tournament which is an exception to the bylaws if it is determined that the non-school competition and training bylaws have created statewide competitive inequities for the high school programs; or

### **D. Class Competition**

#### **1) Philosophy**

*The philosophy of tournament competition for the League is to extend the opportunity for student participation in a variety of activities at the section and state level. Region committees conduct contests, meets and tournaments in accordance with League rules and regulations which advance student participants to the next level of competition. (4/28/83)*

#### **2) Classification Formula for Administrative Regions**

*Effective with the 2011-2012 school year, the largest 128 schools shall be assigned to Class AA administrative regions. The rest of the schools shall be assigned to Class A administrative regions. Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, these assignments shall be in place for a minimum of four (4) years.*

#### **3) Multiple Class Tournament Competition**

*The Board of Directors may request input from the member schools to assist in determining the classification and format of any League-sponsored tournament, but the Board of Directors shall have sole discretion for determining the classification of schools and the tournament format(s). Input regarding tournament formats may be submitted to the League office by any interested party(ies).*

*Recommendations regarding multiple classes in any League-Sponsored activity may be forwarded to the Board of Directors by:*

- a) Five (5) member schools' designated representatives; or,
- b) Any member of the Board of Directors; or,
- c) The Minnesota State High School Coaches Association; or
- d) The advisory committee for that activity.

*The Board will consider the following information, but they are not limited in their tournament format decisions:*

- a) Administrative Region management of section tournaments
- b) Anticipated loss of class time
- c) Classification issues
- d) Existing format/structure/history of the tournament
- e) Facility availability
- f) Financial implications for member schools and the League as a whole
- g) Implementation date
- h) Input from school administrators
- i) MSHSL staff input
- j) State tournament management issues, including quarterfinal and consolation play
- k) Tournament enhancements

*Each recommendation will be evaluated on its merits.*

4) *Classification Formula for Activities Conducted in Multiple Classes*

Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, tournament competition may be conducted in multiple classes as identified below:

- a) 32-63 teams competing within a class shall have a four (4) team tournament.
- b) 64 or more teams competing within a class shall have an eight (8) team tournament.

Currently Girls Badminton and Girls Synchronized Swimming do not meet the required number of registered teams for state tournament consideration. Dance Team shall be an exception to the classification formula and shall be classified each placement cycle as determined by the Board of Directors.

**ONE (1) CLASS TOURNAMENT:**

**Option 1:** When there are a minimum of 32 teams registered for a League sponsored activity, a four (4) team state tournament may be held.

**Option 2:** When there are 64 or more teams registered for a League sponsored activity, a single eight (8) team, or a festival formatted State Tournament may be held.

**TWO (2) CLASS TOURNAMENT:** When there are 96 or more teams registered for a League sponsored activity the divisions will be identified as follows:

**Option 1:** CLASS AA: 128 registered teams with the largest enrollment. CLASS A: The rest of the registered teams.

**Option 2:** Divide the registered teams either by the top 64 teams by enrollment or by the bottom 64 teams by enrollment, provided that activity meets the minimum requirement for two classes.

**Option 3:** Divide the registered teams in an even split. One-half of the teams in each class.

**THREE (3) CLASS TOURNAMENT:** When there are 192 or more teams registered for a League sponsored activity, the divisions will be based on enrollment as follows:

**Option 1:** Class AAA: The 96 largest teams by enrollment. Class AA: The next 128 largest teams by enrollment. Class A: The balance of the registered teams.

**Option 2:** Class AAA: The 64 largest teams by enrollment. Class AA: The next 64 or 96 largest teams by enrollment. Class A: The balance of the registered teams.

**Option 3:** Even split of teams: One-third of the teams in each class.

**FOUR (4) CLASS TOURNAMENT:** When there are 320 or more teams registered for a League activity, the divisions will be based on enrollment as follows:

**Option 1:** Class AAAA: The 64 largest teams by enrollment. Class AAA: The next 64 largest teams by enrollment. Class AA and Class A: If fewer than 256 teams remain, the classes will be divided equally. If more than 256 teams remain, Class AA will be the largest 128 teams and the remainder of the teams will be Class A.

**Option 2:** Class AAAA: The 32 largest teams by enrollment. Class AAA: The next 64 largest teams by enrollment. Class AA: The next 96 largest schools. Class A: The balance of the registered teams.

**Option 3:** Even split of registered teams: One-fourth of the teams in each class.

**MORE THAN FOUR CLASSES IN A TOURNAMENT:** Tournament formats for more than four classes shall be determined by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis.

5) *Tournament Formats/Reduction in the Number of Classes/Enrollments for Classification Purposes/"Opt-Up" Requests/Classification Appeals*

- a) When the number of competing schools in an activity falls below the minimum number for multiple-class tournaments, the classes will be reduced to bring the activity into compliance with the classification policy unless the classification divisions are otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.
- b) Unless otherwise determined by the Board, all tournament formats shall be in place for a minimum of four (4) years and shall be completed in three (3) calendar days. Recommendations for format changes will be received by the Board of Directors two (2) years prior to any proposed implementation date.
- c) Enrollments for classification shall be determined every even-numbered year by the Board of Directors using the most current MARSS Report to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. From those enrollment numbers the Board of Directors shall subtract 40 percent of the free/reduced lunch count reported to the MDE for each school for the same time period.
- d) Students whose attendance is included in the enrollment information provided by the Minnesota Department of Education, but whose educational programming prohibits them from participating in athletic and/or fine arts activities in any school during the school year, shall not be counted toward the final enrollment of that school for purposes of administrative or tournament classification.
- e) Schools which have all male or all female students shall have their enrollments doubled.
- f) The assignment of schools into competitive sections and classifications shall be for a two-year period. League staff shall have authority to balance the section assignments each year with approval from the Board of Directors.
- g) Schools may "opt-up" to a higher classification in an activity sponsored by their school according to the following criteria:
  - 1.1 A request must be made in writing to the League Office with the rationale for the "opt-up" request.
  - 1.2 The request to "opt-up" must be a two-year commitment to compete in the new classification.
  - 1.3 Application period will coincide with the competitive placement cycle.
- h) Prior to any classification determination, schools who believe their school demographics unfairly place their team sports (Football, Hockey, Basketball, Baseball, Dance Team, One Act Play, Soccer, Softball, and Volleyball) in a larger tournament classification may appeal their placement to the MSHSL office provided that the criteria below is met:

- 1.1 The schools' free/reduced lunch counts provided to the League office by the Department of Education exceeds 50% of the school's grade 9-12 enrollment or, MSHSL enrollment for grades 9-12 is within 10% of the classification cut-off number for the class to which the school is appealing.
  - 1.2 The appeal must be documented in writing and shall include, but is not limited to the following: travel distance; community/region economic conditions; attrition; unique school population; other specific school community information that will support the school's presentation for a classification reduction
  - 1.3 The information regarding the school's appeal shall be presented by the designated school representative(s) to the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee who will review the request and provide a recommendation for the MSHSL Board of Directors.
  - 1.4 The MSHSL staff will record the minutes of the meeting and will provide the recommendation from the Activity Directors Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors for their consideration.
  - 1.5 The decision of the Board is final, and there shall be no appeal.
- 6) Placement of Teams in Competitive Sections
- Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, schools shall be placed into competitive sections for a minimum of two (2) years.
- a) Criteria for Competitive Section Placement shall include, but will not be limited to the following:
    - 1.1 Geographic contiguity
    - 1.2 Section balance
  - b) The Differential in Number of Assigned Teams in Competitive Sections at the time of placement shall be as follows:
    - 1.1 Two Class
 

Class AA: Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, in the initial year of the two-year assignment, the differential shall not exceed two (2) teams in each competitive section.

Class A: Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, in the initial year of the two-year assignment, the differential shall not exceed four (4) teams in each competitive section.
    - 1.2 Multiple Class (three or more)
 

Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, in the initial year of the two-year assignment, the differential shall not exceed two (2) team for any class.
  - c) Prior to confirmation by the Board of Directors, Competitive Section assignments will be reviewed by the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee.
  - d) The Competitive Section Placement Shall be the Decision of the Board of Directors.
    - 1.1 Schools may not appeal their competitive section placement.
    - 1.2 The League staff will assign late registrations.
  - e) Process for Competitive Section Placement
    - 1.1 Schools annually submit their October 1 Average Daily Membership (ADM) to the MDE as required by the MARSS reporting requirement.
    - 1.2 The MDE submits reported enrollment data to the League Office and the final enrollment data shall meet the criteria identified in this policy.
    - 1.3 During the school year prior to the end of a competitive section placement cycle, the League office uses the student enrollment data for grades 9-12 for each member school. Alternative learning center (ALC) and similar alternative enrollment data are omitted from the total student count.
    - 1.4 As soon as the MDE information is verified, the League office will consider the number of registered teams for each sport/activity and make the determination about the numeric division between the classes.
    - 1.5 The League office will divide each class into competitive sections. When feasible, sections will be balanced to avoid a bye or a play-in game. League staff will make the placements and the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee will review the placements for balance and geographic contiguity. The League Board of Directors will affirm the placement of each school in each activity.
    - 1.6 All placements shall be final.
    - 1.7 The competitive sections will be announced to the member schools and to the general public as soon as they are approved by the Board of Directors or the Board's designee.
    - 1.8 Changes in the assignment of and number of teams in any competitive section will occur only in the event of co-op dissolutions or additions; new registrations; or the discontinuation of an activity by a school. Competitive Section assignments will be reviewed annually and recommendations for a change in assignments may be made to the Board of Directors by League staff in August of each year. Placement will be made by MSHSL staff.
    - 1.9 All enrollment data during the two-year placement cycle shall be based on the school's enrollment at the initial placement for the cycle (1.3 above).
- 7) Placement of Schools in Administrative Regions
- The Board of Directors will place schools into administrative regions when the enrollment data is available from the MDE.
- a) The criteria for placement into administrative regions shall be as follows. The criteria are weighted in the order of importance with [1] given more weight than [2], etc. (4/20/94)
    - 1.1 Administrative Region Placement Criteria
      - [1] Enrollment
      - [2] Statewide representation
      - [3] Geographic contiguity



**1.2 Criteria for Classification**

- [1] AA: The largest 128 schools
- [2] A: The rest of the schools
- [3] Schools registered for basketball
- [4] Nearly equal distribution of schools.

**1.3 Schools not registered for basketball will be assigned to an administrative region based on their geography.**

- b) Administrative region assignments will not be limited to a specific differential due to the registration of home schools, charter schools, and small non-public schools that do not sponsor competitive programs on their own but must be placed into an administrative region.
- c) The recommended placement of a school into an Administrative Region is four (4) years, but the Board of Directors has the sole responsibility to determine the length of time a school is placed into an Administrative Region.

**COACHES**

Two or more schools may share the same head coach in a given activity. It is to be understood that all athletes, while being coached by the same coach, would compete under the name of her/his resident high school. (4/7/76)

**BOARD POSITION STATEMENT: CODE OF ETHICS FOR COACHES**

Statement of Philosophy. The Minnesota State High School League has established policies and standards which will cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals employed or directly associated with the interscholastic program conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. The coach is an official representative of the school at interscholastic athletic activities. It is the responsibility of the head and assistant coaches to serve as role models for students and the public.

Code of Ethics. A coach will be in violation of the standards for good sports established by the Minnesota State High School League by:

- A. making degrading/critical remarks about officials during or after a contest either on the field of play, from the bench, through any public news media, social media or other electronic media;
- B. arguing with officials or goes through motions indicating dislike/disdain for a decision;
- C. detaining the officials following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official; or
- D. being ejected from any contest.

Actions and Response. Negative actions by a coach shall be reported to the League by the school and by the head contest official. The school shall document the results of their investigation and actions taken, where necessary and appropriate. Penalties for violation of these standards may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, censure, fines, or other actions as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

Commentary. It is within each individual's ability to treat others with dignity and respect. The League and its member schools expect each individual to assure the responsibility for their actions.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT (CER) RULES MEETING ATTENDANCE (6/6/11, 4/5/12, 4/3/14)**

Effective for the Fall 2014, ALL Athletic and Activity Administrators, sport coaches at the B-Squad, JV and Varsity level and fine arts coaches and directors in speech, debate and one-act play will be required to complete the League's Continuing Education Requirement (CER) every third year. In addition, ALL coaches and fine arts coaches and directors are required to complete the sport or activity Rules Interpretation Meeting annually.

Any coach who does not complete the Continuing Education Requirement (CER) will not have access to the required Online Rules Interpretation meeting by the identified deadline. In that event:

- A. The League Office will send a copy of the NFHS written rules test plus a letter of notification of failure to complete the CER to the school's Activities Director;
- B. The school's Activities Director will provide the written NFHS rules test to the coach. The coach must complete the test and return it to the League office within 14 calendar days. The coach must score at least 80% in order to pass the test AND the coach must complete all components of the CER. When the test is passed and all components of the CER are completed, no further action is required.
- C. If the coach fails to meet the 80% correct test requirement BUT completes all components of the CER, the test will be mailed back for the coach to correct and make references to the pertinent NFHS Rules numbers. When the coach submits the corrected test with rules references to the League Office, no further action is required.
- D. If the coach fails to meet the 80% correct test requirement AND fails to complete all components of the CER, or if the coach meets the 80% correct test requirement AND / OR fails to complete all components of the CER, the coach will be required to retake the written NFHS rules test AND / OR complete all components of the CER at the League Office.
- E. Failure to pass the written NFHS rules test AND complete the CER will immediately make the coach ineligible to coach for the remainder of the regular season and during all post-season competition.

**Activities Administrators (6/3/19, 12/2/22)**

Activities Administrators, will be required to complete a condensed administrator version of the MN Head Coaches Course prior to the Fall of 2023. Activities Administrators hired after September 1, 2020 will have three years to complete the requirement.



Cheer Coaches (8/3/20)

*Cheer coaches in Minnesota are NOT required to meet MN State Statute 122A.33 - Head Coach Certification, however, every Head Cheer Coach must complete the Continuing Education Requirement (CER) and annual Rules Interpretation Meeting that can be found on the League's website through their Coaches Dashboard page. In addition, all head cheerleading coaches who wish to have their sideline cheerleaders stunt are required to complete the Cheer and Dance Safety Certification Course. (Formerly ACCAA and Stunt Progressions 1).*

*New Stunting Cheer Coaches - If you have never taken the ACCAA safety and in person Stunt Progressions 1 course, you must complete the new combined Cheer and Dance Safety Certification course at NFHSLearn.com prior to allowing your students to stunt.*

*Coaches who have previously completed AACCA and Stunt Progressions 1 - If you have previously completed these two courses, you will have one calendar year to complete the new Cheer and Dance Safety Certification Course at NFHSLearn.com.*

*This course is required of Head Cheer Coaches who wish to stunt, once every four years. The course is \$75.00. Requiring these online courses will ensure properly trained coaches, which in turn, will provide a safer environment for participating students.*

**re BYLAW 401.00 - CHEERLEADING**

*Cheerleading is an extracurricular activity designed to serve as a component of the athletic program. Its primary purpose is to foster school spirit, sportsmanship and a positive atmosphere at competitive events. Cheerleading, as an extracurricular activity, is not a competitive activity as sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League.*

**MEDIA INTERVIEWS AT MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS**

- A. *Team/Individual locker rooms will be closed to all media (print and electronic) for all Minnesota State High School League-sponsored tournaments.*
- B. *Coaches and players will be available for interviews in areas outside of their locker room.*
- C. *Because state tournament games are played in a very competitive and electric atmosphere, it is natural that disappointment will follow a loss and excitement will accompany a victory. In fairness to the emotions of the players and coaches, and in respect for the unity that follows a contest, the Minnesota State High School League strongly recommends that media honor a five-minute "cooling off" period before interviewing representatives from the participating teams.*

**CERTIFIED MEDICAL PERSONNEL AT GAMES**

- A. *The Board strongly recommends the presence of a certified medical personnel at all interscholastic games/contests. Certified medical personnel include:*
  - 1) *Licensed Physician (M.D.)*
  - 2) *Athletic Trainer*
  - 3) *Emergency Medical Technician (E.M.T.)*
  - 4) *Paramedic*
  - 5) *Persons who hold current Red Cross, Advanced First Aid Cards (75-hour course)*
  - 6) *Certified head coach*
- B. *The role of certified medical personnel shall be:*
  - 1) *To protect the health and safety of the athlete.*
  - 2) *To provide appropriate medical care by functioning within the levels of their medical education/training when dealing with: First aid; Triage; Return to Play/Action decisions.*

**BANDS AT ATHLETIC EVENTS – PEP BAND AND MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

*The League recommends that individual schools develop performance guidelines that meet the expectations of their school and community. Guidelines should be developed with the input of band director(s), school administration and others as may be appropriate for your school. The following areas should be considered when developing these guidelines:*

- A. *The number of appearances at athletic events should be set in advance, excluding post-season events. This could be done on a per season or per year basis. A limitation for the number of performances within a week, or a limitation on which nights of the week are used, may also be considered/included.*
- B. *Guidelines as to when the band will play for post-season events (section and state tournaments) should be established. These guidelines may need to include when a pep band will play and when a marching band or the "full" band will play.*
- C. *Weather guidelines should be developed to help in making decisions as to when to cancel outdoor performances. The Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) recommends that bands not perform outside at a temperature of 40 degrees or below.*
- D. *How long a band will perform at an event should be pre-determined.*
- E. *A schedule of when the band will perform should be set well in advance—by the season or by the year.*
- F. *The band director should coordinate or be consulted regarding any musical performance at an athletic event that involves high school band members.*
- G. *Bands should perform at an equal number of boys and girls events.*

**re BYLAW 409.00 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS**

*Host schools are responsible for providing appropriate supervision, other than the coach(es), when crowd control may be a factor.*

**re BYLAW 410.00 – SANCTIONS (OUT-OF-STATE)**

Schools may participate in out-of-state meets or tournaments, but to do so must complete the sanction forms as required by NFHS Interstate Competition Guidelines. Schools are discouraged from scheduling tournaments during the regular season which would cause students to be absent from classroom activities.

**re BYLAW 411.00 – TRAVEL FOR OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE AND SCRIMMAGES**

If a member school's League-sponsored athletic team requests out-of-state travel for a practice or a scrimmage for the varsity, junior varsity or "B" squad teams, the school board must complete the following steps PRIOR to any travel by the team.

The school board must:

1. Review a complete copy of the itinerary planned for the school team.
2. Review the financial aspect of the trip including the funds to be received from and expended by the school team.
3. Identify the manner in which the school board will comply with Title IX relative to travel opportunities for each gender.
4. Approve travel for the school team at a regularly scheduled school board meeting.

Once complete, the Designated School Representative shall notify the League office, in writing, and identify the team(s) that has/have been approved for out-of-state travel in order to practice or scrimmage and affirm that all of the above steps have been completed.

Notification to the League office must be completed at least 21 days prior to any travel by the approved team(s).

**DISTRICT FOOTBALL (2/4/16) (8/7/18) (12/3/20) (8/1/23)**

**Definition:** District Football is the official name given to the method of scheduling all regular season football games in Minnesota. In this system, each team is assigned to a district based on geography, enrollment and "like teams" with natural rivalries preserved whenever possible. This system for scheduling covers the regular season only. The post-season Section Football system remains in place.

**District Football vs. Section Football:** Section classifications are determined by enrollment and geography (as determined by MSHSL Board policy), with a balanced number of teams in each section. These classifications are strictly followed. District scheduling also uses team enrollment as a key factor in placing teams in districts, but Districts are not confined to enrollment classifications, as in section football, and are also not restricted to a specific number of teams, thus allowing each district to be formed in a way the best works for the teams of a similar size in a particular geographical area.

**District Assignment and Realignment:** Teams will be assigned to Districts every two years, with the assignments finalized no later than the June MSHSL Board Meeting. This will be done in the same cycle following the Competitive Section Placement process. A District Placement Committee is made up of ten AD's, coaches and/or other administrators, who represent different geographical regions of the state and a variety of school sizes. The committee will be selected by League staff in consultation with the Minnesota Football Coaches Association and the AD's Association. The final committee will be approved by the MSHSL Board of Directors. After the initial District Assignments in April of 2014, the placement committee will be kept intact for the re-districting process that takes place in 2016. After that process has been completed three or four members of the committee will rotate off each cycle, with each member staying on the committee for at least four years – two rounds of realignment.

**Enrollment Data:** Enrollment data from October 1 of the school year in which the placement process is completed will be used as criteria for District placement. Enrollments will be calculated using the enrollment for grades 9-12 (grades 8-11 to determine 9-player classification) as provided by the Minnesota Department of Education, less 40% of the free and reduced lunch number.

**9-player:** Prior to the initial alignment process and for all future realignment processes, teams that qualify for 9-player football must declare if they will compete in 9-player football for the two years for which the new realignment will be in effect. Class A teams who do not qualify for 9-player, may appeal to play 9-player during the regular season. This appeal will go to the District Placement Committee. That committee will make recommendations to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, who will make the final decision. Teams allowed to play 9-player during the regular season must play 11-player in the Section playoffs. Teams may appeal to play 9-player football as per current MSHSL Board Policy for appeals.

**Team Information and Input:** During each realignment process all teams will be given the opportunity to file an information form that will allow them to share specific information about their program; indicate teams that they feel they must play; and provide any other information that will be helpful to the committee during the placement process. These forms must be filed by the established deadline.

**Placement Process:** The District Placement Committee will meet at least two times to assign teams to Districts. Their final recommendation will go to the Athletic/Activities Directors Advisory Committee for review at their May meeting. The AD's Advisory Committee will review all placements and pass these placements on to the full Board of Directors with any recommended adjustments. The Board will review and give final approval at the June meeting.

The committee will work to place teams according to geography and MSHSL enrollment. While the membership of districts may include teams that are more than twice as big as another team, the Placement Committee recommends that when developing sub-districts, Districts should not place teams with enrollments more than twice as large as another team, in the same sub-district; unless a smaller team approves of that placement, or such a placement will work based on competitive balance.

The goal will be to have Districts with at least sixteen teams (although that may not always be possible), and all will have an even number unless there is an odd number of 9-player teams or an odd number of 11-player teams. When there is an odd number, that district may use the Zero Week concept to make sure that all teams have a full schedule. Another option may be to find a team from an adjacent state to fill in the bye weeks; or teams may choose to have a bye and only play seven games. All teams within a District must have an eight game regular season schedule, unless there is an odd number of teams and the District members decide to only play seven games. Districts will have flexibility in how those schedules are developed.

**District Structure:** Teams within each District will determine the "structure" of their District and how they will schedule regular season games. Once Districts have been assigned, a District Committee, consisting of Athletic/Activities Directors from the teams of that District shall meet and determine, with the input from all District teams, the best way to form sub-districts. Each District shall have a minimum of two sub-districts, with Sub-Districts named by color; or Sub-districts may be named by direction, for example 9-player South District may name their sub-districts East and West. Final sub-district alignment shall be voted on by all member schools/teams, with a two-thirds majority (of those voting) needed to pass.

**Schedules:** Regular season schedules will be developed with all of the teams in a sub-district playing each other. Games scheduled to fill out the schedule will be cross-over games with teams in another sub-district of the District to which they are assigned (Intra-District games); or with permission from the MSHSL Placement Committee, these games may be played against teams in another District (Cross-District games). Once the District Committee has determined the schedule for all District teams, all members of the district will have the opportunity to vote on this schedule, with a two-thirds majority (of those voting) necessary in order to approve the schedule. Once the original two-year schedule has been approved, if there is a need to adjust schedules based on changes with co-ops, or schools/teams adding or dropping programs, those adjustments may be made by the District Committee.

**Sub-Varsity Schedules:** District football governs varsity schedules only. Teams within each District will decide how to schedule sub-varsity levels. These schedules may be aligned with the varsity schedule, or teams may schedule sub-varsity on their own. Sub-varsity schedules are not restricted to District opponents. The procedures for scheduling sub-varsity, and rules and policies to govern sub-varsity shall be included in District Bylaws.

**Sub-District Champions:** A champion will be determined for each sub-district. Trophies for Sub-District Champions shall be purchased directly from the MSHSL Trophy vendor by the championship teams. Each District may also name an all-district team based on their sub-districts. The criteria for these awards and any other awards (Coach of the Year, MVP, etc.); and how these award winners are selected, is to be determined by the District Committee and included in the District Bylaws. Each District shall determine what the awards will be (trophies, plaques, certificates, etc.) and shall arrange for the purchase of the awards, with each school/team paying for the individual awards they receive.

**District Committee:** Membership on the District Committee shall be determined by each District, with equal representation (as close as possible) from each sub-district. The recommendation is to have seven or nine members of the District Committee. Members of the District Committee shall elect a chairperson from those who are on the committee. Each committee shall finalize the Bylaws for their District, as per the model provided by the MSHSL. Bylaws shall be approved by a vote of all members of the District, with a two-thirds majority (of those voting) needed to pass. The Bylaws shall be on file in the MSHSL office. Districts are to operate without having a separate financial structure. If there is a need to collect and disburse funds, a procedure for doing so must be included in the Bylaws. Those funds must be accounted for through the financial operation of a school that is a member of that district.

**Resolution of Issues:** The District Committee is expected to resolve issues that may occur within their district. They may contact MSHSL staff for guidance. If necessary, the District Placement Committee will mediate and assist in resolving any internal conflicts. Conflicts that cannot be resolved at the District level or with assistance from staff and/or the District Placement Committee will go to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. The decision of the Executive Committee is final.

MSHSL member schools/teams who choose to not participate or do not fully cooperate with District Football Policy will not be allowed to participate in the Section Playoffs.

#### **DRONE (8/4/15)**

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person at any MSHSL post-season tournament venues.

For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and includes a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the MSHSL event, including the spectator areas and parking areas.

Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV.

An exception to this policy, in writing, may be made in specific cases for MSHSL partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the MSHSL.

#### **MINNESOTA STATUTE 122A.15 – TEACHERS, SUPERVISORY AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL, DEFINITIONS, LICENSURE**

##### **Subdivision 1. Teachers.**

The term “teachers” for the purpose of licensure, means all persons employed in a public school or education district or by a service cooperative as members of the instructional, supervisory, and support staff including superintendents, principals, supervisors, secondary vocational and other classroom teachers, librarians, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, school social workers, audio-visual directors and coordinators, recreation personnel, media generalists, media supervisors, and school speech-language pathologists. This definition does not apply to sections 122A.05 to 122A.093.

##### **Subdivision 2. Supervisory personnel.**

“Supervisory personnel” for the purpose of licensure means superintendents, principals, and professional employees who devote 50 percent or more of their time to administrative or supervisory duties over other personnel, and includes athletic coaches.

#### **MINNESOTA STATUTE 122A.33 – LICENSE AND DEGREE EXEMPTION FOR HEAD COACH**

##### **Subdivision 1. Employment.**

Notwithstanding section 122A.15, subdivision 1, a school district may employ as a head varsity coach of an interscholastic sport at its secondary school a person who does not have a license as head varsity coach of interscholastic sports and who does not have a bachelor’s degree if:

- (1) in the judgment of the school board, the person has the knowledge and experience necessary to coach the sport;
- (2) can verify completion of six quarter credits, or the equivalent, or 60 clock hours of instruction in first aid and the care and prevention of athletic injuries; and
- (3) can verify completion of a coaching methods or theory course.

##### **Subdivision 2. Annual contract.**

Notwithstanding section 122A.58, a person employed as a head varsity coach has an annual contract as a coach that the school board may or may not renew as the board sees fit.

**Subdivision 3. Notice of nonrenewal; opportunity to respond.**

A school board that declines to renew the coaching contract of a licensed or non-licensed head varsity coach must notify the coach within 14 days of that decision. If the coach requests reasons for not renewing the coaching contract, the board must give the coach its reasons in writing within ten days of receiving the request. The existence of parent complaints must not be the sole reason for a board not to renew a coaching contract. Upon request, the board must provide the coach with a reasonable opportunity to respond to the reasons at a board meeting. The hearing may be opened or closed at the election of the coach unless the board closes the meeting under section 13D.05, subdivision 2, to discuss private data.

**MINNESOTA STATUTE 122A.58 – COACHES, TERMINATION OF DUTIES****Subdivision 1. Termination; hearing.**

Before a district terminates the coaching duties of an employee who is required to hold a license as an athletic coach from the commissioner of education, the district must notify the employee in writing and state its reason for the proposed termination. Within 14 days of receiving this notification, the employee may request in writing a hearing on the termination before the board. If a hearing is requested, the board must hold a hearing within 25 days according to the hearing procedures specified in section 122A.40, subdivision 14, and the termination is final upon the order of the board after the hearing.

**Subdivision 2. Final decision.**

Within ten days after the hearing, the board must issue a written decision regarding the termination. If the board decides to terminate the employee's coaching duties, the decision must state the reason on which it is based and include findings of fact based upon competent evidence in the record. The board may terminate the employee's duties or not, as it sees fit, for any reason which is found to be true based on substantial and competent evidence in the record.

**Subdivision 3. Nonapplication of section.**

This section shall not apply to the termination of coaching duties pursuant to a district transfer policy or as a result of the nonrenewal or termination of the employee's contract or the employee's discharge, demotion or suspension pursuant to section 122A.40 or 122A.41. This section shall not apply to the termination of an employee's coaching duties before completing the probationary period of employment.

# 500.00

## INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Purpose: To establish uniform and equitable rules for the conduct of interscholastic activities. If there is a violation of a rule, a full report of the violation must be made to the League office by the school officials of the school violating the rule. The Board of Directors will determine the responsibility and penalize the responsible school official or officials. The game shall be automatically forfeited.

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The most current version of the Official Handbook is always posted on the League website — [www.MSHSL.org](http://www.MSHSL.org)



**BYLAW 501.00****MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS**

SPORT	WEEKS OF SEASON	WEEKS OF PRACTICE / WEEKS OF TOURNAMENTS <sup>2</sup>	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS <sup>4</sup>
Badminton	11	2 / 1	18 dates / 28 matches
Baseball <sup>1</sup>	13	2 / 3	20
Basketball	18	2 / 3	26
Bowling, Adapted	11	2 / 1	16
Cross Country	12	2 / 2.5	10
Football	15	3 / 5	9 <sup>4</sup>
Golf	13	2 / 2.5	16
Gymnastics	15	3 / 2	16
Hockey	17	2 / 2.5	25
Lacrosse	11	2 / 2.5	13
Skiing	14	1 / 2	16
Soccer <sup>1</sup>	12	2 / 2	16
Softball <sup>1</sup>	13	2 / 3	20
Swimming	14	2 / 2	16
Synch. Swimming	14	2 / 1	15
Tennis	11	1 / 2	16 dates / 28 matches
Track & Field	13	2 / 3	14
Volleyball	13	2 / 2.5	17
Wrestling <sup>5, 6</sup>	15	2 / 2.5	16 dates / 45 matches
Dance Team	17	2 / 2	15
Hockey, Adapted	15	2 / 1	15
Soccer, Adapted	11	2 / 1	15
Softball, Adapted	10	2 / 1	15

<sup>1</sup> No sport will play fewer contests during the season than they play under the current format. Doubleheaders are already possible in these sports.

<sup>2</sup> Based on the week of the state tournament and the length of the longest section tournament in each sport.

<sup>3</sup> The League's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee does not recommend more than 9 games per year.

<sup>4</sup> The process to Increase/Decrease the Number of Contests provided that the increase does not exceed the 2/1 policy of games per week in a season.

<sup>5</sup> The Participation in (2) two separate varsity team competitions on the same calendar date shall count as two events toward the total allowable events and all team matches during the events will count toward the 45 total allowable competitions. For example: A school sends a team to participate in a Saturday varsity tournament in Andover and sends another team to participate in a varsity tournament in Blaine. Both events would count toward the 16 allowable events and all matches in the two separate events would count toward the 45 allowable competitions for individual wrestlers and the team matches.

<sup>6</sup> A wrestling team may schedule up to four team events for girls only without counting them against the 16 dates/45 matches. All individual wrestlers must not exceed the 16 dates/45 matches during the course of the season.

1. A President of a coaches association requests for an increase/decrease from the current number of contests.

A. The request is made to the Board of Directors regarding the increased/decreased number of contests.

B. The request must include:

- 1) the number of contests to be increased/decreased;
- 2) the rationale for the increase/decrease; and
- 3) affirmation that the request has the support of the coaches association in that sport.

C. The League office will send the request to the member schools of the League registered for that activity.

D. The response must be signed by the Designated School Representative and the head varsity coach of the activity in question affirming that the matter has been discussed at a local school board meeting where the board has been advised of the economic impact.

E. All responses must be returned to the League office by the prescribed date.

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2. The League's Executive Director will approve the increase/decrease in the number of contests provided that:
  - A. A majority of votes from the schools registered for the activity who return the survey are in the affirmative; and
  - B. The increase in the number of contests will be played on a Friday evening, Saturday, or vacation day OR that the increased number of contests will not cause the team to miss school time.
3. Requests to increase/decrease the number of contests will be received by the Board of Directors on November 1 of each odd numbered year.

**BYLAW 502.00****DAILY/SEASON PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

Player participation limitations include participation in Junior High, B-Squad, Junior Varsity and Varsity games.

SPORT	DAILY LIMIT	SEASON LIMITATION																		
Badminton, Girls	None	None																		
Baseball	<p>On any given day or in any three (3) consecutive days, a high school player shall not be permitted to pitch more than a total of 14 innings. Each out shall constitute one-third inning. If a pitcher is striving for a 42nd out and exceeds the limit because of a double or triple play, there shall be no violation. In any game the starting pitcher may return to the mound once in relief, however, if the pitcher is not a starter, the pitcher may make two relief appearances.</p> <p>All games scheduled and played as stated under non-League tournaments count toward daily player participation limitations.</p> <p><i>Board policy approved December 1, 2016 supersedes above language.</i></p> <p><b>BASEBALL PITCH COUNT POLICY</b></p> <p><i>The following pitch count policy will be in effect with the 2017 Baseball season. All schools and coaches must abide by these limitations and report their pitch counts as described.</i></p> <table> <tr> <th>Required Pitches</th><th>Number of Pitches (Varsity)</th><th>Number of (lower levels)</th></tr> <tr> <td>0</td><td>1-30</td><td>1-25</td></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>31-50</td><td>26-35</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>51-75</td><td>36-60</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>76-105*</td><td>61-85</td></tr> <tr> <td>Daily Max</td><td>105</td><td>85</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once the limit is reached a pitcher may finish pitching to that batter.</li> <li>One day of rest is required if a pitcher pitches two straight days.</li> <li>Days of rest are measured in calendar days, not 24 hour periods. If a player throws 55 pitches on Monday they are not able to pitch on either Tuesday or Wednesday, but could pitch again anytime on Thursday.</li> <li>Only pitches thrown to a batter count toward the pitch count.</li> <li>When pitching below the varsity level, those pitch counts apply. The pitcher must meet the rest requirements for that level before pitching at the varsity level. When pitching at the varsity level those pitch count rules apply. The player must then meet those rest requirements before pitching at a lower level.</li> </ul> <p><i>*The maximum is extended to 115 once Section Playoffs begin</i></p> <p><b>Penalties:</b></p> <p><u>Violation of Pitch Count Rule:</u></p> <p><i>When a pitcher pitches more than the allotted number of pitches or does not meet the rest requirement they become an ineligible athlete.</i></p> <p><i>1st Offense: Game is forfeited and the head coach is censured.</i></p> <p><i>2nd Offense in the same season: Game is forfeited and the head coach is suspended for one game.</i></p> <p><i>3rd Offense in the same season: Game is forfeited and the head coach is suspended for four games.</i></p> <p><u>Violation of tracking pitches policy:</u></p> <p><i>Failure to record and track pitches as per the following stipulations will result in the following penalties:</i></p> <p><i>1st Offense: Head Coach is reminded.</i></p> <p><i>2nd Offense: Head Coach is censured.</i></p> <p><i>3rd Offense: Head Coach is suspended for one game.</i></p> <p><i>4th Offense: Head Coach is suspended for four games.</i></p>	Required Pitches	Number of Pitches (Varsity)	Number of (lower levels)	0	1-30	1-25	1	31-50	26-35	2	51-75	36-60	3	76-105*	61-85	Daily Max	105	85	None
Required Pitches	Number of Pitches (Varsity)	Number of (lower levels)																		
0	1-30	1-25																		
1	31-50	26-35																		
2	51-75	36-60																		
3	76-105*	61-85																		
Daily Max	105	85																		

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**BYLAW 502.00****DAILY/SEASON PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

Player participation limitations include participation in Junior High, B-Squad, Junior Varsity and Varsity games.

SPORT	DAILY LIMIT	SEASON LIMITATION
Basketball, Boys & Girls	<p>No student shall participate in more than three (3) halves on any given day. Exception: Any school whose 9th, 10th, or B-Squad schedule shall have fewer than the maximum allowable number of varsity games may schedule four- team tournaments for such 9th, 10th or B-squad teams to bring the number of games equal to the allowable total.</p> <p>A maximum number of two (2) such tournaments may be scheduled per level. Each game in a tournament will count as one (1) contest. A player may participate in a maximum of four (4) halves per tournament day in such tournaments.</p> <p>Junior varsity or varsity reserves may participate in four-team tournaments as long as the total number of halves for varsity and varsity reserves does not exceed the total allowable halves per season as stated in the Player Participation Limitation Halves per Season. A player may participate in a maximum of four (4) halves per tournament.</p> <p>If a player participates in a varsity game on any given day, the maximum allowable halves is limited to three (3). Participation in any half counts as one (1) half. Overtime is an extension of the second half. All games scheduled and played as stated under non-League tournaments count toward daily player participation limitations.</p> <p>Junior High/Middle School games count towards maximum allowable halves.</p>	<p>No student may participate in more halves per season than a number equal to three (3) times the number of varsity games scheduled. Participation in any half counts as one (1) half in administering these rules.</p> <p>All games scheduled and played as stated under non-League tournaments count toward the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) season total for contest/ games</li> <li>2) season player participation limitations</li> </ol>
Bowling, Adapted	None	None
Cross Country Running, Boys & Girls	None	Regardless of the number of teams a school supports, no participant may run in more than a total of 1 and 1/10 of the total number of meets allowed, exclusive of League tournament play.
Football	<p>An individual player may not participate in more than 6.5 quarters of play during any consecutive 3-day period. This limitation applies to participation in games at all levels of play: Junior High, B-Squad, Junior Varsity and Varsity.</p> <p>Quarters of play are as defined under Season Limitations. Any participation in a quarter counts as one quarter of a game with the exception of special teams. Participation on special teams only, counts as one-half of one quarter.</p>	<p>During a season, no student may participate in more quarters than a number equal to six (6) times the number of varsity games scheduled. Player participation limitations include participation in Junior High, B-Squad, Junior Varsity and Varsity games.</p> <p>Participation in any quarter counts as one (1) quarter of a game. Participation on Special Teams only would count as one-half (1/2) quarter of play.</p> <p>Special Teams would be defined and limited to: Kickoff, Kickoff Return, Punt, Punt Return, Field Goal and Extra Point Kicking Teams only.</p>
Golf, Boys & Girls	None	None
Gymnastics, Girls	None	None

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**BYLAW 502.00****DAILY/SEASON PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

Player participation limitations include participation in Junior High, B-Squad, Junior Varsity and Varsity games.

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>DAILY LIMIT</b>	<b>SEASON LIMITATION</b>
Hockey, Boys & Girls  Adapted Hockey	<p>No student shall participate in more than four (4) periods on any given day.</p> <p>Exception 1: Any school whose 9th, 10th, or B-Squad schedule has less than the maximum allowable number of varsity games may schedule four-team tournaments for such 9th, 10th, or B-Squad teams to bring the number of games to the allowable total. A maximum number of two (2) such tournaments may be scheduled per level. Each game in a tournament will count as one (1) contest. A player may participate in a maximum of six (6) periods per day in such tournaments. Participation in any period counts as one (1) period in administering the rules. All games scheduled and played as stated under non-League tournaments count toward daily player participation limitations.</p> <p>Exception 2: When a penalty occurs at the end of a period and the penalty time will carry over to the next period, we allow a student to be replaced in the penalty box for the next period to prevent the use of an ineligible student if the next period would be the 5th period. However, we do not allow the replacement of the student in the next period to preserve his or her future eligibility. If the next period is not the 5th period for the student, the student must serve the penalty and count that period toward the maximum allowable periods for the day. If the coach wishes to ensure that a student has the desired further periods of participation available, it is the coach's responsibility to not have the student on the ice towards the end of a period when any penalty time assessed would carry over to the next period in which the coach had intended that the student not participate.</p> <p>Exception 3: If an injury or illness to a goaltender occurs during the games scheduled on that day the alternate or spare goaltender may play in more than four periods that day. If the goaltender remains injured or ill for future games this exception cannot be carried forward. For example: Your program has two goalies. Goaltender #1 plays three periods in the JV game. During warm-ups for the varsity game goaltender #2 breaks her arm on that day. Goaltender #1 may play all three varsity periods. Goaltender #2 is not able to play for one month. For all future games Goaltender #1 can play in no more than 4 periods on any given day. The options: A member of the team becomes a goaltender for two periods, or the JV and varsity games are scheduled for two separate days.</p>	<p>No student shall participate in more periods per season than a number equal to four (4) times the number of varsity games scheduled. Participation in any period counts as one period in administering these rules. An overtime is an extension of the third period and not a separate period for purposes of these rules.</p> <p>All games scheduled and played as stated under non-League tournaments count toward the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) season total for contest/games</li> <li>2) season player participation limitations</li> </ol>
Lacrosse, Boys	<p>No student shall participate in more than six (6) quarters on any given day. Participation in any quarter counts as one (1) quarter. Overtime is an extension of the fourth quarter.</p>	<p>No student may participate in more quarters during a season than a number equal to six times the number of varsity games scheduled.</p>
Lacrosse, Girls	<p>No student shall participate in more than three (3) halves on any given day. Participation in any half counts as one (1) half. Overtime is an extension of the second half.</p>	<p>No student may participate in more halves during a season than a number equal to three times the number of varsity games scheduled.</p>
Skiing, Alpine & Nordic Ski Racing	None	None
Soccer, Boys & Girls  Adapted Soccer	None	<p>No student may participate in more than 45 halves per season. Participation in any half counts as one half toward the total allowed.</p>
Softball, Girls  Adapted Softball	None	None

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**BYLAW 502.00****DAILY/SEASON PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

Player participation limitations include participation in Junior High, B-Squad, Junior Varsity and Varsity games.

SPORT	DAILY LIMIT	SEASON LIMITATION
Swimming & Diving, Boys & Girls	None	None
Synchronized Swimming, Girls	None	None
Tennis, Boys & Girls	None	None
Track & Field, Boys & Girls	None	None
Volleyball, Girls	Daily: A student is limited to a maximum of five (5) sets per day. Participation in any game counts as one (1) game. This includes Junior High, B-Squad, Junior Varsity and/or varsity competition. Exception: The daily limitation shall be waived 1) when participating in a tournament (15 sets) that counts as one (1) match on the schedule or 2) if a volleyball team plays two (2) matches (3 out of 5 games) in one day. Each match will count as one (1) game toward the season total of 17 matches.	None
Wrestling	A wrestler may not wrestle in more than five (5) matches on any given day.	No student may participate in more than 45 matches prior to League-sponsored tournaments.
Dance Team	None	None

**Penalty**

If there is a violation of the player limitations, a full report of the incident must be made to the League Office by the school officials of the school violating the rule. The Board of Directors will determine the responsibility and penalize the responsible school official or officials. The game must be automatically forfeited.

**BYLAW 503.00****BADMINTON – GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Practice may begin on the second week in March and continue for eleven weeks.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Eight (8) days of organized practice shall precede the first contest.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)****A. Maximum number allowed - 18**

Eighteen contest dates with the total number of team matches within the 18 contest dates not to exceed 28.

**B. Non-League Tournaments**

A team tournament, in which winners advance to determine a champion, counts as 1 toward maximum 28 matches. Each dual competition within a multiple-team tournament, (round robin), in which opponents are predetermined, counts as 1 toward maximum 28 matches. An individual tournament, in which individuals advance to determine champions, counts as 1 toward the maximum 28 matches.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 504.00****BASEBALL****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Fourteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

A five-day organized conditioning program may precede the two weeks of organized practice that is required prior to the first contest. The extra five days of practice are for conditioning arms and for overall physical conditioning, and will be conducted using only baseballs, gloves, and catcher's equipment. Strength training and aerobic conditioning equipment may also be used.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 20 (exclusive of League tournament play).

B. Non-League Tournaments

Tournaments, not part of the League play, will count each game played in the tournament as 1 game toward the maximum number of 20. Teams will be allowed to participate in a maximum of three games per tournament, with the limitation of two games per day. The number of schools participating in a tournament shall not exceed eight unless it is a conference tournament. Conference, division or section champions may play a 21st game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be on the school schedule. (Remember that each game will count as 1 toward the maximum number of 20 games allowed.)

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.



**BYLAW 505.00****BASKETBALL – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Eighteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest except when Thanksgiving occurs during the second week of organized practice, a game may be scheduled and played on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed - 26

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champions may schedule a 27th game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments not part of League play: Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 506.00****BOWLING, ADAPTED – CO-EDUCATIONAL****1. SEASON**

The length of the bowling season shall be 11 weeks.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

Two games would constitute a match. Sixteen (16) matches (2 matches per week) will comprise a season. The maximum number of matches played per season shall not exceed 16 matches exclusive of League tournament play. All games shall be bowled in an official bowling alley.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The League has three competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI), Cognitively Impaired (CI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Students will be eligible for 12 consecutive semesters (6 years), beginning with their or their peers initial entrance into the 7th grade.

The League requires a sports qualifying exam every three (3) years for participants in competitive athletics. The League acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not “make the team”, these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students may not participate in both PI and CI divisions. If a student participates in both divisions the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game.

- A. **PI Division** – The League Adapted Athletics PI Division program is specifically intended for students with physical impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the PI Division with one of the following criteria.

The student must have a diagnosed and documented impairment specified from one of the two sections below: (Must be diagnosed and documented by a Physician/Physicians Assistant):

- 1) Neuromuscular, postural/skeletal, traumatic, growth, or neurological impairment that affects motor function, modifies gait patterns, or requires the use of a prosthesis or a mobility device including but not limited to, canes, crutches, or wheelchairs.
- 2) Cardio/respiratory impairment that is deemed safe for competitive athletics but limits the intensity and duration of physical exertion such that sustained activity for over five minutes at 60% of maximum heart rate for age results in physical distress in spite of appropriate management of the health condition.

**Note: A student with a condition that can be appropriately managed with appropriate medications, which eliminate physical or health endurance limitations, will NOT be considered to be eligible for adapted athletics.**

**Specific exclusions to PI competition:**

The following health conditions **without coexisting physical impairments as outlined above** do not qualify the student to participate in the PI Division even though some of the conditions below may be considered Health Impairments by an individual's physician, student's school, or a government agency. This list is not all-inclusive and the conditions are examples of non-qualifying health conditions; other health impairments that are not listed below may also be non-qualifying for participation in the PI Division.

- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
- Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome)
- Tourette's Syndrome
- Neurofibromatosis
- Asthma
- Reactive Airway Disease (RAD)
- Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)
- Blindness
- Deafness
- Obesity
- Depression
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- Seizure Disorder
- Other Similar Disorders

- B. **CI Division** – The MSHSL Adapted Athletics CI Division program is specifically intended for students with cognitive impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the CI Division by meeting criteria 1 or 2 below:

1) **Minnesota Rule: 3525.1333 DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE DISABILITY**

Subpart 1. Definition. "Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD)" means a condition resulting in significantly below average intellectual functioning and concurrent deficits in adaptive behavior that adversely affects educational performance and requires special education and related services. DCD does not include conditions primarily due to a sensory or physical impairment, traumatic brain injury, autism spectrum disorders, severe multiple impairments, cultural influences, or inconsistent educational programming.

Subpart 2. Criteria. The team shall determine that a pupil is eligible as having a DCD and is in need of special education instruction and related services if the pupil meets the criteria in items A and B.

- a) The pupil demonstrates below average adaptive behavior in school and home, and, if appropriate, community environments. For the purposes of this item, "below average" means:
- (1) a composite score at or below the 15th percentile on a nationally normed, technically adequate measure of adaptive behavior; and
  - (2) documentation of needs and the level of support required in at least four of the seven adaptive behavior domains across multiple environments. Systematic observation and parent input must be included as sources to document need and level of support. All of the following adaptive behavior domains must be considered:
    - (a) daily living and independent living skills;
    - (b) social and interpersonal skills;
    - (c) communication skills;
    - (d) academic skills;
    - (e) recreation and leisure skills;
    - (f) community participation skills; and
    - (g) work and work-related skills.

Other sources of documentation may include checklists; classroom or work samples; interviews; criterion-referenced measures; educational history; medical history; or pupil self-report.

- b) The pupil demonstrates significantly below average general intellectual functioning that is measured by an individually administered, nationally normed test of intellectual ability. For the purposes of this subitem, "significantly below average general intellectual functioning" means:
- (1) mild-moderate range: two standard deviations below the mean, plus or minus one standard error of measurement; and
  - (2) severe-profound range: three standard deviations below the mean, plus or minus one standard error of measurement.

Significantly below average general intellectual functioning must be verified through a written summary of results from at least two systematic observations with consideration for culturally relevant information, medical and educational histories, and one or more of the following: supplemental tests of specific abilities, criterion-referenced tests, alternative methods of intellectual assessment, clinical interviews with parents, including family members, if appropriate, or observation and analysis of behavior across multiple environments.

2) **Students will also be eligible for the CI Division if they meet the following criteria:**

The student must have a diagnosed and documented cognitive impairment. Cognitively impaired refers to students with sub-average intellectual function defined by a Full Scale intelligence quotient of 70 or below, using a standardized, nationally-normed, technically adequate, and individually administered intelligence test.

**Specific exclusions from CI competition:**

A student becomes ineligible to participate in Adapted Athletics when they have attained a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements. A student who has reached a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements after the start of a season will be permitted to complete that sports season.

C. **Challenges to a student's eligibility to participate in PI and CI adapted athletics:**

A school may file a written challenge regarding a student's eligibility to participate in Adapted Athletics based on the qualifications stated above. Challenges must be submitted within 24 hours of the end of a game in which an ineligible player participated.

A challenge submitted after the deadline will not be honored. The student shall remain eligible during the review process. The committee's findings will be final and follow the student through the remaining years of eligibility unless there is a change in physical or cognitive status.

- 1) Upon receipt of a written challenge the League will activate the following review process:
  - a) request a brief statement from the school/coach supporting the eligibility of the athlete; and
  - b) review the school's/coach's submission and the school's supporting data (testing, medical history, school documentation) by one reviewer who will submit a brief written statement regarding the eligibility status.
- 2) Appeal Process:
 

If the initial review denies eligibility an appeal can be requested. A panel of three (3) reviewers will be convened. Two (2) of these reviewers must be from different disciplines (MD, Adapted PE teacher, PT, etc). The school/coach will be asked to submit a video of the player during a game or during PE class that will best demonstrate the disability. The video will be at the schools expense.

**D. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**

Eligibility for participation in the ASD Division is as follows:

- 1) The student must meet the current eligibility criteria established by the Minnesota State High School League regarding age, semesters of eligibility, progress towards graduation, physical form on file, etc.
- 2) There must be documented evidence of the student having Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provided by the student's school district.
- 3) Students must be able to participate in the activity without having physical prompts by an adult, coach or other participant.
- 4) A student with ASD and a composite IQ of 70 or lower would qualify to participate in either the CI or ASD division but not both in the same season.
- 5) A student with ASD who also has a documented physical impairment (according to page 4 of the MSHSL Physical Form) would qualify to participate in either the PI or the ASD division but not both in the same season.

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
  - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
  - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
  - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:
  - 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
  - 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
  - 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
  - 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
    - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
    - b) in a camp or clinic; or
    - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 507.00****CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Twelfth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

Maximum number allowed – 10

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
  - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
  - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
  - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:
  - 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
  - 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
  - 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
  - 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
    - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
    - b) in a camp or clinic; or
    - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 508.00****FOOTBALL****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Practice may begin on the 15th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRE-SEASON PRACTICE/HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION POLICY**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 208 (Board Policy Definitions for Summer Football Practice Restrictions)**

**A. Schedule for 14 Calendar Day Acclimatization Period:**

- 1) Days 1–5: “Contact Practices” are not allowed.
  - a) No single practice may last more than 2 hours with total practice time per day not to exceed 4 hours.
  - b) There must be at least a 2 hour recovery period prior to the second practice.
  - c) Double practice days must be followed by a single practice day.
  - d) A 1 hour walk-thru is allowed each day that there is a single practice, but there must be at least a 1 hour recovery period prior to the walk-thru.
    - (1) As an alternative, a walk-thru for a maximum of 45 minutes may be conducted prior to practice on a one practice day, but must be followed by at least a 15 minute recovery period before another practice may begin.
  - e) Day 1: Helmets only
  - f) Day 2: Shoulder pads may be worn for up to 1 hour of practice time
  - g) Days 3 & 4: Helmets and shoulder pads only
  - h) Day 5: Full pads are allowed — No thud or live action
- 2) Days 6 & 7: Rest days, no practice is allowed.
- 3) Days 8–12: No restrictions on what equipment can be worn.
  - a) No practice may last more than three hours, with total practice time per day not to exceed five hours.
  - b) Double practice days must be followed by a single practice day.
  - c) There must be at least a two hour recovery period prior to the second practice.
  - d) A one hour walk-thru is allowed on single practice days, but there must be at least a one hour recovery period prior to the walk-thru.
    - (1) As an alternative, a walk-thru for a maximum of 45 minutes may be conducted prior to practice on a one practice day, but must be followed by at least a 15 minute recovery period before another practice may begin.
  - e) There may not be more than one contact practice per day.
- 4) Day 12 (day prior to scrimmage): Contact practices are not allowed.
- 5) Day 13: Schools may participate in one “live action” interschool scrimmage event (multiple teams may be involved).  
**Note:** Scrimmage is defined as any interaction involving students from two or more schools.
- 6) Day 14: No practice — rest day. 14 Day Acclimatization ends.
- 7) **Option for one “long” practice**: When two practices per day are held and the two hour recovery period creates an issue, teams may opt to have a second practice of one hour in length, if there is a one hour recovery period, AND conditioning is conducted only during one of the two practices. A long practice day must be followed by a single practice day.
- 8) Day 15: No restrictions on number or length of practices. No more than two contact practices per week. Consideration in regard to the amount of contact must be given to players involved in lower level games.
- 9) Day 18: First date on which interscholastic contests are allowed. Note: If the varsity team plays on Day 18, a lower level game (B/JV) may be scheduled on day 17.

**B. Definitions:**

- 1) **Heat Acclimatization Period** is defined as the initial 14 consecutive day period of pre-season practice, which begins the first day of practice prior to the regular season. Any practices or conditioning conducted before this time shall not be considered a part of the heat-acclimatization period.
- 2) **Practice** is defined as the period of time a participant engages in coach-supervised, school approved, sport or conditioning-related physical activity, including stretching, running, conditioning or physical training in the skills and fundamentals. Strength training and team meetings or video sessions do not count as a practice for the purpose of this policy.
- 3) **Levels of Contact**, as defined by USA Football, focuses on varying intensity levels throughout practices, to build player confidence, ensure their safety and prevent both physical and mental exhaustion. Six intensity levels are used to introduce players to practice drills which position them to master the fundamentals and increase skill development.
  - a) **AIR**: Intensity = 0 Players run a drill unopposed without contact.
  - b) **BAGS**: Intensity = 1 Drill is run against a bag or another soft-contact surface.
  - c) **CONTROL**: Intensity = 2 Drill is run at assigned speed until the moment of contact; one player is pre-determined the 'winner' by the coach. Contact remains above the waist and players stay on their feet when involved with contact.
  - d) **RESTRICTED CONTACT**: Intensity = 3 Teaching safe & proper techniques (block, shed, tackle) involving shoulder pads, and wearing helmets for protection. Contact above the hips only with hands, shoulders and chest. Keep the head out! Use quick whistle; no gang-tackling or cut blocking/tackling. Players stay on their feet when involved in contact.
  - e) **THUD**: Intensity = 4 Drill is run at assigned speed through the moment of contact; no pre-determined "winner." Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill.
  - f) **LIVE ACTION**: Intensity = 5 Drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground.
- 4) **Contact Practice** is defined as a practice during which drills and/or team work includes “Thud” or “Live Action,” as described below. There are no restrictions on “Air;” “Bags;” “Control;” and “Restricted Contact.” The Contact portion of this practice may not exceed 30 minutes.

*Continued on Page 101*



- 5) **Walk-thru** is defined as a teaching opportunity with the athletes not wearing protective equipment. A walk-thru is not considered part of the 2 or 3 hour single practice limitation, but does count toward the daily practice time limit; cannot last more than 1 hour; and does not include any kind strength training or conditioning activities. A “walk-thru” is only for running plays and teaching team schemes and assignments — full speed drills and/or physical contact are not allowed. Special team skills (punting and catching punts, kickoffs, and place kicking) are allowed.
  - 6) **Recovery Period** is defined as the time between the end of one practice or walk-thru and the beginning of the next practice or walk-thru. During this time athletes must rest in a cool environment (65-80 degrees F), with no sport or conditioning-related activity permitted. Team meetings and video may be part of this recovery period if conducted in a cool environment.
- C. **Penalty:**
- 1st Offense:** Head Coach suspended for two games.
- 2nd Offense:** Head Coach suspended for four games and not allowed to coach in post-season.
- Note:** This schedule and progression is safer and better for kids and may keep more kids involved with football. Less contact, less heavy conditioning will keep kids safer; they will retain more mentally; there will be less time missed due to injuries, and by the time of the first game your team may actually be more effective than by following previous practice schedules.
3. **PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**  
**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**  
 The season must begin with a five-day conditioning program and two weeks of organized practice must precede the first scheduled game.
    - A. The five days of conditioning must be conducted during the first week of practice.
    - B. Five separate and complete days of organized practices must be held, beginning on the second Monday of the season, prior to any inter-school practices or scrimmages being held.
    - C. Games may be scheduled beginning the Thursday of the second week of practice exclusive of the five days of conditioning. If the varsity plays a game on that first Thursday, a lower level game (B/JV) may be scheduled on the previous day (Wednesday of the second week).
  4. **CONTESTS**  
**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**
    - A. Maximum number allowed – 9
    - B. Non-League Tournaments  
 The champion of any conference, section or division of a conference may schedule a 10th game to determine an inter-conference or an intra-conference championship. The game must be listed on the school schedule.
  5. **PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**  
**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**
  6. **EQUIPMENT ISSUED**  
 Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).
  7. **LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**
    - A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school’s team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
    - B. Membership Defined: A student must:
      - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
      - 2) be on the school’s master eligibility list; and be under the bylaws of the League.
    - C. Exceptions: At the member school’s discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:
      - 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
      - 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
      - 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
      - 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
        - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
        - b) in a camp or clinic; or
        - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
    - D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
      - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
      - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
      - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 509.00****GOLF – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Practice may begin on the 13th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first meet.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

Maximum number allowed – 16

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
  - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
  - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
  - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:
  - 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
  - 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
  - 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
  - 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
    - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
    - b) in a camp or clinic; or
    - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 510.00****GYMNASTICS – GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Practice may begin on the 15th Monday preceding the date established for the finals of the State Girls Gymnastics Meet.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Three weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest except when Thanksgiving occurs during the third week of organized practice. In that event, a contest may be scheduled and played on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 16

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champions may schedule a 17th event to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion.

The event must be listed on the school schedule. The 17th event does not count as one of the sixteen (16) allowable contest dates.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 511.00****HOCKEY – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Seventeenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first game except when Thanksgiving occurs during the second week of organized practice. In that event, a game may be scheduled and played on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 25

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champion may schedule a 26th game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments not a part of League play: Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 512.00****LACROSSE – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

The season shall be eleven (11) weeks long. Practice may begin on the 11th Monday preceding the date established for the finals of the State Tournament and continue through the final day of the League-sponsored competition.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 13

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champion may schedule a 14th game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments not a part of League play: Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 513.00****SKIING, ALPINE – BOYS & GIRLS  
NORDIC SKI RACING – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Fourteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

One week of organized practice shall precede the first ski meet.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

Maximum number allowed – 16

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
  - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
  - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
  - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:
  - 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
  - 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
  - 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
  - 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
    - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
    - b) in a camp or clinic; or
    - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.



**BYLAW 514.00****SOCCER – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

On the 12th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice must precede the first scheduled contest. Interschool practice scrimmages may not be held until after five separate and complete days of organized practice. Practice sessions shall be conducted within the local school environs. Special training camps are not permitted. A championship game between the winners of two conferences or sections of an officially organized conference shall not constitute a violation of this rule provided it is within the total game limitation of the League and is listed on the official schedule of each member school.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 16

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference champions may schedule a 17th game to determine the inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 515.00****SOFTBALL, FASTPITCH – GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Thirteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first game.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 20 (exclusive of League tournament play)

B. Non-League Tournaments

Tournaments, not part of the League play, will count each game played in the tournament as 1 game toward the maximum number of 20. Teams will be allowed to participate in a maximum of four games per tournament, with the limitation of three games per day. Conference, division or section champions may play a 21st game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be on the school schedule. (Remember that each game will count as 1 toward the maximum number of 20 games allowed.)

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 516.00****SWIMMING & DIVING – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Fourteenth Monday preceding the finals for the Girls'/Boys' State Meet unless the state meet falls on the week of Thanksgiving. In that event, the season shall begin on the 15th Monday preceding the finals of the state meet.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest except when Thanksgiving occurs during the second week of organized practice. In that event, a contest may be scheduled and played on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 16

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champions may schedule a 17th meet to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The meet must be listed on the school schedule.

C. When diving competitions cannot be held at a scheduled meet because the pool does not comply with the minimum depth requirements, the school may schedule additional diving competitions to make up for the missed meets. Divers are required to participate in all meets where the scheduled pool does comply with the minimum depth requirements. Athletes who dive may not exceed the sixteen meet participation limit.

Administrative memo: Coaches shall follow the National Federation Swimming and Diving Rules Book, Rule 3: Team Personnel, Section 2: Entries by individuals. ART. 1 . . . A competitor shall be permitted to enter a maximum of four events, no more than two of which may be individual events.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 517.00****SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING – GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Practice may begin on the first Monday in March and continue for fourteen (14) weeks.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first meet.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 15

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champions may schedule a 16th meet to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 518.00****TENNIS – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Eleventh Monday preceding the finals of the State Girls/Boys Tournament

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

One week of organized practice shall precede the first match.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

**A. Maximum number allowed – 16**

Sixteen contest dates with the total number of team matches within the 16 contest dates or events not to exceed 28, exclusive of League-sponsored tournament play.

**B. Non-League Tournaments**

- 1) A team tournament, in which winners advance to determine a champion, counts as 1 toward maximum 28 matches. Each dual competition within a multiple-team tournament (round robin), in which opponents are predetermined, counts as 1 toward maximum 28 matches. An individual tournament, in which individuals advance to determine champions, counts as 1 toward the maximum 28 matches.
- 2) Conference or division champions may schedule a 17th event to determine an inter-conference or intra- conference champion. The event must be listed on the school schedule. The 17th event does not count as one of the sixteen (16) allowable contest dates.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
  - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
  - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
  - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:
  - 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
  - 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
  - 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
  - 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
    - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
    - b) in a camp or clinic; or
    - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 519.00****TRACK & FIELD – BOYS & GIRLS****1. SEASON BEGINS**

On the 13th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall be provided prior to the first contest.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 14

B. Non-League Tournaments

Indoor and outdoor meets shall be counted together in arriving at the total of 14.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.



**BYLAW 520.00****VOLLEYBALL – GIRLS\*****1. SEASON BEGINS**

On the 13th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of practice shall be provided prior to the first contest.

**3. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed - 17

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champions may schedule an 18th match to determine an inter-conference or intra- conference champion.

The match must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments, not part of League sponsored tournament play, will count as one match toward the total number allowed. Schools may not participate in more than three tournaments in addition to those that are League sponsored. Tournaments played on two consecutive days will count as one playing date. In non-League tournaments, teams may compete in a maximum of 15 sets. A minimum of 2 games must be played with each opponent. Match play (2 out of 3) may also be used. If teams play only 2 games with an opponent, the winner of the match will be decided by the following criteria:

- 1) A team winning both games shall be declared the winner.
- 2) If a team has split the games with one win and one loss, the winner shall be declared using one of these criteria:
  - a) one team has scored more total points than the other team or
  - b) if both teams have scored the same total points there are two options:
    - (1) Continue play in game 2 until one team has scored a total of 2 more points than the other team or
    - (2) play a 5-point game to determine the winner.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
  - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
  - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
  - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:
  - 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
  - 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
  - 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
  - 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
    - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
    - b) in a camp or clinic; or
    - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

\* The Representative Assembly approved Boys Volleyball on May 9, 2023, for interscholastic status for the 2024-2025 school year.

**BYLAW 521.00****WRESTLING****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Fifteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest except when Thanksgiving occurs during the second week of organized practice. In that event, a contest may be scheduled and played on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)****A. Maximum number allowed – 16**

Sixteen events with the total number of team competitions within the 16 events not to exceed 45. An individual tournament shall count as one team competition toward the 16 allowable events, and one of the 45 allowable team competitions.

*A wrestling team may schedule up to four team events for girls only without counting them against the 16 dates/45 matches. All individual wrestlers must not exceed the 16 dates/45 matches during the course of the season.*

*Please Note: Participation in (2) two separate varsity team competitions on the same calendar date shall count as two events toward the total allowable events and all team matches during the events will count toward the 45 total allowable competitions. For example: A school sends a team to participate in a Saturday varsity tournament in Andover and sends another team to participate in a varsity tournament in Blaine. Both events would count toward the 16 allowable events and all matches in the two separate events would count toward the 45 allowable competitions for individual wrestlers and the team matches.*

**Dual Meet Varsity and JV Participation**

*For Dual, Triangular and Quad Meet participation an individual can wrestle in the JV and Varsity portion of each dual. Participating at the JV and Varsity level of a dual will count as two matches toward the maximum of 45 individual matches but only count as one event toward an individual wrestler's maximum participation in 16 events.*

- *The individual can wrestle in both the JV and Varsity levels of the dual as long as:*
- *The wrestler does not exceed the Match Limit of 5 per day*
- *The wrestler has a rest time between matches of 45 minutes*
- *The wrestler does not exceed the 45 match count limit*
- *The wrestler does not exceed the 16 event limit (Varsity & JV portion of an event count as only 1 event together)*

*Dual/Triangular/Quad Meet Procedure: Teams will weigh-in all of their wrestlers by weight at the same time from smallest to largest (Varsity, Junior Varsity & Junior High at the same time).*

- *Each team would be required to designate and notify the opposing team of their roster that could be used on their Varsity squad for that event prior to the start of weigh-ins.*
- *All wrestlers on the varsity roster would be eligible to wrestle both the junior varsity and varsity competitions if all previously stated rules are followed.*

**B. Non-League Tournaments**

Tournaments, not part of League play, will count as one event toward the total number allowed. Conference or division champions may schedule a 17th event to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference championship. The event must be listed on the school schedule. Wrestling in the 17th event does not count toward the 45 competitions total but the weigh-in will be used toward the 50% rule for determining the wrestler's certified weight.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or

- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 522.00****DANCE TEAM****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Practice may begin on the 17th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. COMPETITIVE WINTER SEASON**

- A. There are two divisions: high kick and jazz. Member schools can choose to participate either in one or both divisions.
- B. Performances and related practices may continue until the end of the school's participation in winter tournament play provided that the dance team performs continuously in post-season appearances.

**3. SUMMER PERFORMANCE SEASON**

Teams may perform in one community-based event during the summer provided that approval has been received from the League office 30 days prior to the event. A summer waiver form must be filled out and sent to the League. Preparation time is limited to one week preceding the event.

**4. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two (2) weeks of organized practice shall precede the first contest.

**5. CONTESTS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

Maximum number allowed: Member schools shall not schedule more than 15 contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournament competition. Any entry into high kick or jazz or both at the same competitive event will count as one of the 15 contests.

**6. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

**Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)**

**7. TRYOUTS:**

Coaches may have contact with students for preparation, tryout and team selection following the state competition and prior to June 15. This tryout and selection period shall not exceed one (1) week.

**8. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

- A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.
- B. Membership Defined: A student must:
  - 1) be practicing with the high school team;
  - 2) be on the school's master eligibility list; and
  - 3) be under the bylaws of the League.
- C. Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:
  - 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
  - 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
  - 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
  - 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
    - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
    - b) in a camp or clinic; or
    - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.
- D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:
  - 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - 2) in a camp or clinic; or
  - 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 523.00****HOCKEY, ADAPTED – CO-EDUCATIONAL****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Seventeenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first game except when Thanksgiving occurs during the second week of organized practice. In that event, a game may be scheduled and played on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 15

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champion may schedule a 16th game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments not a part of League play: Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The League has two competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI). Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Students will be eligible for 12 consecutive semesters (6 years), beginning with their or their peers initial entrance into the 7th grade.

The League requires a sports qualifying exam every three (3) years for participants in competitive athletics. The League acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not “make the team”, these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students may not participate in both PI and CI divisions. If a student participates in both divisions the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game.

See adapted athletics interscholastic division descriptions for Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI) under Bylaw 506-Bowling, Adapted – Co-Educational.

**7. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school’s team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school’s master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school’s discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

**BYLAW 524.00****SOCCER, ADAPTED – CO-EDUCATIONAL****1. SEASON BEGINS**

On the 12th Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice must precede the first scheduled contest. Interscholastic practice scrimmages may not be held until after five separate and complete days of organized practice. Practice sessions shall be conducted within the local school environs. Special training camps are not permitted. A championship game between the winners of two conferences or sections of an officially organized conference shall not constitute a violation of this rule provided it is within the total game limitation of the League and is listed on the official schedule of each member school.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 15

B. Non-League Tournaments

Conference champions may schedule a 16th game to determine the inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The League has two competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI). Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Students will be eligible for 12 consecutive semesters (6 years), beginning with their or their peers initial entrance into the 7th grade.

The League requires a sports qualifying exam every three (3) years for participants in competitive athletics. The League acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not “make the team”, these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students may not participate in both PI and CI divisions. If a student participates in both divisions the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game.

See adapted athletics interscholastic division descriptions for Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI) under Bylaw 506-Bowling, Adapted – Co-Educational.

**7. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school’s team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school’s master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school’s discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.



**BYLAW 525.00****SOFTBALL, ADAPTED – CO-EDUCATIONAL****1. SEASON BEGINS**

Thirteenth Monday preceding the finals of the state tournament.

**2. PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST****Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)**

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first game.

**3. CONTESTS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 501 (Maximum Number of Contests)**

A. Maximum number allowed – 15 (exclusive of League tournament play)

B. Non-League Tournaments

Tournaments, not part of the League play, will count each game played in the tournament as 1 game toward the maximum number of 20. Teams will be allowed to participate in a maximum of four games per tournament, with the limitation of three games per day. Conference, division or section champions may play a 16th game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be on the school schedule. (Remember that each game will count as 1 toward the maximum number of 20 games allowed.)

**4. PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS****Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)****5. EQUIPMENT ISSUED**

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

**6. ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The League has two competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI). Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Students will be eligible for 12 consecutive semesters (6 years), beginning with their or their peers initial entrance into the 7th grade.

The League requires a sports qualifying exam every three (3) years for participants in competitive athletics. The League acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not “make the team”, these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students may not participate in both PI and CI divisions. If a student participates in both divisions the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game.

See adapted athletics interscholastic division descriptions for Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI) under Bylaw 506-Bowling, Adapted – Co-Educational.

**7. LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM**

A. To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school’s team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

B. Membership Defined: A student must:

- 1) be practicing with the high school team;
- 2) be on the school’s master eligibility list; and
- 3) be under the bylaws of the League.

C. Exceptions: At the member school’s discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post- season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

- 1) transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or
- 2) students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or
- 3) students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or
- 4) students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and **have not participated in the same sport:**
  - a) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
  - b) in a camp or clinic; or
  - c) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

D. Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the **regular season only** (not post-season) if they have participated in the same sport:

- 1) on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or
- 2) in a camp or clinic; or
- 3) received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

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# BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS

## CHEMICAL AWARENESS STATEMENT FOR LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES

### ***Philosophy and Standards***

The Minnesota State High School League is concerned about the potential for adverse effects of alcohol and other chemicals on an individual's health and safety, as well as on the conduct of League activities.

Understanding the implications of chemical use on one's health is a personal responsibility. However, it is also the responsibility of the Minnesota State High School League to create an environment which is conducive to responsible decision-making and to establish practices which will minimize chemical abuse. Because even minimal consumption of mood-altering chemicals has an effect on individual functioning, it is of legitimate concern to the organization.

It is imperative that at all times League business is conducted in a professional and responsible manner. To this end, all representatives of the League must accept their individual responsibility to report to League functions prepared to execute their duties on behalf of the member schools.

Therefore, the Board of Directors has established the following policies and guidelines and recommends that their spirit and intent be communicated throughout all League-sponsored activities.

### ***Policies of the Board of Directors***

1. League funds shall not be used to pay for alcoholic beverages at any business or social function of the League.
2. Individuals will not use or consume alcohol prior to and while conducting League business or administering League activities.
3. All business meetings of the League shall be tobacco- free.

By definition, these representatives and functions apply to all League activities, including: the Board of Directors, Representative Assembly, Congress of Schools, Subregions and Regions, Ad Hoc Committees and Advisory Committees; Tournaments and their personnel, and representatives of member schools at League-sponsored activities.

### ***Guidelines for Member Schools***

The Board of Directors believes that the League and each member school should set clear expectations of appropriate behavior for those individuals who are responsible for students and their welfare. The following expectations are recommended:

1. Individuals who are responsible for students/teams in a League activity should refrain from the use of alcohol during this period.
2. The use of alcohol is inappropriate as a part of any League-related function which includes students, such as banquets and other celebrations.
3. Individuals who are responsible for students/teams in a League activity should refrain from the use of tobacco in the presence of students in League activities.
4. Individuals who are responsible for students/teams in a League activity should abstain from the use of illegal controlled substances.

### ***Commentary***

Each of us as a part of an organization can understand and appreciate the need for responsible behavior in our personal use of mood-altering chemicals. The cost to society, to families, and to the individual has been documented far too many times for us, both individually and collectively, to ignore our responsibilities. Our concerns should reflect consideration for those who do not use alcohol or tobacco, and consideration of those who encounter difficulty in their personal choices to maintain a chemical-free lifestyle.

Changing attitudes and patterns of alcohol use in our society has become a national goal. We, as leaders in education, can assist this movement and increase its momentum by role modeling a chemically healthy lifestyle.

By our actions, we make a statement about our beliefs regarding mood-altering chemicals. Most of all, we can be a positive role model for young people.

Preventing chemical use problems can begin with one person. The Minnesota State High School League believes it begins with us, each and every one.

## POSITION STATEMENT FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF MEN, WOMEN AND MINORITIES

Resolved: That the MSHSL Board of Directors support, encourage, and promote the efforts of member schools, official associations, colleges and universities with training programs teachers/coaches and officials, and the National Federation in their efforts to recruit men, women, and minorities into coaching and officiating.

## AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

It is the policy of the MSHSL to work affirmatively to ensure that all persons, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, age, handicapped status or reliance on public assistance, political opinion or affiliation, or military service will be treated fairly and equally in employment or program participation which includes, but is not limited to, study committees, tournament work assignments, tournament officials, etc. It is the League's policy and responsibility to aggressively and effectively take "affirmative action" to ensure fair and equal treatment for all minorities and women and handicapped persons (protected class persons).

In the area of employment, this basic policy will apply to recruitment, selection, hiring, benefits, compensation, equality of wages, employee development programs, promotion, lay-off and return from lay-off, termination and disciplinary action.

Areas not specifically mentioned in this statement will still be governed by the spirit of this statement. (Adopted by the Board of Directors, January 28, 1988).

## SEXUAL, RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT, VIOLENCE AND/OR HAZING POLICY

### I. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Minnesota State High School League believes that all individuals should be treated with respect and dignity. Therefore, it is the expectation of the League that all individuals in the course of performing their job responsibilities, conducting League business, or administering League activities will be free from sexual, racial, religious, harassment or violence and hazing as it is defined by this policy. The League will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, and to discipline any officer or employee who violates this policy.

### II. SEXUAL HARASSMENT DEFINED

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which violates Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, et seq., and Minn. Stat. 363.01-14, the Minnesota Human Rights Act. Sexual harassment is illegal under both federal and state law.

- A. Sexual Harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
  - 1. submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of obtaining or retaining employment;
  - 2. submission to or rejection of that conduct by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment;
  - 3. that conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment environment; or
  - 4. such conduct is based on sex and would not have occurred "but for" the sex of the victim even though it is not clearly sexual in nature or an explicit sexual advance.
- B. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to:
  - 1. verbal harassment or abuse;
  - 2. subtle pressure for sexual activity;
  - 3. inappropriate touching;
  - 4. intentional physical contact with another employee's body;
  - 5. requesting sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or education status;
  - 6. requesting sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment status;
  - 7. any sexually motivated unwelcome touching; or
  - 8. conduct other than explicit sexual advances that would not have occurred but for the individual's sex.

### III. SEXUAL VIOLENCE DEFINED

- A. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression that includes a sexual act or sexual purpose which involves the touching of another's intimate parts, either above or underneath the other person's clothes, or forcing another to touch one's intimate parts, either above or underneath one's clothes. Intimate parts, as defined in Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast of a human being. Sexual violence is a criminal activity.
- B. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:
  - 1. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts, either same sex or opposite sex.
  - 2. coercing or forcing sexual touching on another;
  - 3. coercing or forcing sexual intercourse on another;
  - 4. threatening to force sexual touching or intercourse on another.

## IV. RACIAL HARASSMENT DEFINED

- A. Racial harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct relating to an individual's race when the conduct:
1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
  2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
  3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

## V. RACIAL VIOLENCE DEFINED

- A. Racial violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race.

## VI. RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT DEFINED

- A. Religious harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct which is related to an individual's religion when the conduct:
1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
  2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
  3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

## VII. RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE DEFINED

- A. Religious violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, religion.

## VIII. ASSAULT DEFINED

- A. Assault is:
1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
  2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
  3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.

## IX. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES DEFINED

Officers and employees are defined as those individuals who are elected, appointed or contracted to provide services to the League. They include, but are not limited to the Board of Directors; Representative Assembly; Subregion and Region Committees; Executive staff and support staff; rules clinicians; registered officials and judges; vendors.

## X. REPORTING PROCEDURES

An employee or officer who believes that she/he has been the victim of sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence by an officer or an employee of the League should report the alleged act immediately to an appropriate League official as designated by the policy. In addition, anyone who has knowledge of an alleged violation of this policy should also report under the procedures set forth herein. A report should also be made by anyone who believes that they are being retaliated against for reporting an act covered by this policy. The League encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form that is available from the office of the League.

- A. The League hereby designates the Executive Director to receive reports or complaints of sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence. If the complaint involves the Executive Director, the complaint shall be filed directly with the President of the Board of Directors.

The name, address, and telephone number of the Executive Director is:

Erich Martens

Minnesota State High School League 2100 Freeway Boulevard

Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1735 763/560-2262

- A. Submission of a complaint or report of sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence that is not frivolous and made in good faith will not affect the individual's future employment or work assignments.
- B. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.

The League will respect the confidentiality of the complainant and the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed as much as possible, consistent with the League's legal obligations and the necessity to investigate allegations of harassment and take disciplinary action when harassment has occurred.

## C. Investigation and League Action.

By authority of the League, the Executive Director shall immediately authorize an investigation upon receipt of a report or complaint alleging sexual, racial, or religious harassment or violence. This investigation may be conducted by League officials or by a third party knowledgeable in conducting such investigations designated by the League.

The investigating party shall provide a written report of the status of the investigation within 10 working days to the Executive Director.

In determining whether the alleged conduct violates this policy, the League should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the alleged conduct, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident violates this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.

In addition, the League may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant and employees pending completion of an investigation of alleged misconduct.

The Executive Director shall use the investigative report to make findings and conclusions and take appropriate action.

## XI. REPORTING LEAGUE ACTION

- A. Upon taking appropriate action, the Executive Director shall provide a written report to the Board of Directors.
- B. The result of the investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures will be reported by the League in writing to the complainant. The report will document any disciplinary action taken as a result of the complainant.

**XII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal.

**XIII. DISCIPLINE**

Any League action taken pursuant to this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable Minnesota statutes and League policies. The League will take such disciplinary action as it deems necessary and appropriate in its sole discretion. This may include, but is not limited to warning, suspension, or immediate discharge. Immediate discharge may be taken as a first or last disciplinary step.

**POSITION STATEMENT:****A CODE OF COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSIVITY, AND BELONGING (6/6/23)****The Code of Commitment**

The Board of Directors established the following Code of Commitment and will communicate its spirit and intent throughout all League programs.

*I will join in the commitment of the Minnesota State High School League and its member schools to champion diversity, equity, inclusivity and belonging in League programs by:*

*... educating myself and being empathetic to gender fairness, equity, cultural heritage and traditions of others;*

*...modeling language and behavior that is non-biased and inclusive of individuals regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, ability or gender;*

*...taking action to prevent prejudice and discrimination against individuals or groups;*

*...and intervening to let others know I will not tolerate any demeaning actions or words that are ethnic, racial, religious, ability or gender based.*

**Philosophy**

- The Minnesota State High School League believes that preventing prejudice and discrimination begins with each of us.
- The League and its member schools are committed to creating environments and intentional leadership opportunities that promote inclusivity by demonstrating respect and appreciation for all people regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, ability, or gender.
- The League recognizes the impact of prejudice and discrimination on participants in the League programs sponsored by its member schools.
- League programs should be a model for all and demonstrate that individuals with differences can interact with each other in a world free of prejudice and discrimination.

**League Representatives and Responsibilities**

- The Minnesota State High School League believes that clear expectations of appropriate conduct must be communicated to those individuals responsible for the well-being of students in all League programs.
- Leaders of League programs are role models for students and have a responsibility to model behaviors free of prejudice and discrimination.
- This code applies to all League representatives, including but not limited to the Board of Directors, League Staff, the Representative Assembly, Region Committees, ad hoc and advisory committees, coaches, registered officials, rules clinicians, tournament personnel, and representatives of member schools in League-sponsored activities.



# STATE LEGISLATION

## 121A.04 Athletic Programs; Sex Discrimination.

### Subdivision 1. Purpose.

The legislature recognizes certain past inequities in access to athletic programs and in the various degrees of athletic opportunity previously afforded members of each sex, race, and ethnicity. The purpose of this section is to provide an equal opportunity for members of each sex and members of all races and ethnicities to participate in athletic programs.

### Subd. 2. Equal opportunity in athletic programs.

Each educational institution or public service shall provide equal opportunity for members of each sex and members of all races and ethnicities to participate in its athletic program. In determining whether equal opportunity to participate in athletic programs is available for the purposes of this section, at least the following factors shall be considered to the extent that they are applicable to a given situation: whether the opportunity for males and females to participate in the athletic program reflects the demonstrated interest in athletics of the males and females in the student body of the educational institution or the population served by the public service; whether the opportunity for members of all races and ethnicities to participate in the athletic program reflects the demonstrated interest in athletics of members of all races and ethnicities in the student body of the educational institution or the population served by the public service; whether the variety and selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the demonstrated interests of members of each sex; whether the variety and selection of sports and levels of competition effectively accommodate the demonstrated interests of members of all races and ethnicities; the provision of equipment and supplies; scheduling of games and practice times; assignment of coaches; provision of locker rooms; practice and competitive facilities; and the provision of necessary funds for teams of one sex.

### Subd. 3. Exceptions.

- (a) Notwithstanding any other state law to the contrary, in athletic programs operated by educational institutions or public services and designed for participants 12 years old or older or in the 7th grade or above, it is not an unfair discriminatory practice to restrict membership on an athletic team to participants of one sex whose overall athletic opportunities have previously been limited.
- (b) When an educational institution or a public service provides athletic teams for children 11 years old or younger or in the 6th grade or below, those teams shall be operated without restrictions on the basis of sex, except that when overall athletic opportunities for one sex have previously been limited and there is a demonstrated interest by members of that sex to participate on a team restricted to members of that sex, the educational institution or public service may provide a team restricted to members of that sex.
- (c) When two teams in the same sport are in fact separated or substantially separated according to sex, the two teams shall be provided with substantially equal budgets per participant, exclusive of gate receipts and other revenues generated by that sport, and in all other respects shall be treated in a substantially equal manner. However, nothing in this section shall be construed to require the two teams to conduct combined practice sessions or any other combined activities related to athletics.
- (d) If two teams are provided in the same sport, one of these teams may be restricted to members of a sex whose overall athletic opportunities have previously been limited, and members of either sex shall be permitted to try out for the other team.
- (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b), and (d), any wrestling team may be restricted to members of one sex whether or not the overall athletic opportunities of that sex have previously been limited, provided that programs or events are provided for each sex to the extent the educational institution or public service determines that these programs or events are necessary to accommodate the demonstrated interest of each sex to participate in wrestling.

### Subd. 4. Provision of separate teams.

When an equal opportunity to participate in the elementary or secondary school level athletic program of an educational institution or public service is not provided to members of a sex whose overall athletic opportunities have previously been limited, that educational institution or public service shall, where there is demonstrated interest, provide separate teams for members of the excluded sex in sports which it determines will provide members of that excluded sex with an equal opportunity to participate in its athletic program and which will attempt to accommodate their demonstrated interests.

### Subd. 5. Rules.

The commissioner of education, after consultation with the commissioner of human rights must promulgate rules in accordance with chapter 14 to implement this section to prevent discrimination in elementary and secondary school athletic programs operated by educational institutions. The rules promulgated by the commissioner pursuant to this section shall not require athletic competition or tournaments for teams whose membership may be restricted to members of a sex whose overall athletic opportunities have previously been limited to be scheduled in conjunction with the scheduling of athletic competition or tournaments for teams whose membership is not so restricted by this section. Any organization, association or league entered into by elementary or secondary schools or public services for the purpose of promoting sports or adopting rules and regulations for the conduct of athletic contests between members shall provide rules and regulations and conduct its activities so as to permit its members to comply fully with this section. The rules of that organization, association or league may provide separate seasons for athletic competition or tournaments in a sport for teams whose membership may be restricted to members of a sex whose overall athletic opportunities have previously been limited from athletic competition or tournaments established for teams in that same sport whose membership is not so restricted by this section, and its rules may prohibit a participating student from competing on more than one school team in a given sport during a single school year. POLICIES FOR ATHLETES WITH CONCUSSIONS (ENACTED 2011)

An act relating to health; establishing policies for youth athletes with concussions resulting from participation in youth athletic activities; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections 124E.03, subdivision 8; 128C.02, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 121A. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

**Section 1. [121A.37] YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS.**

- (a) Consistent with section 121A.38, any municipality, business, or nonprofit organization that organizes a youth athletic activity for which an activity fee is charged shall:
  - (1) make information accessible to all participating coaches, officials, and youth athletes and their parents or guardians about the nature and risks of concussions, including the effects and risks of continuing to play after receiving a concussion, and the protocols and content, consistent with current medical knowledge from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, related to:
    - (i) the nature and risks of concussions associated with athletic activity;
    - (ii) the signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion;
    - (iii) the need to alert appropriate medical professionals for urgent diagnosis and treatment when a youth athlete is suspected or observed to have received a concussion; and
    - (iv) the need for a youth athlete who sustains a concussion to follow proper medical direction and protocols for treatment and returning to play; and
  - (2) require all participating coaches and officials to receive initial online training and online training at least once every three calendar years thereafter, consistent with clause (1) and the Concussion in Youth Sports online training program available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website.
- (b) A coach or official shall remove a youth athlete from participating in any youth athletic activity when the youth athlete:
  - (1) exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion; or
  - (2) is suspected of sustaining a concussion.
- (c) When a coach or official removes a youth athlete from participating in a youth athletic activity because of a concussion, the youth athlete may not again participate in the activity until the youth athlete:
  - (1) no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion; and
  - (2) is evaluated by a provider trained and experienced in evaluating and managing concussions and the provider gives the youth athlete written permission to again participate in the activity.
- (d) Failing to remove a youth athlete from an activity under this section does not violate section 604A.11, subdivision 2, clause (6), consistent with paragraph (e).
- (e) This section does not create any additional liability for, or create any new cause of legal action against, a municipality, business, or nonprofit organization or any officer, employee, or volunteer of a municipality, business, or nonprofit organization.
- (f) For the purposes of this section, a municipality means a home rule charter city, a statutory city or a town. EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective beginning September 1, 2011.

**Section 2. [121A.38] CONCUSSION PROCEDURES.****Subdivision 1. Definitions.**

- (a) For purposes of this section and section 121A.37, the following terms have the meanings given them.
- (b) "Concussion" means a complex pathophysiological process affecting the brain, induced by traumatic biokinetic forces caused by a direct blow to either the head, face, or neck, or elsewhere on the body with an impulsive force transmitted to the head that may involve the rapid onset of short-lived impairment of neurological function and clinical symptoms, loss of consciousness, or prolonged postconcussive symptoms.
- (c) "Provider" means a health care provider who is:
  - (1) registered, licensed, certified, or otherwise statutorily authorized by the state to provide medical treatment;
  - (2) trained and experienced in evaluating and managing pediatric concussions; and
  - (3) practicing within the person's medical training and scope of practice.
- (d) "Youth athlete" means a young person through age 18 who actively participates in an athletic activity, including a sport.
- (e) "Youth athletic activity" means any sport or other athletic activity related to competition, practice, or training exercises which is intended for youth athletes and at which a coach or official is present in an official capacity as a coach or official. For purposes of school-sponsored sports under this section, youth athletic activities are extracurricular athletic activities.

**Subd. 2. SCHOOL-SPONSORED SPORTS.**

- (a) The appropriate sports governing body, including the high school league under chapter 128C, among other sports governing bodies, shall work with public and nonpublic school coaches, officials, and youth athletes and their parents or guardians to make information available about the nature and risks of concussions, including the effects of continuing to play after receiving a concussion. The information shall include protocols and content, consistent with current medical knowledge from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, related to:
  - (1) the nature and risks of concussions associated with athletic activity;
  - (2) the signs, symptoms, and behaviors consistent with a concussion;
  - (3) the need to alert appropriate medical professionals for urgent diagnosis and treatment when a youth athlete is suspected or observed to have received a concussion; and
  - (4) the need for a youth athlete who sustains a concussion to follow proper medical direction and protocols for treatment and returning to play.

A sports governing body that posts or provides appropriate links to the information indicated in this paragraph has complied with the requirements of this paragraph.

## POLICIES FOR ATHLETES WITH CONCUSSIONS (ENACTED 2011)

- (b) Consistent with paragraph (a), the appropriate sports governing body shall provide access to the Concussion in Youth Sports online training program available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website. Each school coach and official involved in youth athletic activities must receive initial online training and online training at least once every three school years thereafter.
- (c) At the start of each school year, school officials shall make information available about the nature and risks of concussions to youth athletes and their parents or guardians. If a parent of a youth athlete must sign a consent form to allow the youth athlete to participate in a school-sponsored athletic activity, the form must include information about the nature and risk of concussions.
- (d) A coach or official shall remove a youth athlete from participating in any youth athletic activity when the youth athlete:
  - (1) exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion; or
  - (2) is suspected of sustaining a concussion.
- (e) When a coach or official removes a youth athlete from participating in a youth athletic activity because of a concussion, the youth athlete may not return to the activity until the youth athlete:
  - (1) no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion; and
  - (2) is evaluated by a provider trained and experienced in evaluating and managing concussions and the provider gives the youth athlete written permission to again participate in the activity.
- (f) Failing to remove a youth athlete from an activity as required under this section does not violate section 604A.11, subdivision 2, clause (6), consistent with paragraph (g).
- (g) This section does not create any additional liability for, or create any new cause of legal action against, a school or school district or any officer, employee, or volunteer of a school or school district.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for the 2011-2012 school year and later.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 124D.10, subdivision 8 [subsequently renumbered to 124E.03, subd. 2], is amended to read:

**Subd. 2. Certain federal, state, and local requirements.**

- (a) A charter school shall meet all federal, state, and local health and safety requirements applicable to school districts.
- (b) A school must comply with statewide accountability requirements governing standards and assessments in chapter 120B.
- (c) A school authorized by a school board may be located in any district, unless the school board of the district of the proposed location disapproves by written resolution.
- (d) A charter school must be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. An authorizer may not authorize a charter school or program that is affiliated with a nonpublic sectarian school or a religious institution. A charter school student must be released for religious instruction, consistent with section 120A.22, subdivision 12, clause (3). Charter schools must not be used as a method of providing education or generating revenue for students who are being home-schooled.
- (e) The primary focus of a charter school must be to provide a comprehensive program of instruction for at least one grade or age group from five through 18 years of age. Instruction may be provided to people younger than five years and older than 18 years of age.
- (f) A charter school may not charge tuition.
- (g) A charter school is subject to and must comply with chapter 363A and section 121A.04.
- (h) A charter school is subject to and must comply with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, sections 121A.40 to 121A.56, and the Minnesota Public School Fee Law, sections 123B.34 to 123B.39.
- (i) A charter school is subject to the same financial audits, audit procedures, and audit requirements as a district. Audits must be conducted in compliance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards, the federal Single Audit Act, if applicable, and section 6.65. A charter school is subject to and must comply with sections 15.054; 118A.01; 118A.02; 118A.03; 118A.04; 118A.05; 118A.06; 471.38; 471.391; 471.392; and 471.425. The audit must comply with the requirements of sections 123B.75 to 123B.83, except to the extent deviations are necessary because of the program at the school. Deviations must be approved by the commissioner and authorizer. The Department of Education, state auditor, legislative auditor, or authorizer may conduct financial, program, or compliance audits. A charter school determined to be in statutory operating debt under sections 123B.81 to 123B.83 must submit a plan under section 123B.81, subdivision 4.
- (j) A charter school is a district for the purposes of tort liability under chapter 466.
- (k) A charter school must comply with chapters 13 and 13D; and sections 120A.22, subdivision 7; 121A.75; and 260B.171, subdivisions 3 and 5.
- (l) A charter school is subject to the Pledge of Allegiance requirement under section 121A.11, subdivision 3.
- (m) A charter school offering online courses or programs must comply with section 124D.095.
- (n) A charter school and charter school board of directors are subject to chapter 181.
- (o) A charter school must comply with section 120A.22, subdivision 7, governing the transfer of students' educational records and sections 138.163 and 138.17 governing the management of local records.
- (q) A charter school that provides early childhood health and developmental screening must comply with sections 121A.16 to 121A.19.
- (r) A charter school that provides school-sponsored youth athletic activities must comply with section 121A.38.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 128C.02, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 3b. **Concussion awareness, safety, and protection.** The league may adopt a concussion awareness, safety, and protection policy that exceeds the requirements of section 121A.38.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for the 2011- 2012 school year and later.

## **122A.15 Teachers, Supervisory and Support Personnel, Definitions, Licensure.**

### **Subdivision 1. Teachers.**

The term “teachers” for the purpose of licensure, means all persons employed in a public school or education district or by a service cooperative as members of the instructional, supervisory, and support staff including superintendents, principals, supervisors, secondary vocational and other classroom teachers, librarians, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, school social workers, audio-visual directors and coordinators, recreation personnel, media generalists, media supervisors and school speech-language pathologists. This definition does not apply to sections 122A.05 to 122A.093.

### **Subdivision 2. Supervisory personnel.**

“Supervisory personnel” for the purpose of licensure means superintendents, principals, and professional employees who devote 50 percent or more of their time to administrative or supervisory duties over other personnel, and includes athletic coaches.

## **122A.33 License and Degree Exemption For Head Coach.**

### **Subdivision 1. Employment.**

Notwithstanding section 122A.15, subdivision 1, a school district may employ as a head varsity coach of an interscholastic sport at its secondary school a person who does not have a license as head varsity coach of interscholastic sports and who does not have a bachelor’s degree if:

- (1) in the judgment of the school board, the person has the knowledge and experience necessary to coach the sport;
- (2) can verify completion of six quarter credits, or the equivalent, or 60 clock hours of instruction in first aid and the care and prevention of athletic injuries; and
- (3) can verify completion of a coaching methods or theory course.

### **Subdivision 2. Annual contract.**

Notwithstanding section 122A.58, a person employed as a head varsity coach has an annual contract as a coach that the school board may or may not renew as the board sees fit.

### **Subdivision 3. Notice of nonrenewal; opportunity to respond.**

A school board that declines to renew the coaching contract of a licensed or nonlicensed head varsity coach must notify the coach within 14 days of that decision. If the coach requests reasons for not renewing the coaching contract, the board must give the coach its reasons in writing within ten days of receiving the request. The existence of parent complaints must not be the sole reason for a board not to renew a coaching contract. Upon request, the board must provide the coach with a reasonable opportunity to respond to the reasons at a board meeting. The hearing may be opened or closed at the election of the coach unless the board closes the meeting under section 13D.05, subdivision 2, to discuss private data.

## **122A.58 Coaches, Termination of Duties.**

### **Subdivision 1. Termination; hearing.**

Before a district terminates the coaching duties of an employee who is required to hold a license as an athletic coach from the commissioner of education, the district must notify the employee in writing and state its reason for the proposed termination. Within 14 days of receiving this notification, the employee may request in writing a hearing on the termination before the board. If a hearing is requested, the board must hold a hearing within 25 days according to the hearing procedures specified in section 122A.40, subdivision 14, and the termination is final upon the order of the board after the hearing.

### **Subdivision 2. Final decision.**

Within ten days after the hearing, the board must issue a written decision regarding the termination. If the board decides to terminate the employee’s coaching duties, the decision must state the reason on which it is based and include findings of fact based upon competent evidence in the record. The board may terminate the employee’s duties or not, as it sees fit, for any reason which is found to be true based on substantial and competent evidence in the record.

### **Subdivision 3. Nonapplication of section.**

This section shall not apply to the termination of coaching duties pursuant to a district transfer policy or as a result of the nonrenewal or termination of the employee’s contract or the employee’s discharge, demotion or suspension pursuant to section 122A.40 or 122A.41. This section shall not apply to the termination of an employee’s coaching duties before completing the probationary period of employment.

## MAIN VOLUME OF STATUTES CHAPTER 128C – HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

### 128C.01 Form, makeup, delegated power, board members

**Subdivision 1. Voluntary association.** The Minnesota State High School League is a nonprofit corporation that is a voluntary association of high schools. A high school that is a school under section 120A.22, subdivision 4, may be a member of the league. The league is made up of high schools whose governing boards have delegated their control of extracurricular activities, as described in section 123B.49, subdivision 4, to the league. The delegation is made when the governing board files a certificate of delegation with the commissioner of education.

**Subdivision 2. Power to delegate to, pay for, league.** The governing board of a high school may delegate its control of extracurricular activities to the league. A school board may spend money for, and pay dues to, the league.

**Subdivision 3. League power to control.** The State High School League may control contests by and between pupils of the Minnesota high schools that are delegated to it under this section.

#### Subdivision 4. Board.

- (a) The league must have a 22-member governing board.
  - (1) The governor must appoint four members according to section 15.0597. Each of the four appointees must be a parent. At least one of them must be an American Indian, an Asian, a Black, or a Hispanic.
  - (2) The Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals must appoint two of its members.
  - (3) The remaining 16 members must be selected according to the league's constitution.
- (b) The terms, compensation, removal of members, and the filling of membership vacancies are governed by section 15.0575, except that the four-year terms begin on August 1 and end on July 31. As provided by section 15.0575, members who are full-time state employees or full-time employees of school districts or other political subdivisions of the state may not receive any per diem payment for service on the board.

### 128C.02 Duties, policies, criteria, rules of board

**Subdivision 1. Decisions, policies, advisory committees.** The board shall establish and adopt policies, including a policy on corporate sponsorships and similar agreements, make decisions on behalf of the league, and establish advisory committees necessary to carry out board functions.

**Subdivision 2. Sexual harassment and violence; hazing.** The board of the league shall adopt a policy, rules, penalties, and recommendations addressing sexual harassment and sexual violence and hazing toward and by participants in league activities.

**Subdivision 3. Criteria for conference arrangements.** The board must develop criteria for the league to use when it is asked to arrange for membership in an interscholastic conference by a league member under section 128C.07. The league must give notice and an opportunity for league members to be heard before adopting the criteria. The criteria must include, at least, the distance to be traveled by competing schools, the relative enrollments of the schools, and the comparability of extracurricular activities in the schools.

**Subdivision 4. Rules are APA exempt.** The rules of the league are exempt from chapter 14, including section 14.386.

#### Subdivision 5. Rules for open enrollees.

- (a) The league shall adopt league rules and regulations governing the athletic participation of pupils attending school in a nonresident district under section 124D.03.
- (b) Notwithstanding other law or league rule or regulation to the contrary, when a student enrolls in or is readmitted to a recovery-focused high school after successfully completing a licensed program for treatment of alcohol or substance abuse, mental illness, or emotional disturbance, the student is immediately eligible to participate on the same basis as other district students in the league-sponsored activities of the student's resident school district. Nothing in this paragraph prohibits the league or school district from enforcing a league or district penalty resulting from the student violating a league or district rule.
- (c) The league shall adopt league rules making a student with an individualized education program who transfers from one public school to another public school as a reasonable accommodation to reduce barriers to educational access immediately eligible to participate in league-sponsored varsity competition on the same basis as other students in the school to which the student transfers. The league also must establish guidelines, consistent with this paragraph, for reviewing the 504 plan of a student who transfers between public schools to determine whether the student is immediately eligible to participate in league-sponsored varsity competition on the same basis as other students in the school to which the student transfers.



**Subdivision 6. Annual report.** The board annually shall prepare a written report containing the information about the league that the commissioner is required to obtain and review under section 128C.20. The board shall present copies of the report in a timely manner to the education committees of the legislature.

**Subdivision 7. Women referees.** The league shall adopt league rules and policy requiring, to the extent possible, the equal employment of women as referees for high school activities and sports contests, from game level to tournament level.

**Subdivision 9. Purchasing.** In purchasing goods and services, the league must follow all laws that apply to school districts under sections 123B.52 and 471.345.

### **128C.03 Procedures**

The league shall adopt procedures to ensure public notice of all eligibility rules and policies that will afford the opportunity for public hearings on proposed eligibility rules. If requested by 100 or more parents or guardians of students, the public hearing must be conducted by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings, by a person hired under contract by the Office of Administrative Hearings, or by an independent hearing officer appointed by the commissioner of education from a list maintained for that purpose.

At the conclusion of a hearing requested by 100 or more parents or guardians of students, the person conducting the hearing shall write a report evaluating the extent to which the league has shown that the proposed rule is needed and reasonable and the legality of the proposed rule. The league shall pay for hearings under this section.

### **128C.05 Tournaments, classes of athletic competition**

**Subdivision 1. Tournaments.** The Minnesota State High School League shall establish, conduct, and regulate championship high school tournament activities.

**Subdivision 2. Classes.** The league shall determine the number of classes in all interscholastic athletic activities under its jurisdiction.

**Subdivision 3. Exemption.** The appropriate regional committee must hear a request for a waiver to allow a nonresident student to participate in another district when that participation affects a school's classification for interscholastic athletic activities. The regional committee must review requests for waivers and make timely recommendations to the Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors.

### **128C.07 Arranging interscholastic conference membership**

**Subdivision 1. Policy.** The league may establish a policy to guide member high schools in forming or altering interscholastic conferences.

**Subdivision 1a. Request.** A league member high school that is not in a conference may ask the league to arrange membership for the league member in an interscholastic conference.

**Subdivision 2. Reason not in conference.** The reason the member is not in a conference must be: (1) the conference was dissolved, or (2) the member was involuntarily excluded.

**Subdivision 3. Prerequisite: 90-day good faith effort.** Before asking the league to arrange membership, the school must make a good faith attempt over at least 90 days to join a conference. The 90 days run from the date of the school's first written request to join or rejoin a conference.

**Subdivision 4. League deadline: 90 days.** The league must arrange the conference membership within 90 days after receiving a timely written request from a league member high school.

**Subdivision 5. Must use criteria.** The league must follow its criteria in arranging the conference membership.

**Subdivision 6. Right to hearing, notice.**

(a) The requesting school or a high school already in the conference that is the subject of the proposed arrangement may request a timely public hearing on the proposed arrangement.

(b) The league must notify the schools mentioned in paragraph (a) of the right to a hearing.

**Subdivision 7. Decision is binding.** The league's final decision on a matter of conference membership under this section is binding on all of the schools required to be notified of the right to a hearing.

**Subdivision 8. Otherwise, conferences are voluntary.** Except to the extent the league arranges conference membership under this section, an interscholastic conference of schools participating in activities delegated to the league may be formed and changed freely.

### **128C.08 Assaulting a sports official prohibited.**

**Subdivision 1. Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meaning given in this subdivision.

"Assault" is (1) an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death, or (2) the infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another.

"Sports official" is a person who serves as an umpire, referee, judge, linesperson, timer, scorekeeper, or in another similar capacity for an interscholastic athletic activity.

"Interscholastic athletic activity" or "activity" means an interscholastic athletic activity whose control, supervision, and regulation have been delegated to the Minnesota State High School League pursuant to section 128C.01.



**Subdivision 2. Prohibited conduct.** Any person who assaults a sports official in connection with an interscholastic athletic activity may be excluded from attending an activity for up to 12 months.

**Subdivision 3. Sanction.** The board of directors of the Minnesota State High School League or a school board may exclude any person except as provided in subdivision 5. The board of directors of the Minnesota State High School League may exclude a person from:

- (1) any activity of the kind in connection with which the assault occurred; or
- (2) all interscholastic athletic activities.

A school board may exclude a person from any activity sponsored or participated in by the school district.

**Subdivision 4. Procedure.** The board of directors of the Minnesota State High School League or a school board may exclude a person from any interscholastic athletic activity if the person assaulted a sports official in connection with an activity. A person alleged to have assaulted a sports official shall be entitled to an informal hearing on the matter by the board of directors of the Minnesota State High School League or school board. Upon finding that the person assaulted a sports official, the board of directors of the Minnesota State High School League or school board shall notify the individual in writing and shall indicate any activity from which, and the period of time for which, the person is excluded.

**Subdivision 5. Head varsity coach.** A head varsity coach may be excluded under this section only by the school board employing the coach.

#### 128C.10 Expense limits

**Subdivision 1. Employee expenses.** Employees of the league may be reimbursed only for expenses as authorized by the commissioner's plan for state employees adopted under section 43A.18, subdivision 2.

**Subdivision 2. No credit cards.** The league cannot have credit cards.

**Subdivision 3. Director's expense account.** The executive director of the league may have a department head expense account. The account is subject to the same limits and guidelines as the same account for the commissioner of education. The executive director may spend money to entertain from this account only. The executive director may reimburse the expenses of guests of the league from this account only.

**Subdivision 4. Advisory committee pay.** A member of an advisory committee may be paid for expenses only. The only way the expenses may be reimbursed is in the same way board members' expenses are reimbursed.

**Subdivision 5. Auto policy.** The board must have a policy on the use of automobiles by league staff. The board must show annually how the policy is the most cost-effective alternative available.

#### 128C.12 Audits and reports by state auditor

**Subdivision 1. Dues and events revenue.**

- (a) The state auditor annually must examine the accounts of, and audit all money paid to, the State High School League by its members. The audit must include financial and compliance issues. The audit must also include all money derived from any event sponsored by the league.
- (b) The administrative regions of the league may contract with the state auditor or with a private certified public accountant for the audit required by this section. If a private certified public accountant performs the audit, the state auditor may require additional information from the private certified public accountant as the state auditor deems in the public interest. The state auditor may accept the audit or make additional examinations as the state auditor deems to be in the public interest.

**Subdivision 3. Copies.** The board must file copies of the audit report with the commissioner of education and the director of the Legislative Reference Library.

**Subdivision 5. League to pay for audit.** The league must pay for the audit.

#### 128C.15 Employment

**Subdivision 1. Affirmative action.** The State High School League must adopt an affirmative action policy. The reason for the policy is to ensure that jobs within the league are equally accessible to all qualified persons. The policy is also needed to eliminate underemployment by the league of the protected groups that are defined in section 43A.02, subdivision 33.

**Subdivision 2. Recruiting.** The league must actively and publicly recruit qualified people to become its employees. The league must give special emphasis to recruiting members of protected groups. The league must advertise available positions in newspapers of general circulation. The advertisement must contain a deadline for submitting applications that is at least 14 days after the date of the last advertisement. The league must keep each application for at least six months and must notify an applicant when a position, for which the applicant is qualified, becomes available.

**Subdivision 3. Comparable worth.** The league is a political subdivision under sections 471.992 to 471.999. A cause of action against the league does not arise before August 1, 1989, for failure to comply with sections 471.992 to 471.999.

#### 128C.17 League is subject to Data Practices Act

The collection, creation, receipt, maintenance, dissemination, or use of information by the State High School League is subject to chapter 13. The league must make data relating to its eligibility determinations available to the public in the form of summary data, with all personal identifiers removed.

**128C.20 Commissioner review of league**

**Subdivision 1.** Annually. Each year the commissioner of education shall obtain and review the following information about the league:

- (1) an accurate and concise summary of the annual financial and compliance audit prepared by the state auditor that includes information about the compensation of and the expenditures by the executive director of the league and league staff;
- (2) a list of all complaints filed with the league and all lawsuits filed against the league and the disposition of those complaints and lawsuits;
- (3) an explanation of the executive director's performance review;
- (4) information about the extent to which the league has implemented its affirmative action policy, its comparable worth plan, and its sexual harassment and violence policy and rules; and
- (5) an evaluation of any proposed changes in league policy.

The commissioner may examine any league activities or league-related issues when the commissioner believes this review is warranted.

**Subdivision 2.** Recommend laws. The commissioner may recommend to the legislature whether any legislation is made necessary by league activities.

**128C.22 League must have open meetings**

For the purposes of chapter 13D, the State High School League is considered a state agency required by law to transact business in meetings open to the public.

**128C.24 League funds transfer**

Beginning July 1, 2007, the Minnesota State High School League shall annually determine the sales tax savings attributable to section 297A.70, subdivision 11, and annually transfer that amount to a nonprofit charitable foundation created for the purpose of promoting high school extracurricular activities. The funds must be used by the foundation to make grants to fund, assist, recognize, or promote high school students' participation in extracurricular activities. The first priority for funding will be grants for scholarships to individuals to offset athletic fees. The foundation must equitably award grants based on considerations of gender balance, school size, and geographic location, to the extent feasible.

**NOTE:** The amendment to this section by Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 1, article 3, section 4, is effective for sales and purchases made after June 30, 2017, and before July 1, 2027. Laws 2017, First Special Session chapter 1, article 3, section 4, the effective date

## Chapter 129.12

A bill amending M.S. 129.12 to clarify the legal position of the League was submitted to the legislature by Commissioner of Education Howard Casmey in 1973. It was passed in May 1973.

The bill further provided that membership in the Minnesota State High School League shall be available to any high school in Minnesota which satisfies compulsory attendance pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 120.10.

The Board of Directors, at its regular meeting of May 16, 1974, accepted the applications for membership of the following non-public schools effective August 1, 1974:

Academy of the Holy Angels, Richfield  
Archbishop Brady High School, West St. Paul  
Benilde-St. Margaret's, St. Louis Park  
Bethlehem Academy, Faribault  
Blake High School, Hopkins  
Cathedral High School, New Ulm  
Cathedral High School, St. Cloud  
Central Minnesota Christian H.S., Prinsburg  
Concordia Academy, St. Paul  
Cotter High School, Winona  
Cretin High School, St. Paul  
Crosier Seminary High School, Onamia  
DeLaSalle High School, Minneapolis  
Derham Hall High School, St. Paul  
Duluth Cathedral H.S., Duluth  
Good Counsel Academy, Mankato  
Grace High School, Fridley  
Hill-Murray High School, St. Paul  
Holy Trinity High School, Winsted

Lourdes High School, Rochester  
Loyola High School, Mankato  
Lutheran High School, Mayer  
Lutheran High School, Minneapolis  
Marian High School, Owatonna  
Martin Luther Academy, New Ulm  
Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis  
Mount St. Benedict H.S., Crookston  
Pacelli High School, Austin  
Regina High School, Minneapolis  
Sacred Heart H.S., East Grand Forks  
Southwest Minnesota Christian H.S., Edgerton  
Saint Agnes High School, St. Paul  
Saint Bernard's High School, St. Paul  
Saint Croix Lutheran High School, West St. Paul  
Saint John's Prep School, Collegeville  
Saint Mary's High School, Sleepy Eye  
Saint Thomas Academy, West St. Paul

# MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE HISTORY

The Minnesota State High School League was first organized in 1916 as the State High School Athletic Association. Its primary purposes were (1) to promote amateur sports and (2) to establish uniform eligibility rules for interscholastic contests.

In 1929 it broadened its scope by including all interscholastic athletic activities and added speech and debate. At that time the name was changed to the Minnesota State High School League. Music was added in 1965 and Girls Athletics in 1969.

The League has existed as a nonprofit, voluntary association of the public high schools since its inception. In 1960 it was officially incorporated under the laws of the State of Minnesota as a nonprofit corporation.

## FIRST CONGRESS OF SCHOOLS

On April 23 and 24, 1971 a Congress of the member schools was called to consider the restructuring of the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution, the Special Rules Sections of each League activity program and the establishment of a General Rules Section. The primary purpose was to update the present structure and to bring it into compliance with existing Non-Profit Laws of the State of Minnesota. In addition, proposals of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, nominated by the Commissioner of Education and appointed by the Board of Directors, were acted upon at this meeting.

Four hundred and forty-seven of the 486 total members had official representation at this historic meeting. This was the first meeting of the total membership in the 55-year history of the League.

## LEAGUE OFFICE BUILDING

A mail ballot of the League membership in May of 1972 authorized the Board of Directors to build a Minnesota State High School League office building in Anoka. Construction of the League headquarters began in late September of 1973. Occupation of the office was completed on January 29, 1974.

In August of 1986 a committee of the Board of Directors was formed to study the office space needs of the League. The results indicated that the office staff had outgrown the Anoka facility and recommended that the Board explore new office sites. With the member schools' approval, the search led to the Brooklyn Center site acquisition in May of 1988. Occupation of the new office building was completed on July 5, 1989.

## SECOND CONGRESS OF SCHOOLS

On December 8 and 9, 1972, representatives from 427 of the 484 member schools gathered at the Minneapolis Auditorium to participate in the League's 2nd Congress of Schools. Over 900 men and women, boys and girls, school board members, legislators, superintendents, principals, athletic directors, coaches of athletic and non-athletic activities and students actively participated in the action of the Congress. The Second Congress was significant and successful, not because changes resulted, though they are important, but rather because of the manner in which it was conducted. The proceedings of this Congress were the result of a unique, democratic procedure that enabled each of the 900 participants to listen, to learn and to express their opinions concerning League rules dealing with (1) alcohol, tobacco and drugs, and (2) summer participation as applies to football, basketball and hockey.

Many issues of each topic were presented to the Congress by two panels of outstanding community leaders and educators. However, it was the small discussion session that followed each panel presentation that established the effective process of the Congress. In each small discussion group there was open, frank dialogue and interaction. Everyone was involved. These small group sessions were evaluated and the findings were presented to the total group the following day.

## REORGANIZATION AND REASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOLS

On April 17, 1975 the member schools of the Minnesota State High School League approved amendments that provided the changes necessary to implement reorganization for two class competition. The results of the ballot were 357 "yes" and 62 "no".

The Board of Directors assigned the largest 128 schools by enrollment to the "AA" classification. All other member schools were assigned to Class "A". In April 1983 the Board of Directors adopted a policy which assigned schools with a minimum enrollment of 500 students to Class "AA" and schools with an enrollment 1-499 to Class "A".

## THIRD CONGRESS OF SCHOOLS

The Congress of Schools meeting held in the St. Paul Civic Center Auditorium on November 11 and 12, 1987 had more than 600 administrators and school board members attending from 296 member schools of the MSHSL.

The theme of the Congress of Schools was "Ownership Through Commitment, Cooperation and Communication."

The purpose of the two-day meeting was to provide an opportunity for member schools of the MSHSL to participate in workshops and round table discussions in areas that directly affect and impact League-sponsored extracurricular programs; present a first reading of the proposed amendments to the Representative Assembly and to strengthen the ownership each school has as a League member.

## **RESOLUTION**

*Motion: Supt. Wallace Johnson, Dawson-Boyd 2nd: Supt. Ralph Brynelson, Cottonwood*

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota State High School League, its Board of Directors and its staff has done a commendable and exemplary task in administering and fostering programs for the students in Minnesota schools,

**BE THEY HEREBY RECOGNIZED** and applauded by the Minnesota Congress of Schools on this date, Thursday, the 12th day of November, 1987.

Noted speakers included Dr. Lewis Finch, Superintendent of Schools, Anoka-Hennepin District No. 11; Brice Durbin, Executive Director, National Federation of State High School Associations; Sharon Wilch, Administrative Assistant, Colorado High School Activities Association; Dr. David Landsverk, Superintendent of Schools, Wayzata Public Schools; and comedienne Susan Vass.

The Third Congress of Schools was the first conducted by the MSHSL in 15 years, the last Congress being in December 1972

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## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

**P. O. Box 690**

**Indianapolis, IN 46206**

**Phone: 317-972-6900**

**Fax: 317-822-5700**

**Web: [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)**

The National Federation consists of the fifty individual state high school athletic and/or activities associations and the association of the District of Columbia. Also affiliated are eight interscholastic organizations from the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.

These state and provincial associations have united to secure the benefits of cooperative action which eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and which increase efficiency through the sharing and coordinating of policies of all who are engaged in the administration of high school athletic and activities programs.

## FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

O. E. Smith	Anoka	1925-42
H. R. Peterson	Albert Lea	1942-59
B. H. Hill	Edina	1959-70
Murrae N. Freng	Anoka	1970-85
Orval J. Bies	Anoka	1985-88
Dave V. Stead	Andover	1988-2018

## FORMER MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Previous to 1938 members were elected on a statewide basis. Since 1938 members have been elected by the schools in each region.

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>REGION/AREA</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
Perry Aadland	Chisago Lakes Area	7-8AA	2010-12	
S. O. Aaker	Rushford	1	1943-45	
C. G. Aakhus	Willow River	7	1966-67	
Charles Achter	Chaska	1-2AA	1986-89	
Bill Adams	Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton	1-2A	2018-19	
L. W. Adams	Anoka	4	1940-43	
Gary Addington	Rochester	1-2AA	1997-2001	President 2000-01
Louis E. Allen	Greenbush	8	1963-71	President 1971 National Executive Committee 1966-69
Dave Alto	Spring Lake Park	5-6AA	2007-09	
R. H. Amundson	Renville	3	1964	
Don Andersen	Saint Charles	1-2A	1979-81	
H. E. Anderson	Arlington		1937-40	
J. E. Anderson	Mankato	2	1943-46	
P. M. Atwood	Staples	6	1936-42	
Roy B. Aune	Breckenridge	6	1952-60	President 1955-56
Harold Ause	Harmony	1	1958-62	President 1961-62
Richard Baker	Fergus Falls	7-8AA	1980-84	President 1983-84
John Barnett	Mankato	1-2AA	1993-97	President 1996-97
Emery Barrette	Saint Paul	3-4AA	1975-79	
G. A. Beck	Duluth Central	7	1954-64	President 1957-58; 1959-60
H. C. Bell	Luverne		1916-22	President 1916-22
Ralph Bergstrom	Hutchinson	3	1964-68	
Rick Bleichner	Breckenridge	5-6A	2009-13	Treasurer 2012-13
Randy Bowen	Esko	7-8A	2006-08	
Robert Boyd	Argyle	8	1951-55	
R. M. Brynelson	Cottonwood	3	1968-72	President 1971-72
R. Gene Busch	Newfolden	7-8A	1989-90	
Rob Carpentier	Cristo Rey Jesuit	3-4A	2016-20	
Jeff Caywood	Proctor	7-8AA	1994-96	
C. H. Christenson	White Bear Lake	4	1943-45	
W. G. Claffy	Thief River Falls	8	1938-41	
W. C. Cobb	Brainerd		1918-21	
A. J. Cole	Saint James	2	1953-57	President 1956-57
Jim Colletti	Irondale, New Brighton	3-4AA	2000-02	
Tom Conzemius	Sauk Rapids-Rice	7-8AA	2012-13	
E. J. Cooper	Robbinsdale	5	1947-55	President 1954-55
B. M. Cosgrove	Saint Peter		1916	
Roland DeLapp	Minneapolis Washburn	5-6AA	1971-79	President 1973-74; 1977-78
N. B. Duckstad	Renville	3	1949-50	
E. A. Durbahn	Worthington	2	1946-49	
W. P. Dyer	Bemidji		1916-18	
Al Eckmann	Austin	1-2AA	1989-93	
E. W. Eggers	Hibbing	7-8AA	1976-80	President 1978-79
Fred G. Eimermann	Jordan	4	1973-75	
T. R. Ehrhorn	Rochester	1	1952-58	
George Eitheim	Winnebago	2	1965-69	

## FORMER MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR	SCHOOL	REGION/AREA	TERM	OFFICERS
Harvey Eitrem	Luverne	2	1961-65	President 1964-65
Verdie Ellingson	Glencoe	3-4A	1976-80	President 1979-80
E. H. Engelbart	Cannon Falls	1	1943	
Kerwin Engelhart	Rochester	1-2AA	1981-85	President 1984-85
Emil Estenson	Blooming Prairie	1	1947-50	
Sharon Euerle	Mankato West	1-2AA	2001-05	President 2004-05
Chuck Evert	Pelican Rapids	5-6A	2001-05	Treasurer 2004-05
Myron Fahey	Gilbert	7-8A	1975-78	
Charles Fairchild	Glencoe	3	1950-52	
Donald Faulkner	Sandstone	7-8A	1982-86	President 1985-86
John Feda	Marshall	1-2AA	1977-81	President 1980-81
George Feipel	Montgomery	4	1958-61	
Robert Fossum	Henderson	3-4A	1984-88	
Mark Fredericksen	Waconia	1-2AA	2009-13	President 2012-13
H. E. Frisby	Ivanhoe	3	1952-56	
Richard Froiland	Hendricks	3-4A	1980-84	
Al Frost, Jr.	Minneapolis	5-6AA	2000-03	
William Gaslin	Saint Francis	7-8AA	1987-88	
H. B. Gough	Saint Cloud	5	1928-47	President 1937-46
Tom Graupmann	Northfield	1-2AA	2013-17	President 2016-17
Reede Gray	Redwood Falls	3	1945-48	
Bob Grey	Montevideo	3-4A	2012-16	Treasurer 2015-16
E. W. Hamren	North Branch	7	1966-70	President 1969-70
Don Hansen	Long Prairie	5-6A	1993-97	Treasurer 1996-97
Gordon Hansen	Wells-Easton	1-2A	1977-79	
Dr. David Hartmann	Alexandria	7-8AA	1996-2000	President 1999-2000
Art Hass	Austin	1-2AA	1975-77	
H. G. Hegdahl	Saint Peter	4	1953-57	
Brian Hegseth	Centennial	5-6AA	2015-19	
Jed Helwig	North	3-4AA	2017-18	
Theo. Hinderacker	Hendricks	3	1939-42	
Tom Holland	Fosston	7-8A	1994-98	
O. A. Homme	Barnum	7	1940-43	
C. S. Ingebrigtsen	Westbrook	2	1957-61	President 1960-61
M. L. Jacobson	Moorhead		1922-24	President 1922-24
Harvey D. Jensen	South Saint Paul	4	1961-65	President 1963-64
Thomas Jerome	Roseau	7-8A	2018-22	President 2021-22
Bertil Johnson	Saint Louis Park	5	1967-71	
Brad Johnson	Rushford-Peterson	1-2A	2003-07	
Dan Johnson	Hopkins	5-6AA	2012-15	
Grant Johnson	Detroit Lakes	6	1960-64	President 1962-63
H. A. Jorgenson	Bagley	8	1955-63	
Dan Kaler	Grand Rapids	7-8AA	1992-94	
Lou Kanavati	St. Paul Public Schools	3-4AA	2002-06	
Emmett Keenan	St. Cloud Cathedral	5-6A	2013-17	
Warren Keller	Warroad	7-8A	2002-06	Treasurer 2005-06
G. V. Kinney	Red Wing		1924-37	President 1924-37
Ray Kirch	Osseo	5-6AA	2009-11	
Gene Kjellberg	Blackduck	7-8A	1986-89	
Stephen Kjorness	Westbrook-Walnut Grove	3-4A	1996-2000	Treasurer 1998-2000
Ron Kleven	Springfield	2A	1988-92	
C. J. "Connie" Knoche	Stillwater	3-4AA	1990-94	President 1993-94
Mike Kolness	Ada-Borup	7-8A	2010-14	
Mark Kuisle	Rochester Century	1-2AA	2005-09	President 2008-09
Michael Kuntz	Jackson	1-2A	1983-87	
Kenneth LaCroix	Hastings	3-4AA	1982-86	
Chris Laird	Heritage Christian Academy	3-4A	2008-12	
Al Larson	Truman	2	1949-53	



## FORMER MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR	SCHOOL	REGION/AREA	TERM	OFFICERS
Ron Larson	St. Francis	7-8AA	2008-10	
Eric Lehtola	Andover	7-8AA	2016-20	
T. E. Lewis	Sleepy Eye		1921-22	
V. E. Lewis	Spring Grove	1	1974-75	
Roger Licari	Mesabi East	7-8A	1990-94	
Richard Lorenz	New Richland-Hartland- Ellendale-Geneva	1-2A	1991-95	President 1994-95
J. H. Longstreet	Caledonia	1	1947	
J. E. Lunn	Nashwauk		1937-39	
Thomas Lykins	Redwood Falls	3-4	1972-76	
Richard Maas	Richfield	5-6AA	1987-91	President 1989-90
LeRoy Mackove	Osakis	3-4A	1989-93	Treasurer 1992-93
Mike Manning	Rosemount	3-4AA	2010-14	
Fred J. Marsden	Breckenridge	6	1972-75	
J. E. Marshall	Saint Paul Central		1924-36	
Chauncey Martin	Pelican Rapids	5-6A	1975-78	President 1976-77
Jon McBroom	Mora	3-4A	1994-96	
Scott McCready	St. Charles	1-2A	2011-16	President 2014-15
Clair McMann	Saint Paul Johnson	4	1965-69	President 1968-69
Donald Meyers	Fridley	5-6AA	1985-87	
C. P. Mickelson	Chatfield	1	1946-47	
Robert Miller	Stillwater	3-4AA	1979-82	
Wayne Mortensen	Waconia	3-4A	2000-01	
L. G. Mustain	Fosston		1919-20	
A. O. Myron	Jackson	2	1937-40	
Steve Niklaus	Annandale	5-6A	2005-09	Treasurer 2008-09
W. J. Nigg	Litchfield	5	1959-62	
J. G. Norby	Fergus Falls		1917-18	
E. N. Norgaard	Glenwood	6	1942-52	President 1946-52
Melvin Norsted	Cambridge	4	1969-73	President 1972-73
G. T. Norswing	New Richland	1	1962-66	President 1965-66
Blaine Novak	New York Mills	5-6A	2017-2021	President 2020-21
Robert Nyberg	Two Harbors	7-8A	1998-2002	Treasurer 2001-02
Gene Olive	Richfield	5-6AA	1979-83	President 1982-83
Jeffrey Olson	Saint Peter	1-2A	1999-2003	President 2002-03
Mike Olson	Little Falls	7-8AA	2013-16	
Theo. B. Olson	Clearbrook	7-8A	1978-82	
Willard Olson	Lake City	1-2A	1981-83	
G. M. Orwoll	North Branch	7	1943-46	
Clarence Omacht	Osakis	6	1968-72	
Erwin C. Ostlund	Walker	8	1971-75	President 1974-75
John Ostrowski	Dover-Eyota	1-2A	2019-23	Treasurer 2022-23
Gary Palm	St. Anthony Village	3-4A	2001-04	Treasurer 2003-04
A. C. Pederson	Ada	7	1941-47	
C. A. Pederson	Montevideo	3	1942-45	
L. R. Pemberton	Blue Earth	2	1940-43	
D. G. Peters	Madelia	2	1969-73	
Wayne Pender	Grand Rapids	7-8AA	2000-04	President 2003-04
Cathy Peterson	Minneapolis South	5-6AA	1991-95	Treasurer 1994-95
H. R. Peterson	Albert Lea	1	1938-42	
A. P. Pogreba	Grand Rapids	7	1939-40	
Lisa Quednow	Austin	1-2AA	2021-22 (Mar.)	
Russ Reetz	Prior Lake	3-4AA	2018-21	
K.P.B. Reishus	East Grand Forks	8	1950-51	
N. Robert Ringdahl	Shakopee		1921-24	
Del Roelofs	Crookston	7-8A	1975-76	
Wilton R. Salmi	Proctor	7	1970-74	
J. J. Salzwedel	Gaylord	3	1956-60	
G. H. Sanberg	Rochester		1920-32	
William Sandberg	Appleton	3	1962-64	

## FORMER MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR	SCHOOL	REGION/AREA	TERM	OFFICERS
K. C. Satterfield	Buhl	7	1962-66	
James Sauter	Grand Rapids	7-8AA	1984-87	Nat'l. Exec. Committee 1985-87
Harold H. Schaefer	Stewartville	1	1970-74	
H. A. Schofield	Saint Paul Central		1916	
Steve Schultz	Eden Prairie	5-6AA	1995-99	
Todd Selk	Brainerd	7-8AA	2004-08	President 2007-08
Loren W. Sennes	Monticello	5	1963-67	President 1966-67
Sandra Setter Larsen	Eagan	3-4AA	2021-22	
Jaime Sherwood	Wayzata	5-6AA	2003-07	President 2006-07 Vice President 2005-06 President 1952-53
I. T. Simley	South Saint Paul	4	1945-53	
J. W. Smith	Bemidji		1932-38	
O. E. Smith	Anoka		1922-25	
Don Sorensen	Little Falls	4AA	1988-92	
Richard L. Stanton	Fridley	5-6AA	1983-85	Nat'l. Exec. Committee 1984-85
David Stead	New Ulm	1-2AA	1985-86	
William L. Stearns	Heron Lake	1-2A	1975-77	
Troy Stein	Edina	5-6AA	2019-23	President 2022-23
Chad Stoskopf	Esko	7-8A	2008-10 & 2014-18	
Dave Swanberg	Le Sueur-Henderson	1-2A	2015-18	President 2017-18
Duane Swensen	Belgrade-Elrosa	5-6A	1985-89	President 1988-89
Fred Switzer	Morris	5-6A	1978-85	President 1981-82
T. H. Tofte	Wadena	6	1964-68	President 1967-68
Larry Tompkins	Southland	1-2A	1987-91	President 1990-91
John Tritabaugh	Albany	5-6A	1997-2001	Treasurer 2000-01
Darrel Ulferts	Edgerton	3-4A	2004-08	Treasurer 2007-08
Troy Urdahl	St. Anthony Village	3-4AA	2014-17	President 2017 (August-October)
Theodore Utne	Alexandria		1918-25	
Ken VanDenBoom	Caledonia	1-2A	1995-99	
M. W. VanPutten	Eveleth	7	1946-54	President 1953-54
J. P. Vaughn	Chisholm		1923-30	
Peter Veldman	South Saint Paul	3-4AA	1986-90	
Dean Verdoes	Henry Sibley	3-4AA	1994-98	
L. S. Ward	Osseo	4	1957-58	
Todd Waterbury	Mankato East	1-2AA	2017-21	
Armin Wegner	Madison	3	1960-62	
John C. Wells	Minneapolis	5	1955-59	President 1958-59
Ray Wescott	Austin	1	1966-70	
Jeff Whisler	Mahtomedi	3-4AA	2006-10	President 2009-10
Michael White	North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale	3-4AA	1998-2000	
J. H. Wichman	Northfield		1930-36	
L. M. Wikre	Crookston	8	1947-50	
Paul Wilson	Marshall		1936-39	
Rick Wippler	Mahtomedi	3-4A	1992-94	
H. E. Wolfe	Fairmont		1917	
O. L. Worner	Paynesville	5	1962-63	
Les Zellmann	St. James	1-2A	2007-11	President 2010-11

**FORMER MINNESOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
Milton Altmeyer	Hutchinson	1966-67	
Betsy Anderson	Hopkins	2014-17	
Gale Bacon	Rockford	1999-2001	
Frank Balcerzak	Mankato	1955-56	
Gayle Bergstrom	Adams	1982-84	
Carol Bomben	Eden Prairie	2008-11	
Jody Brandvold	Brooklyn Center	1981-87	
Richard Brenner	Cloquet	1988-93	President 1992-93
Glenn Cornell	Sauk Centre	1967-71	
Dr. D. N. Derksen	Lake Crystal	1971-72	
Mike Domin	Crosby-Ironton	2017-21	
Kirby Ekstrom	North Branch Area	2017-21	
Glenn Engebretson	Slayton	1963-66	
Lisa Fobbe	Zimmerman	2007-09	
E. S. Gillespie	Pine City	1936-42	
M. F. Gray	Hibbing	1935-36	
Suzy Guthmueller	Centennial, Circle Pines	2021-23	
George Hackett	Waseca	1962-63	
Dennis Halverson	Lino Lakes	1998-2001	
Michael Hammes	Mazeppa	2004-08	
Dr. O. W. Hauck	Chatfield	1942-47	
Walter Hautala	Mesabi East	2010-13	
Roy Horton	Lindstrom	1956-62	
Jon Hovde	Fertile	1995-98	
Dr. M. E. Jacobson	Thief River Falls	1947-49	
Stan Kowalski	Fridley	1987-89	
Gary Lee	Fertile-Beltrami	2009-10	
Joanne McCabe	Madelia	2001-05	
Jackie Magnuson	Rosemount	2003-07	
George Martinson	Hibbing	1932-35	
Becky Montgomery	Saint Paul	1993-98	President 1997-98
Elaine Niehoff	Melrose	1980-82	
Richard O'Connell	Marshall	1984-88	President 1987-88
Sally Olsen	Saint Louis Park	1975-79	
Dr. Joan Parent	Foley	1972-77	President 1975-76
Deborah Pauly	Jordan	2013-17	Treasurer 2016-17
Roz Peterson	Lakeville	2011-14	
Thomas Schaffer	Hastings	1979-81	
Carole Severson	Brandon	1989-95	
Dr. M. A. Sivinski	Saint Cloud	1949-55	
Herbert Zaske	Brownnton	1977-80	

**FORMER MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
Howard B. Casmey	1970-81	
John Feda	1981-83	
Erling Johnson	1962-64	
Duane Mattheis	1964-69	
Tom Nelson	1989-90	
James Sauter	1988-89 & 1991-92	
Dean Schweickhard	1957-61	
Dan Skoog	1983-88	

**FORMER MINORITY REPRESENTATIVES**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
Lurline Baker Kent	1980-83	
Brent Gish	1983-87	President 1986-87
Lisa Lissimore	1987-88	

**FORMER PUBLIC MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
Patrice Abbe	Owatonna	1991-95	
Kim Algoo	Shakopee	2008-12	
Kristen Amundson	Stillwater	2015-19	
Steve Beals	Montevideo	2013-17	
Joel Boyd	Eden Prairie	2016-20	
Henry M. Buffalo, Jr.	Woodbury	1992-96	
Susan Carlson	Saint Paul	1994-98	
David Doth	Minnetonka	1998-2002	
Steve Eklund	Braham	2011-15	Treasurer 2013-15
Lawrence Ellis	Fridley	2004-08	
Laurie Esau	Orono	2010-14	
Ronald Esau	Eden Prairie	1995-99	Treasurer 1997-98
Michael Fahey	Carver	1993-97 & 2005-07	
Faye Green	Duluth	1988-91	
Walt Hautala	Mesabi East	2018-22	
Tim Hermann	Champlin	1999-2003	
Matthew Heier	Little Falls	2019-23	
Valerie Jerich	Anoka	1990-94	
Steve Kerzie	Gilbert	1988-90	
John Klinnert	Fergus Falls	2006-10	Treasurer 2009-10
Paul McDonald	Ely	2014-18	
Lea B. Olsen	Minneapolis	2012-16	
Cathy Peterson	Maple Grove	2002-06	
Andrew Quinn	Litchfield	1988-93	
Brent Robbins	Plymouth	2007-11	
James Robinson	Saint Paul	1988-92	
Jacquelyn Rosholt	Golden Valley	1997-2001	
Mike Rusinko	Eden Prairie	2009-13	
Gene Sullivan	Grey Eagle	2003-07	
Darrell Thompson	Plymouth	2000-04	
Frank White	Woodbury	2017-21	
Ann Yonamine	Eden Prairie	2001-05	
Steven Zachary	St. Paul	1996-2000	

**FORMER MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
<b>Class A</b>			
<b>Class AA</b>			
Astein Osei	St. Louis Park	2022-23	
Teri Staloch	Prior Lake-Savage	2021-22	

**FORMER MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION  
OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS REPRESENTATIVES**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
<b>Class A</b>			
Dustin Boschart	St. Clair	2018-22	
Donald Carlson	Walker	1991-94	
Dennis Drummond	Perham	1990-91	
John Hamann	Underwood	2010-14	President 2013-14
Philip Johnson	Slayton	1988-90	
Wade Johnson	Rothsay	2014-18	Treasurer 2017-18
Todd Lundberg	Houston	2002-06	President 2005-06
Dean Ogg	Staples-Motley	2006-10	
Larry Peterson	Eden Valley-Watkins	1998-2002	President 2001-02
Steve Wilkowski	Aitkin	1994-98	
<b>Class AA</b>			
Kris DeClerk-Thompson	Buffalo	2016-20	
Arne Johnson	Eden Prairie	1988-92	President 1991-92
Erich Martens	Sauk Rapids-Rice	2012-16	President 2015-16
Paulette Reikowski	Eagan	2004-08	
Dean Soutor	Anoka	1992-96	President 1995-96
Lloyd Styrwoll	Grand Rapids	1996-99	
Jeanne Swanson	Waseca	2000-04	
Luanne Wagner	St. Francis	2008-12	Treasurer 2011-12

**FORMER ACTIVITY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES – 1971-1975**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
<b>Minnesota State High School Athletic Directors Representative</b>			
Dale Scholl	Redwood Falls	1971-72	
Evar Silvernagle	Rochester	1972-73	
Don Snyder	Bloomington	1973-74	
Vern Zahn	New Ulm	1974-75	
<b>Minnesota State High School Coaches Association</b>			
Charles Beyer	Blue Earth	1971-72	
Rod Black	Danube	1974-75	
Earl Bruhn	Owatonna	1972-73	
Vern Zehren	Little Falls	1973-74	
<b>Minnesota State High School Coaches Association for Girls Sports</b>			
Barb Tschida	Hutchinson	1974-75	
<b>Minnesota Music Educators Association</b>			
Oscar Dahle	Minneapolis Southwest	1973-74	
Donald Gjerdrum	Burnsville	1971-72	
<b>Speech Association of Minnesota</b>			
Robert Heimerl	Stillwater	1972-73	

**FORMER DESIGNATED ACTIVITY REPRESENTATIVES**

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>TERM</b>	<b>OFFICERS</b>
<b>Boys Sports</b>			
Russ Adamson	Willmar	1981-85	
Craig Anderson	Pine Island	2015-19	Vice President 2018-19
Tim Dittberner	South Saint Paul	1999-2003	Treasurer 2002-03
Richard Frie	Monticello	1985-90	
Glen Hasselberg	Staples-Motley	2003-07	Treasurer 2006-07
George Larson	Cambridge	1990-92	
Dwight Lundeen	Becker	1995-99	President 1998-99
John Schumacher	Park Rapids Area	2007-11	Treasurer 2010-11
Jim Senske	New Ulm	1992-95	
Mark Solberg	Cambridge-Isanti	2011-15	
Ab Strommen	Park-Woodbury	1977-79	
Jerry Style	Glencoe	1979-81	
John Vraa	New London-Spicer	2019-23	
Norman Wagner	Fisher	1975-77	
<b>Girls Sports</b>			
Paula Bauck	Moorhead	1980-82	
Mindy Chevalier	Belle Plaine	2008-12	President 2011-12
Dorothy Darling	Rochester John Marshall	1976-80	
Kathy Fredricksen	Moose Lake	1996-2000	
Shelly Hotzler	Jackson County Central	2012-16	
Jill Johnson	Waconia	2016-20	
Judy Johnson	Minnetonka	1982-86	
Shirley Keating	Minneapolis North	1975-76	
Margaret Lambert	Winona	2000-04	
Becky Leuer	North Branch	2004-08	
Elizabth Spletzer	Mayer Lutheran	1986-90	
Connie Sugden	White Bear Lake	1990-96	Treasurer 1995-96
<b>Music</b>			
Eric Anderson	Cambridge-Isanti	2003-07	
Eric Christenson	Shakopee	2015-19	
Richard Foley	Saint Francis	1987-91	
Ellwood Hoiseth	Park Center	1975-77	
Amanda Kaus	Rochester Century	2019-23	
Larry McCaghy	Lakeville	1991-95	
Peter Olson	Becker	1995-99	
Steve Olson	Rosemount	1999-2003	
Clinton Peterson	Tracy	1983-87	
Lane Powell	Fillmore Central	2011-15	
Alan Raitor	Sauk Centre	1979-83	
Art Smith	Rosemount	1977-79	
Bill Webb	Edina	2007-11	
<b>Speech</b>			
Lee Alto	Grand Rapids	2000-04	Treasurer 2003-04
Karen Howe	Forest Lake	1980-82	
Cliff Janke	Fairmont	1996-2000	
Jill Lofald	Duluth Denfeld	2008-12	
Chris McDonald	Eagan	2012-16	
Carol Purrington	Marshall	1992-96	
Mark Quinlan	Centennial, Circle Pines	2004-08	
Paulette Reikowski	Eagan	1986-92	
Barbara Seng	Henry Sibley	1974-76	
Marlin Spangrud	Mankato	1982-86	
Bonnie Spohn Schmaltz	Eden Valley-Watkins	2016-20	President 2018-20
Tom Stolen	Duluth Denfeld	1978-80	
Michael Tillmann	Marshall	1976-78	



## KEY WORD REFERENCE

Administrative Error .....	306.3
Administrative Regions.....	400 Bylaws: Administration of Athletic Programs - Board Policies
Alumni Game .....	411.00: Scheduling of Contests - Definitions
Amateur .....	201.00
Assault.....	202.00
Board of Directors .....	M.S. 128C.01 Subd. 4 and Constitution 211.00
Category I Activities.....	205.2
Category II Activities.....	205.3
Cheerleaders .....	401.00
Student Code of Conduct .....	206.2
Charter School.....	104.4
Classification .....	400 Bylaws: Administration of Athletic Programs - Board Policies
Competitive Activities .....	412.1
Competitive Section Placement .....	400 Bylaws: Administration of Athletic Programs - Board Policies
Conference Placement .....	M.S. 128C.02 Subd.3 and 128.C.07
Cooperative Sponsorship .....	403.00
Denial Penalty .....	304.B.1
Doctors at Games.....	400 Bylaws: Administration of Athletic Programs - Board Policies
Dual Residence.....	111.00: Transfer and Residence - Board Policy Definition 1
Due Process.....	300.00 Bylaws: Administration of Student Eligibility - Board Policies
Ejection	
• Coach.....	206.4
• Student.....	206.4
Elections .....	411.6
Elite Camps.....	203.00 and 207.00
Emancipated Student .....	111.00: Transfer and Residence - Board Policy Definition 7
Fair Hearing Procedure .....	300.00 Bylaws: Administration of Student Eligibility - Board Policies
Felonies.....	206.2
Foreign Exchange Programs, Approved.....	111.00
GED .....	106.00
Girls and Boys Team .....	M.S. 126.21.4
Good Standing .....	111.00: Transfer and Residence - Board Policy Definition 2
Hazing.....	209.00
Head Coach Requirement .....	400.00: Administration of Athletic Programs - Board Policy
Home School .....	104.4
IEP .....	108.00
Ineligible Player.....	304.00
International Student.....	111.00
Jamborees .....	411.8
Last Date to Join a Team.....	See specific sport in 500.00: Interscholastic Athletic Activities
Lightning.....	411.9
Local Control .....	404.00
Non-Competitive Activities .....	412.2
Non-continuation School Grades 7-9 Participation.....	105.00
Non-School Competition and Training	
• Audition/Tryout for College Teams.....	208.4
• National Teams.....	207.1
• Olympic Development Programs.....	207.2
• Open Gym .....	208.2F
• Participation .....	208.2
Participation Limitation.....	502.00
Precinct Caucus Day .....	411.5
Protests .....	407.00
Recruiting .....	307.00
Representative Assembly .....	Constitution 210.00
Residence .....	111.00: Transfer and Residence - Board Policy Definition 7

Sanctions for Games/Meets/Contests .....	410.00
Scheduling Contests .....	411.00
Scrimmages .....	411.00: Scheduling of Contests – Definitions
Seasons of Participation .....	109.00
Shared Coaches .....	400.00: Administration of Athletic Programs - Board Policy 3
Sixth-grade Eligibility .....	105.00
Sunday Practices/Games .....	411.7
Theft .....	206.2
Transgender Student .....	300.00
Undue Influence .....	307.00
Video Scouting .....	See General Section of the Athletic Rules and Policies Manual
Waivers	
• Elite Athlete .....	207.3
• Non-School Competition .....	208.2
• Summer Coaching .....	208.3
Weight/Fitness Training .....	406.00