

POLICY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Tod Morgan (Chair), Brian Carver (Vice Chair), Andy McCormick, Henry Rice, John Williams, Burt Jenkins

Staff: Brad Alford

AGENDA ITEM

- Sportsmanship
(NCADA)
Attachment P1

RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<p>To impose a 365-day ban for any spectator who confronts a game official, event official, player, or coach before, during, or after a contest/game.</p>	<p>Rationale: To take a definitive, zero-tolerance stance to promote sportsmanship and address the ever-increasing occurrences of inappropriate fan behavior at athletic events. Furthermore, to protect the health, safety and well-being of our sports officials, coaches, and student-athletes.</p> <p>Budget Impact: N/A Educational Impact: N/A Equity Impact: N/A Effective Date: 2024-2025 School Year</p>

AGENDA ITEM

- 2. Safety Course Requirement for Athletic Directors

**(NCADA)
Attachment P1**

RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
To require Athletic Directors to complete the NFHS Learn course “After School Security” as a one-time requirement.	Rationale: To create accountable and training for athletic directors (especially those new to the role) and to create what should be a standard “best practices” protocol of having documented plans for event/contest management. With the continued increased occurrences of violence and aggressive behavior at sporting events, as well as rising concerns over court/field storming, actions need to be taken ensure our schools have appropriate plans in place for the health and safety of student-athletes, coaches, officials, event personnel and spectators at our athletic events. Budget Impact: N/A Educational Impact: N/A Equity Impact: N/A Effective Date: 2024-2025 School Year
3. Disqualifications and Ejections	***Discussion Only***
4. Officiating Third Party Events	***Discussion Only***

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
5. NCHSAA Handbook Attachment P2	To review the Handbook relative to the use of “and/or”.	***Discussion Only***
6. All-Star Contests Attachments P3 & P4	To review NCHSAA Handbook 1.2.18 relative to student-athlete participation allowances.	***Discussion Only***
7. Miscellaneous	To review the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Board of Education Eligibility Rules • NCHSAA Board of Directors 	***Discussion Only***

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

Name(s): Brian Knab – NCADA President

School/LEA/Conference/Group: On behalf of the NCADA Board of Directors

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors.

Recommendation/Proposal:

State in detail the recommendation/proposal. Include attachments if necessary.

- Proposed Agenda Item #1 – Propose the implementation of a 365-day ban for any spectator who confronts a game official, event official or player/coach before, during or after a contest/game.
 - **Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)**
 - To take a definitive, zero-tolerance stance to promote sportsmanship and address the ever-increasing occurrences of inappropriate fan behavior at athletic events. Furthermore, to protect the health, safety and well-being of our sports officials, coaches and student-athletes.
 - **Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)**
 - No direct impact on school's/athletic department's budget
 - **Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)**
 - No impact on school or study time for student-athletes
 - **Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)**
 - No gender impact to male or female student-athletes
 - **Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)**
 - Beginning of 2024-2025 Fall Season

- Proposed Agenda Item #2 – Propose that a compliance requirement be added that all Athletic Directors must complete the NFHS Learn course “After School Security” as a one-time requirement. Additionally, require that all member schools shall create a sport specific Event Management Plan for all venues that is signed off on by both the Principal and Athletic Director (similar to the EAP process). NCHSAA will add these compliance requirements in Dragonfly as part of the seasonal Eligibility Summary Form.
 - **Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)**
 - To create accountable and training for athletic directors (especially those new to the role) and to create what should be a standard “best practices” protocol of having documented plans for event/contest management. With the continued increased occurrences of violence and aggressive behavior at sporting events, as well as rising concerns over court/field stormings, actions need to be taken ensure our schools have appropriate plans in place for the health and safety of student-athletes, coaches, officials, event personnel and spectators at our athletic events.
 - **Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)**
 - There should be no financial obligations for this proposal. “After School Security” is a free NFHS Learn course.
 - **Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)**

- No impact on school or study time for student-athletes
- **Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)**
 - No gender impact to male or female student-athletes
- **Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)**
 - Beginning of 2024-2025 Fall Season

Signature _____

Date: _____

Fax completed form to 919-240-7399 or email to info@nchsaa.org

1.1.4 Complaints and Non-Retaliation - The NCHSAA shall not retaliate against any participating school, the employees or students of those schools, or any other person for reporting, in good faith, to the NCHSAA, SBOE, or any government entity any concerns about the NCHSAA's administration of high school interscholastic athletics, including the following: suspected violations of laws or rules; circumstances giving rise to a substantial and specific danger to student or school personnel health and safety; fraud; misappropriation of resources; or gross mismanagement or abuse of authority. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) shall designate an individual or division within DPI to receive such complaints and process them. The NCHSAA will be given an opportunity to respond **and/or** address concerns or complaints submitted to DPI. The application of penalties not challenged on appeal, or upheld upon review under the appeals process, shall not be considered retaliation.

1.2.2(f) It shall be the responsibility of the principal, **and/or** his or her designee, to see that no ineligible student-athlete participates. Schools should use the eligibility checklist developed by the NCHSAA and it is recommended that the eligibility presentation be made available for athletes, guidance counselors, other administrators, and parents, especially at the preseason meeting.

1.2.10(c) To participate in out-of-season **and/or** summer workouts, a student-athlete must have an up-to-date MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY FORM on file.

1.2.10(d) To participate in out-of-season **and/or** summer workouts, the NCHSAA strongly recommends that a student-athlete has a signed Gfeller-Waller Concussion Statement on file.

1.2.15 Uniforms and Equipment - School uniforms **and/or** equipment (including transportation) may not be used for any outside organization competition or by athletes performing "unattached" during the academic school year, inclusive of weekends, holidays, workdays, etc. except:

(a) During the summer, outside the dead periods, school uniforms may be worn for school-related activities.

(b) Students may be allowed to wear school uniforms, including protective equipment, in outside organization competition, so long as the student has exhausted athletic eligibility in that sport and received permission from the member school. Approval from the governing board of the membership entity is strongly recommended.

1.3.2(b) Ignorance of the eligibility rule on the part of school personnel, the student **and/or** their parents shall not be considered sufficient cause for granting a waiver of any part of the eligibility rule.

1.3.2(c) Ordinary cases of ineligibility shall not be considered hardships warranting waiver of the eligibility rule under Rule 1.3.1(b). Rule 1.3.1(b) generally applies when the conditions that cause the student to fail to meet the eligibility rule were beyond the control of the school, the student, **and/or** their parents. Injury, illness, or accident that causes the student to fail to meet one of the basic eligibility requirements is a possible cause for waiver under Rule 1.3.1(b). The appropriate time for the membership entity to apply for a waiver under Rule 1.3.1(b) is when the hardship situation is discovered, not after the student has completed eight consecutive semesters.

1.3.2(d) Inability to participate in athletics due to illness, injury, or other medical causes, standing alone, shall not be considered a hardship warranting waiver under Rule 1.3.1(b). Requests for waiver may be considered in those cases where the ineligibility exists because the student was unable to attend, or was prohibited from attending, school due to illness, injury, **and/or** medical treatment.

1.4.1(a)(2) NCHSAA Ruling/Interpretation: The Commissioner, or the Commissioner's designee, shall provide a ruling on any such request, including, if applicable, the imposition of a penalty allowed by the SBOE **and/or** NCHSAA penalty rules and regulations.

2.2.3(c) Drone Policy - The use of drones is prohibited within the confines of stadiums, fields, and arenas during NCHSAA contests. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium, field, arena **and/or** structure. The regulation includes pre- and post-game activities.

2.2.14(d)(8)(i) Licensed athletic trainer or first responder must be present if any protective equipment (helmets and/or shoulder pads) is worn during the school year.

2.3.1(c)(3) A licensed athletic trainer or a first responder must be physically present if any protective equipment (helmets and/or shoulder pads) is worn by student-athletes participating in football skill development during the school year.

2.3.2(g) Recognize more serious signs of exertional heat illness (clumsiness, confusion, stumbling, collapse, obvious behavioral changes and/or other central nervous system problems), immediately stop activity, begin rapid cooling, and activate the Emergency Medical System.

2.4.2(d) Identify individual(s) designated to notify lead official regarding unsafe environmental and/or field/facility conditions (e.g., thunder and lightning/WBGT, field/facility).

2.4.3 (d) Evaluate the type and use of pre-game music, making certain it is appropriate for all ages and is void of profane and/or inappropriate language.

2.4.3(h) Review the venue-specific EAP with any law enforcement and/or security staff.

2.4.3(p) Physicians and/or licensed athletic trainers (LATs) should be available when possible. If no physician or LAT is available, a first responder should be on-site.

2.4.4 (3) Providing supervision during game breaks and halftime to keep spectators off the playing area and away from game officials and/or opposing team members.

2.4.5(c) Ensure that security and/or law enforcement remain on-site and present until all spectators have left the facility.

2.5.4 Guidelines for Student-Athletes - Education-based athletics is an extension of the classroom. It is difficult to learn the lessons expected through high school athletics in an environment that is lacking good behavior, sportsmanship, and respect for all. Participation in education-based athletics is a privilege and student-athletes should be aware that their behavior, both positive and/or negative, reflects not only on themselves but also on their school, their community, and their family. Therefore, the following are expectations coaches and administrators should ensure student-athletes abide by:

(a) Student-athletes shall refrain from exhibiting surprise or irritation towards a call of an official. Verbal and/or physical responses are not acceptable behavior.

2.5.6(c) Coaches shall control all of their student-athletes - removing a participant who is creating trouble - both verbally and/or physically.

3.3.1 Penalty Code - The NCHSAA has the power to penalize the school, officials, the coach, parents and/or guardians, spectators, and the individual student-athletes if Association rules and regulations are not followed. Some specific penalties will be found below; however, the NCHSAA may take any action it deems justified as it relates to the infraction involved.

3.3.6(a)(1) An altercation between 2 or more parties that includes swinging, hitting, punching and/or kicking;

3.3.8(a)(3) The team shall not participate in playoffs if, after the brackets have been finalized, forfeited contests cause an adjustment in its record and/or seed.

3.3.8(d) IF documented proof of a student-athlete's eligibility is found to have been falsified by the student-athlete and/or his or her parents or legal custodian, and this could not be determined by reasonable scrutiny of the school, then the student-athlete shall be dropped from the team for the remainder of the season but the team's record and playoff privileges will not be affected.

3.5.1(a) All information pertaining to cheerleading should be found in this section of the Handbook and/or online.

3.6.3(a) **Homer Thompson Eight Who Make a Difference Award** - Recognizes coaches who exemplify sportsmanship and serve as positive role models for students. Each member school is invited to nominate one male and/or female coach who provides the kind of coaching leadership and demeanor of which we can all be proud. This award is given to eight coaches in memory of the long-time Winston-Salem Parkland coach, Homer Thompson.

4.1.5 **NOTE:** Schools that have individuals qualifying to the regional and/or state individual playoffs, after the regular season is over for the team (for the sport of wrestling once individual regional seeding is completed) may work out or scrimmage one-on-one against students-athletes from another school where competition is not available at their own school. The number is limited to one partner for each qualifier advancing, whether from their own school or another school.

4.1.18(b)(1) Seed all 1st place automatic berths by RPI rating or other NCHSAA selected ranking system.

NOTE: The highest finishing team in its half of a split conference must finish in 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place overall and/or have an overall winning percentage of .500 or higher in order to be seeded as a #1. Otherwise, the team will be seeded with all other at-large teams.

4.5.1(o) Eight Quarter Participation - In emergency or "lack of depth" situations, freshman and/or sophomore (9th and 10th graders only in 3A and 4A; 1A and 2A schools may use 9th, 10th, or 11th graders) junior varsity football student-athletes will be allowed a maximum of 8 quarters per season of "on the field" play as a varsity football student-athlete.

4.5.2(a) **Note:** During the entire time period between the end of football season and up through the first five days of practice for the next season, absolutely no live action contact and/or thudding is allowed. A limited amount of time is provided for "bump" workouts as detailed in 4.5.3(b)(4).

4.5.2(c) A licensed athletic trainer or first responder must be physically present if any protective equipment (helmets and/or shoulder pads) is worn by student-athletes participating in football skill development during the school year or summer.

4.8.1(j) Yellow Card Tracking and Ejections - Coaches and athletic directors will be responsible for tracking yellow cards accumulated by their student-athletes and all team personnel (including coaches). Coaches are required to enter all yellow and red cards received by student-athletes and/or coaches into MaxPreps within 24 hours following the conclusion of the contest.

4.14.2(f)(2) Match weigh-ins - Must be conducted and observed by all participating coaches in the match and/or tournament. Weigh-in data MUST be entered within 24 hours of match/tournament completion.

Page 122, No. 7 The NCHSAA STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that all member school student-athletes have a Licensed Physician's (MD/DO) signature on the Return to Play Form and/or the Licensed Health Care Provider Concussion Evaluation Recommendations Form. Remember that the Licensed Physician (MD/DO) signing the RETURN TO PLAY FORM and/or the Licensed Health Care Provider Concussion Evaluation Medical Recommendation Form is required to be licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes and have had training in concussion management.



February 20, 2024

Dear Commissioner Que Tucker,

I'm writing on behalf of NBC Sports, the owner and operator of the All-American Bowl – a national all-star game, widely regarded as the nation's premier high school all-star game, featuring 100 of the top high school football players in the country. The All-American Bowl is annually played in the Alamodome in San Antonio, TX, live on NBC and Peacock, and viewed by more than four million people.

Since its inception in December of 2000, the All-American Bowl has featured high school senior football players, and we continue to be excited for where the sport of high school football is heading. Given the changing landscape at the collegiate level, our senior participants are graduating high school earlier and enrolling in and attending college as early as December. As a result, we are pivoting to now include top juniors for the upcoming 2025 All-American Bowl, which will be played on Saturday, January 11th, 2025 – the 25th anniversary of the event. See attached press release that was distributed February 5th.

We realize that some state by-laws don't permit juniors to play in national all-star games, and we are seeking clarification on your by-laws. In the event your state's by-laws don't permit juniors to play in the All-American Bowl, we'd like to have a discussion with you about seeking waivers for student-athletes who qualify for the game. It is our hope that all states will allow juniors to play in the prestigious All-American Bowl in an effort to create an equal opportunity for high school juniors across the country to showcase their exceptional skills on a national stage to further promote and enhance your state's high school football prominence.

Star alumni from the state of North Carolina who have played in the All-American Bowl include DL Dexter Lawrence (2016), QB Chris Leak (2003), LB Brandon Spikes (2006), LB Payton Wilson (2018), and many others who have gone on to play at higher levels post high school.

We look forward to hearing back from you on this topic and are open to connecting to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Nate Seamon
Executive Director
All-American Bowl



2025 All-American Bowl to Feature Top Upperclassmen Football Players High School Juniors to Play alongside Seniors in 25th Anniversary Game

STAMFORD, Conn. – Feb. 5, 2024 – As the nation’s premier high school sporting event for 25 years, the All-American Bowl has historically featured 100 of the top senior high school football players from across the country. The All-American Bowl is played in the Alamodome in San Antonio, TX and is broadcast annually on NBC and Peacock. The All-American Bowl is the most-watched and highest-attended high school sporting event in the country.

Since its inception in December of 2000, the All-American Bowl has featured high school senior football players. Moving forward, the game will start to include the top high school juniors who will suit up to play alongside top senior upperclassmen from across the country.

“Given the changing landscape at the collegiate level, our senior participants are graduating high school earlier and enrolling in and attending college as early as December. As a result, the All-American Bowl is pivoting to now include top juniors for the upcoming 2025 All-American Bowl,” said Jon Miller, President, Acquisitions and Partnerships of NBC Sports, owner-operator of the event. “This change will allow more top juniors to make their college declarations on network television.” The 2025 All-American Bowl will be played Saturday, January 11th, 2025, which marks the 25th anniversary of the game.

The All-American Bowl has featured future Heisman Trophy winners and several hundred NFL players, including San Francisco 49ers running back **Christian McCaffrey**, Houston Texans quarterback **C.J. Stroud**, Buffalo Bills wide receiver **Stefon Diggs**, Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver and 2020 Heisman winner **DeVonta Smith**, Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback **Trevor Lawrence**, and Miami Dolphins quarterback **Tua Tagovailoa**.

Notable prospects expected to play in the 2025 All-American Bowl include:

David Sanders Jr., No. 1 offensive lineman and the No. 2 overall recruit in the Class of 2025;
 Devin Sanchez, No. 1 defensive back and the No. 4 overall recruit in the Class of 2025;
 DJ Pickett, No. 1 prospect in Florida and the No. 8 overall recruit in the Class of 2025;
 Jaime Ffrench, No. 4 wide receiver and No. 30 overall recruit in the Class of 2025;
 Jabari Brady, No. 2 wide receiver and No. 11 overall recruit in the Class of 2026.

[About the All-American Bowl](#)

As an NBC Sports-owned property, the All-American Bowl is part of a marquee lineup of elite events that includes the Olympics, the Premier League, and primetime’s #1 show for an unprecedented 13 consecutive years: *Sunday Night Football*. The All-American Bowl is annually the most-watched, most-talked about, and most-prestigious high school all-star event with more than four million unique television viewers and more than 20,000 fans in attendance. The history and tradition of the All-American Bowl is unparalleled, as it features: 562 draft picks; 97 Super Bowl champions; 237 Pro Bowl selections; and 18 Heisman finalists. For more information, visit nbcports.com/college-football/all-american-bowl or follow us on Facebook, X, and Instagram (@AABonNBC).