

## SECTION 3: STATE NCHSAA ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO MEMBER SCHOOLS

### 3.1 STATE GAME AND SPORT ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1.1 **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Commissioner, and four Board of Directors members (one from each of the four classes).
- (a) **Powers of the Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee shall act for the Board of Directors on eligibility of players, the arranging of championship games, and other matters delegated to it by the Board of Directors, and the decisions of the Executive Committee shall be in full effect for the remainder of the school year in which they are made.
- (1) The Executive Committee shall have the authority to rule on all situations which are not specifically covered in the regulations or are not deemed in the best interest of an individual school or the Association.
  - (2) The Executive Committee shall have the power to consider all complaints and protests arising in connection with contests and to make such disposal of each as the conditions may appear to warrant.
  - (3) The Executive Committee may not, however, entertain a complaint relating to an alleged error of judgment on the part of any official employed to officiate in any game.
  - (4) No conference shall administer disciplinary action in excess of that provided by the regulations of the NCHSAA. All disciplinary action by conferences shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors.
  - (5) Should the Commissioner become permanently disabled or die in office, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to conduct the affairs of the Association while naming a Search and Screening Committee to fill the vacancy.
- 3.1.2 **Conferences:** The Executive Committee shall have the authority to require a conference to accept a school into its membership where it is impractical for that school to belong to any other conference. (See Bylaws, Article VI, Classifications.)
- (a) Conference changes will be considered during the winter meeting of the Board of Directors following the completion of the normal two-year football contract period.
- (1) Non-conference football contracts shall not be made until the winter meeting of the Board of Directors the year contracts expire.
  - (2) When a conference change is desired or indicated, a school must submit a letter of intent to the Commissioner prior to that winter meeting of the Board of Directors. Copies of the letter must be sent to the president of the conference in which the school holds membership and to the president of the conference in which membership is desired.
  - (3) The requested change must receive the approval of the Board of Directors.
  - (4) A school requesting a change in conferences must meet the terms of any existing athletic contracts, unless the contract is terminated by mutual agreement.
- (b) A conference must have at least five members fielding a team in a sport in order to be guaranteed a position in the playoffs for that sport.
- (c) The Board of Directors is responsible for setting up the playoff program and for designating the number of participating teams from each conference.
- (d) **Conference Membership for New NCHSAA Member Schools:** Before any member school applying for initial membership into the NCHSAA may be placed into an existing conference, it must satisfy both of the following criteria (1 and 2 below).
- (1) The member school must field an established minimum number of sports each year as follows: Six per school: three boys and three girls - including at least two in the fall; at least two in the winter, and at least two in the spring, with at least one male and female sport for each season. Junior varsity sports will count towards these minimums if a member school is unable to field varsity teams. AND
  - (2) Unless otherwise accepted for membership by an existing conference, the member school must play as an independent member of the NCHSAA until placement by the NCHSAA into an existing conference at the earlier of
    - (i) the beginning of the first year in a normal four-year alignment cycle; or
    - (ii) the beginning of the third year in a normal four-year alignment cycle.
  - (3) Any member school currently belonging to an existing conference prior to the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year will be grandfathered under this policy and will not need to satisfy the above criteria in order to remain in its existing conference or be placed into a new conference during future alignment cycles.

- (4) The intent of this policy is to allow new member schools and existing conferences mutually to agree on membership at any time during the four-year normal alignment cycle. In order to minimize disruptions of existing conferences and their member schools during the normal two-year contract period, the Board will only place new member schools satisfying both of the above criteria into existing or new conferences every two years during each four-year alignment cycle.

3.1.3 **Athletic Passes:** Each member school will be issued four passes and each central office two, per NCHSAA Board policy. An additional pass is provided for the chairperson of the local Board of Education. These passes may be signed for and picked up at regional meetings.

3.1.4 **Admission to State Playoffs:** Superintendents, high school principals, assistant superintendents and assistant principals who are responsible for athletics will be issued special non-transferable passes by the NCHSAA for admission to state-sponsored playoffs. NCHSAA Officials, NCCA passes will be recognized for coaches only; valid press passes are also honored.

## 3.2 **PENALTY CODE, PENALTIES AND FINES, RESTITUTION RULE**

3.2.1 **Penalty Code:** The Board of Directors has the power to penalize or fine the school, or penalize officials, the coach and the individual players if good sportsmanship is not observed. The Board also may penalize a school for unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of its spectators. Some specific penalties will be found below; however, the Board may take any action it deems justified as it relates to the infraction involved. Fines may be reduced for self-reporting, on a case-by-case basis.

(a) **Schools:** A school found guilty of infractions inconsistent with a wholesome athletic program may be

- (1) reprimanded,
- (2) placed on probation for a period not to exceed one year, with or without playoff privileges,
- (3) fined,
- (4) have its home games taken away for a period of time not to exceed one year, or
- (5) suspended from participation in a sport or sports for a period of one year.

(1) If any school should fail to comply with the rulings of the Board of Directors of the NCHSAA, the games played or scheduled by that school in that particular sport shall be canceled for that season and shall be eliminated in determining the winner of that conference affected. Furthermore, that school so affected will not be allowed to take part in the contests sponsored by the Association for a period of one year and shall be readmitted only by three-fourths vote at the annual meeting. The membership, in readmitting the school, shall require a payment of \$1000 for a Class 4A school, \$800 for a Class 3A school, \$600 for a Class 2A school and \$400 for a Class 1A school. All such payments belong to the NCHSAA.

(b) **Coaches:** A coach found guilty of conduct inconsistent with a wholesome athletic program may be:

- (1) reprimanded;
- (2) placed on probation for a period not to exceed one year, with or without playoff privileges for the team;
- (3) fined; and/or
- (4) suspended from directing a team for a period of time not to exceed one year.  
(NOTE: see SPORTSMANSHIP/EJECTION POLICY 2.4.3). A Coach must apply for reinstatement if (iv.) occurs.

(c) **Students:** A student found guilty of misconduct inconsistent with a wholesome athletic program may be:

- (1) reprimanded;
- (2) on probation for a period not to exceed one year; or
- (3) suspended from participation in a sport or sports for a period up to one year.  
(NOTE: see SPORTSMANSHIP/EJECTION POLICY 2.4.3).

(d) **Spectators:** A spectator found guilty of misconduct inconsistent with a wholesome athletic program may be:

- (1) be placed on spectator probation;
- (2) be banned from attending school contests for a period of time not to exceed one calendar year from the date of the offense; or
- (3) cause the school to be penalized and/or fined. In incidents involving criminal misconduct such as assaults, school officials in conjunction with the victims assaulted are instructed to press charges in a court of law. If charges are not filed, the school is still responsible for handling the misconduct.

- (4) Spectators may not approach or contact game officials in any way to question the judgment or decision of an official.
- (5) Schools are responsible and may be disciplined for the conduct of their spectators.
- (6) Any assault upon, or intimidation of, a game official by a spectator is per se unsportsmanlike conduct by the school and may be dealt with as such.

### 3.2.2 Penalties and Fines:

- (a) Schools may be assessed a maximum of \$2500.00 in fines per sports season (i.e. fall, winter and spring) for non-compliance with the rules and regulations contained in this Handbook. However, this amount does not include the return of gate receipts and playoff revenue attributable to forfeiture of contests. If a member-school or its personnel has been non-compliant at any time during the academic year, subsequent fines and penalties will not be reduced.
- (b) Unpaid Fine: Schools that have unpaid fines to the NCHSAA are not eligible to compete in the playoffs for that sport (i.e. baseball fine would be specific to baseball playoffs) unless the fine is paid no later than, two (2) days prior to the reporting date for that sport.
  - (1) Any fine not paid at the end of the fiscal year (June 30) will carry over to the following school year making all teams at said school ineligible for playoffs until the fine is paid in full.
- (c) \$100.00
  - (1) Late ejection form
  - (2) Late endowment form
  - (3) Late school information form or other required document (e.g. dual team lineup, team picture, championship information in various sports, required sportsmanship documentation)
  - (4) School changing schedules after officiating assignments are made on Arbiter
  - (5) Late playoff entry blanks
  - (6) Late membership dues
  - (7) Late catastrophic insurance premium payment
  - (8) Failure to provide escort in football, basketball and soccer
- (d) \$400.00
  - (1) Failure to wear legal uniforms in accordance with NFHS Rule Code
  - (2) Removal of bases in baseball or softball by spectators or school personnel
  - (3) Removal of nets in basketball
  - (4) Damaging/overturning soccer goals and nets
  - (5) Filming, videotaping or video streaming of a contest by non-participating school without approval of the competing teams
  - (6) Unsanctioned out-of-state competition (per contest)
  - (7) Failure to properly enter all students on certified minimum weight form
  - (8) Failure to submit weigh-in form on the Trackwrestling website
  - (9) Failure to have evidence of the legal birth date of each player on file
  - (10) Removing a team from the field, court, pool, or mat prior to completion of the contest/game unless by mutual consent of both administrators
  - (11) Failure to attend mandatory meetings
  - (12) Failure of the head coach to attend required rules clinics
  - (13) No uniformed law enforcement officer in attendance
  - (14) Coaches, principals and school officials criticizing officials to the media
  - (15) No restraining barriers at varsity football games
  - (16) Failure to comply with reporting results for football seeding process (also forfeiture of first home site in playoffs)
  - (17) Illegal practice (plus a two for one penalty for each illegal practice) - a school may also be placed on probation for one year, with or without playoff privileges
  - (18) Illegal assembly of team
  - (19) Illegal scrimmage - game - or unauthorized Endowment game (in addition a school may be placed on probation for a period of one year, with or without playoff privileges)
  - (20) Violation of the sports season concept including skill development (plus the school and/or coach may be placed on probation for one year, with or without playoff privileges)
  - (21) No school official representative at state football or basketball information sessions/press conference
  - (22) Failure to comply with reporting qualifiers from conference for playoffs (conference will be fined)
  - (23) Failure to comply with reporting advancement (member school will be fined)
  - (24) Exceeds weekly/season limitation of games/contests