

# POLICY COMMITTEE

**Committee Members:** Darrin Hartness, Chair, Scarlett Steinert, Vice Chair, Lynn Moody, Doug Rhoney, Burt Jenkins, Jeff Morris  
**Staff:** Brad Alford

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION/DISCUSSION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
1. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (#1)	No more than two (2) 7-on-7 scrimmages per week during the summer, with a minimum of one (1) calendar day of rest in between scrimmages.	<b>Rationale:</b> Student-athletes would be provided with the opportunity to adequately rehydrate, recover, and rest between 7-on-7 scrimmages. <b>Budget Impact:</b> None <b>Educational Impact:</b> None <b>Equity Impact:</b> None, same for all other sports. <b>Effective Date:</b> Summer 2018
2. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (#2)	There must be a minimum of one (1) calendar day between preseason scrimmages.	<b>Rationale:</b> Student-athletes would be provided with the opportunity to adequately rehydrate, recover, and rest between preseason scrimmages. <b>Budget Impact:</b> None <b>Educational Impact:</b> None <b>Equity Impact:</b> None <b>Effective Date:</b> 2018-2019 School Year

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION/DISCUSSION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
3. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (#3)	There can be no 7 on7 scrimmages during the week of the National Athletic Trainers' (NATA) Clinical Symposia which is traditionally held annually during the last week in June.	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Licensed Athletic Trainers (LAT) working in NCHSAA member schools would be provided the opportunity to participate in Continuing Education (CE) at the NATA Clinical Symposia. CE is a requirement for maintaining one's professional credential as a Certified Athletic Trainer. In Addition, this would positively impact the health and safety of the student-athletes under the LAT's care as best practices for injury prevention and care are learned and instituted.</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> None to schools</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> Educational opportunity for school trainers.</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> Summer 2018</p>
4. Amateur Rule	<b>Points of Emphasis:</b> Policy has no penalty for single-sport student-athletes.	<b>** Discussion Only **</b>
5. Home School Participation <b>Attachment P1 – Alabama Policy</b> <b>Attachment P2 – Tennessee Policy</b>	<p>Discuss what other states in NFHS Section III are doing.</p> <p><b>Points of Emphasis:</b> Proactive prior to legislative mandates. National topic.</p>	<b>** Discussion Only **</b>

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION/DISCUSSION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
6. Inclusion <b>Attachment P3 – South Carolina Policy</b>	Discuss transgender students and inclusion issues relative to NCHSAA rules and regulations.  <b>Points of Emphasis:</b> Staff has received inquiry's in cross-country and swimming & diving. National Topic Proactive prior to legislative mandates	<b>** Discussion Only **</b>
7. Transfer Policy <b>Attachment P4 – Transfer Certification Request Data</b>	Review of updated NCHSAA certification process.  <b>Points of Emphasis:</b> Staff involvement when transfer is “not the first transfer”	<b>** Discussion Only **</b>
8. Sanctioned Sports a. Definition b. Emerging Sports	Review NCHSAA Constitution and Bylaws relative to sanctioned sports.  <b>Points of Emphasis:</b> Interpretation of Sanctioned Sports	<b>** Discussion Only **</b>



## Amendments to AHSAA Bylaws

1. Allow Non-Traditional students to participate in interscholastic athletics with AHSAA member public schools.

### Home School Guidelines:

#### ENROLLMENT

- ✓ Students must enroll in a member public school in order to participate in an interscholastic contest or practice.
  - ✓ Must be enrolled at the member public school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside.
  - ✓ Must be within the first 20 days of the semester in the school they are zoned to attend.
- Note: All home school students are eligible their initial year of enrollment based on local board policy.

#### ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY

- ✓ Students will adhere to all AHSAA rules applicable to academic accountability (Rule I, Section 9: Academic Rule, Requirements).
  - ✓ Students will be required to take AHSAA criteria tests developed by the ALSDE for the AHSAA in all four core subjects at the end of each semester for academic eligibility beginning with grade 7 through the end of the first semester in grade 12.
  - ✓ (ALL assessment testing will be conducted on campus of the school under the supervision of a certified instructor employed by the school.)
- Note: Home school students who opt to take core courses through the school's virtual program or college course credit are not required to take the criteria tests.

#### Home School students must:

- ✓ Enroll and attend two electives on the campus of the school.

- The AHSAA recommends taking physical education class or athletic PE on campus for safety reasons.
- If the school requires an athlete to take a PE to participate in athletics, the home school student will be required as well.
- If the school does not require athletic PE to participate in athletics, home school students may take PE through the schools' virtual program.
- ✓ Take one elective class on campus and one through the school's virtual program or both elective classes through the school's virtual program.

#### **TRANSFERS**

- ✓ A home school student who decides to enroll in a traditional school full time is eligible to participate if all other eligibility requirements are met.
- ✓ A traditional student who decides to be homeschooled because of failing grades is deemed ineligible to participate in athletics for a period of one year. (If in good standing academically at the time of withdrawal, the student remains eligible.)

#### **Practice Time**

- ✓ A home school student's practice time must be equivalent to but not to exceed that of a traditional student during a school day.

### **Virtual School Guidelines:**

#### **ENROLLMENT:**

- ✓ Virtual school students must follow all ALSDE policies.
- ✓ Local board policy must be in accordance with all AHSAA bylaws.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY:**

- ✓ The AHSAA recommends taking a physical education class or athletic PE on campus for safety reasons.
- ✓ If the school requires an athlete to take a PE to participate in athletics, the virtual school student will be required as well.

#### **TRANSFERS:**

- ✓ A virtual school student who elects to transfer schools must be in accordance with all AHSAA bylaws pertaining to transfers.

#### **PRACTICE TIME:**

- ✓ A virtual school student's practice time must be equivalent to but not to exceed practice that of a traditional student during a school day.

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### Home School Rule

**Section 25.** This bylaw establishes the minimum eligibility requirements for a home school student desiring to participate in extracurricular athletics at a member school:

#### A. Definitions

1. A "home school" is a school conducted by a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for their own child. To be a "home school" for the purposes of this bylaw, the child must be registered with the LEA that the child would otherwise attend if he/she were not being home schooled. The home school must be operating in compliance with state law.
2. "Director of Schools" shall mean the chief administrative official of a public school system. In the case of a private school, the responsibilities of the Director of Schools are to be carried out by the Head of School or chief administrative official in that school.

#### B. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1.
  - a. The student shall be enrolled in a home school conducted by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
  - b. The student must be taking a minimum of five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent administered by the parent(s) or guardian(s) which count toward graduation.
  - c. The student must notify the Director of Schools (or Head of School, if a private school) by August 1 of the current school year.
2. The participating student must have a legal residence within the school district where he/she is registered, if registering with a public school. If registering with a private school, the student must have a legal residence within 20 miles of the private school and meet all tuition and financial aid requirements.
3. By August 15 of the school year, the parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the member school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate.
4.
  - a. The home school athlete shall meet the same academic and conduct standards required of a member school student-athlete to participate in the athletic program.
  - b. The Director of Schools (Head of School for private schools) or their designee shall confer with the parent(s) or guardian(s) conducting the home school to determine that the home school student is academically eligible.
  - c. If a home school student's course of study does not include five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent, which are being administered by the parent/guardian, then the Director of Schools (Head of School, for a private school) or their designee and the parent/guardian shall develop an alternative measure of academic progress and submit it to the TSSAA for approval.
  - d. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who is not receiving the minimum four (4) hours per day of instruction administered by their parent/guardian.
  - e. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who has fallen three (3) or more months behind the student's appropriate grade level.
5. The home school student must provide proof of basic primary medical insurance coverage and liability insurance coverage which names the TSSAA as an insured party in the event the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to students enrolled in home school programs.
6.
  - a. The LEA may impose a participation fee for each sport in which a home school athlete participates. Such participation fee shall not exceed the fees or costs charged to or borne by students enrolled at the school and shall be paid in full prior to the first regular season contest.
  - b. A home school student participating at a private school must pay full tuition and abide by all financial aid rules. For the purpose of this rule, "full tuition" is defined as the same amount paid by all other students enrolled and in regular attendance at the school.

## **2017-18 TSSAA Handbook**

7. The home school student must meet all other TSSAA eligibility requirements.
8. Eligibility issues may be appealed in accordance with the Bylaws of the TSSAA.
9. The home school athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team.
10. Ultimate decisions on team rosters are left to the member schools.

### **Transfer:**

1. After participation at the first member school, any changes within member schools shall be governed by the transfer rule.
2. Any student who withdraws from a regular school program, which for the purpose of this policy is defined as a member school, to enroll in a home school education program and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the regular school program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition as a home education athlete until such time as he/she has satisfied this home school bylaw as well as all other eligibility bylaws of TSSAA.

Please see FAQ's on Page 47-65.

## **SCHSL TRANSGENDER GUIDELINES**

### **Philosophy of Gender Identity Participation:**

The SCHSL allows participation for all students regardless of their gender identity OR expression. The purpose of these guidelines is to designate a set of criteria in which student-athletes are able to compete on a level playing field in a safe, competitive and friendly environment, free of discrimination. Fundamental fairness, as well as some local, state, and federal rules and regulations require schools to provide transgender student-athletes with equal opportunities to participate in athletics. These guidelines are designed to create a framework in which the participation may occur in a safe and healthy manner that is fair to all competitors.

### **Gender Identity Guidelines/Procedure:**

All students should have the opportunity to participate in SCHSL activities in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's records. Once the student has been granted eligibility to participate in the sport consistent with his/her gender identity, the eligibility is granted for the duration of the student's participation and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year.

### **Privacy Statement:**

To the extent permitted by law, all discussions and documents at all levels of the process either by a member school and/or the SCHSL shall be kept confidential, and the proceeding will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request.

### **Definitions:**

1. **Transgender Person** – A person whose gender identity does not match the sex assigned at birth.
2. **Gender Identity** – A person's deeply-felt internal sense of being male, female, both or neither.
3. **Gender Expression** – A person's external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as either masculine, feminine, androgynous (dress, speech, mannerisms, social interactions, etc.)

### **Steps Required for Consideration to Participate:**

#### **1. Notice to the School:**

The student and/or parent(s)/guardian(s) shall contact the administration at their member school indicating that the student has a consistent gender identity different than listed on the student's school registration records or birth certificate and that the student desires to participate in athletics in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity. The member school shall determine if the student meets the eligibility standards for participation established by the SCHSL and whether the student meets the requirements of participation established by the member school.



**2. Notice to the SCHSL:**

If the member school deems it appropriate, the member school administration shall contact the SCHSL office by way of hardship application in preparation and completion of the SCHSL Gender Identity Eligibility Process.

**3. Necessary Documentation:**

The member school shall assist in collecting the following information:

- A. Current transcript and school registration information;
- B. Documentation from individuals such as, but not limited to, parent(s)/guardian(s), friends, and/or teachers which affirm that the action, attitudes, dress, and manner demonstrate the student's consistent gender identification and expression;
- C. Documentation from the member school administration outlining specific accommodations that have been made for the student;
- D. Written verification from an appropriate licensed health care professional (i.e. doctor, psychiatrist, psychologist) of the student's consistent gender identification and expression; and
- E. Any other pertinent documentation or information.

**4. Referral to Gender Identity Eligibility Advisory Board:**

Upon receipt of the required documentation from the member school, the Commissioner will refer all necessary documentation to the SCHSL Gender Identity Eligibility Advisory Board (GIEAB) for consideration. The GIEAB will be selected by the SCHSL and will make a recommendation to the Commissioner on the gender eligibility of the student from the member school. The GIEAB will be comprised of a minimum of three of the following individuals:

- A. Physician with experience in gender identity health care and/or the World Professional Association of Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care;
- B. Psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed mental health professional familiar with the WPATH;
- C. Advocate familiar with Gender Identity and Expression issues.

**5. Notification:**

Written notification of the decision will be rendered to the member school administration by the Commissioner.

**6. Appeals:**

- A. A member school desiring to appeal the decision on behalf of a denied student shall file a "written notice of appeal" with the Commissioner.
- B. All appeals will be to the SCHSL Executive Committee.
- C. The SCHSL Executive Committee will have the authority to require that additional specified information be submitted.
- D. The SCHSL Executive Committee shall hear appeals during their next regularly scheduled meeting.
- E. Written notification of the decision of the SCHSL Executive Committee will be rendered to the member school administration by the Commissioner.
- F. The decision of the SCHSL Executive Committee may be appealed to the Appellate Panel.
- G. The Appellate Panel will have the authority to require that additional specified information be submitted.
- H. The Appellate Panel shall hear appeals during their next regularly scheduled meeting.
- I. Written notification of the decision of the Appellate Panel will be rendered to the member school administration by the Commissioner.
- J. The decision of the Appellate Panel shall be final.

Updated: 11/14/17

2017 NCHSAA Transfer Certification Request Data			
Total NCHSAA Transfer Certification Request Received	Total Authorized by NCHSAA Staff	Total Not Authorized by NCHSAA Staff	Requested As Transfer Committee Appeal
170	149	16	5
*Staff authorized a 2nd transfer based on extenuating circumstance			
Authorization Percentage			
			90.30%

It is important to not that the NCHSAA received a total of 164 Transfer Waiver Request for the 2016-17 Academic year

Submission Not Authorized-Demographic Data			
Reason	Total # Not Authorized by NCHSAA Staff	Total # of Appeals	Transfer Committee Authorization Percentage
Athletic Purposes	12	10	10.00%
Not Student's First Transfer	4	4	100.00%
Total	16	14	30.77%

\*1 was dismissed due to bona fide change of residence

2017 NCHSAA Transfer Appeal Data					
Type of Appeal	Appeal to Transfer Committee	TC Upheld-Not Authorized	TC Overturned- Authorized	TC Dismissed Appeal (Bona Fide Change of Residence)	BOD- Authorization Percentage
Athletic Purposes	10	9	1	0	0.00%
Not Student's First Transfer	4	0	3	1	0.00%
Total	14	9	4	1	0.00%