

SECTION 2: SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

2.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1.1 **Organization of School:** For athletic purposes in determining eligibility, local boards of education, or the equivalent, may set their own semester dates prior to the opening of school, and a copy of the calendar indicating these dates must be sent to the NCHSAA along with the filing of the school's first eligibility list.
- 2.1.2 **High School Definition:** A high school is composed of grades 9-12 inclusive.
- (a) No student can be approved for practice or an athletic contest unless he or she is a regularly enrolled member of those grades at the school submitting his or her eligibility.
 - (1) Exceptions: An eighth grade student who is over-age or specialty school students under certain conditions, as indicated elsewhere in these regulations.
 - (b) Students on teams below the ninth grade shall not play or practice against interscholastic athletic teams, which have members in or above the ninth grade. This includes skill development during the academic school year calendar, inclusive of all weekends, holidays, work days, etc. (see 2.2.15.d.10).
 - (c) No LEA of this state may use students of two or more of its regularly constituted high schools, which offer an athletic program, to form a "composite team." An LEA, by local policy, may choose to assign its specialty school students, who meet all other eligibility requirements, to participate in athletics at a regularly constituted high school provided the specialty school does not have an athletic program. Specialty schools in an LEA could include schools with special courses of study, early or middle colleges, STEM/STEAM schools, magnet schools, virtual schools, etc. and these schools may or may not be housed on campus. **Note:** The enrollment of that specialty school must be counted for realignment and classification purposes when other students are assigned to regularly constituted high schools.
 - (1) **Example:** Member school A's Average Daily Membership (ADM) is 500. The ADM for the Middle College is 200. Member school A has 5 students participating in athletics who are actually enrolled in the LEA governed Middle College. LEA policy allows any student enrolled in the Middle College to participate in athletics at the base school; therefore, for realignment and football sub-dividing purposes, Member School A, which is the base school for the middle college, must add 200 students to its own ADM count, making the ADM 700. If students at the middle college are assigned to more than one school, the ADM number—200—of the middle college is divided between/among those member schools, based on those assignments.
 - (d) If any school district or unit shall have been officially enlarged (e.g., a city unit), students residing in the newly added territory shall be eligible for approval just as though the new territory had previously been a part of the district or unit.
 - (e) A single gender student body shall have its enrollment doubled for classification purposes;
- 2.1.3 **Non-Boarding Parochial Schools:** Non-boarding parochial schools, in addition to subscribing to the rules of the NCHSAA, must also agree to adhere to the following regulations:
- (a) Athletes shall not be given scholarship aid or other financial consideration with the exception of need-based aid as determined by an independent agency. All non-boarding parochial schools shall provide full disclosure of financial aid data upon request, within guidelines of privacy laws.
- 2.1.4 **Enrollment Date:** Any school that desires to renew membership in the NCHSAA must register and pay the fees before December 1. Late renewals are subject to a \$100 fine and schools are not eligible for playoffs beginning with the winter sports season until all fees are paid.
- (a) To join the NCHSAA, an eligible school must pay a \$1000 application fee and fill out the appropriate application form.
 - (b) The Board of Directors may send a delegation to make a site visit after the application is received.
 - (c) New members may be approved at either the winter or spring Board meetings; deadlines are November 1 to be considered at the winter Board meeting or April 1 to be considered at the spring Board meeting.
 - (d) Membership will take effect July 1. All schools which join the NCHSAA are required to attend a mandatory orientation.
 - (e) All schools shall have enrollment policies and procedures available to the NCHSAA upon request.
- 2.1.5 **Fees:** A check in the amount of \$1.00 per pupil for all students enrolled at the high school should accompany the renewal form.
- (a) Enrollment shall be determined by total enrollment of students at the end of the first school month of the present school year. The NCHSAA will publish these numbers prior to seeding for football. Each school should use this number in calculating its payment.
 - (b) Each member school shall also pay an annual school fee of \$100. This entitles the school to one rule book in all sports which the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) publishes rules and the NCHSAA offers a championship, as well as other materials, for example the handbook.
 - (c) Deadline for payment is December 1.

- 2.1.6 **Coaching:** In most cases, the head coach of an interscholastic athletic team should be a bona fide member of the faculty and as such shall be responsible for the supervision of athletic teams during all practices, games, and trips.
- (a) Local superintendents may employ non-faculty persons as head coaches for varsity or junior varsity teams, with the concurrence of the local board of education.
 - (b) Individuals authorized to coach in this manner are required to know and follow the rules of the NCHSAA and NCDPI, including the sports season regulation.
 - (c) In extenuating circumstances and upon the written request of a school's principal, the NCHSAA may authorize parents to accompany individual participants in lieu of the coach at state-sponsored play-offs.
 - (d) Unsupervised athletes may not participate in state playoff events.
- 2.1.7 **Coaching Requirements:** Any annually required course must be current and completed before the first date of practice.
- (a) All coaches, paid and volunteer, are required to take the "Fundamentals of Coaching" certification course prior to the first play date of the sport he or she coaches in order to coach an NCHSAA team. The course can be accessed online at nfhslearn.com. A \$500.00 fine will be assessed for non-compliance. The NCHSAA has the authority to suspend the coach for the same number of contests they coached while being non-compliant.
 - (b) All coaches, paid and volunteer, must annually take the NFHS "Concussions in Sports" course or an equivalent concussion curriculum prior to the first date of practice in their sport. A \$500.00 fine will be assessed for non-compliance. The NCHSAA has the authority to suspend the coach for the same number of contests they coached while being non-compliant.
 - (c) The pole vault head coach is required to take the NFHS "Coaching Pole Vault" course prior to the first date of practice in their sport.
 - (d) The head cheerleading coach is required to maintain safety certification through the NFHS and USA Cheer's "Spirit Safety Certification" course annually. Fundamentals of Coaching is not required.
 - (e) All head and paid coaches must be CPR/AED certified prior to first practice date. CPR/AED courses that satisfy this requirement should include some hands-on, in-person skill presentation and evaluation, regardless if part of the course is online or entirely in-person. It is recommended that all coaches of each sport/activity staff take and pass the NFHS First Aid for Coaches course, be CPR/AED certified, and be present at all contests and practices. Head coach coaching in a contest without certification of this requirement is a \$500 fine.
 - (f) All non-paid coaches are required to complete the NFHS "Sudden Cardiac Arrest" Course annually prior to the first practice.
 - (g) The head coach must attend one of the NCHSAA state rules clinics in baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, indoor track & field, lacrosse, softball, soccer, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball and wrestling (attendance at the rules sessions of the NCCA, participation in an NCHSAA web-based rules clinic or attendance at an NCHSAA Regional Officials State Rules Clinic in these sports for coaching credit is acceptable). For failure to comply, see Penalty Codes 3.2.2.d.12 and 3.2.2.f.5.
NOTE: Rules clinic attendance requirement for cross country and indoor track & field is recommended for 2020-2021. It becomes a requirement in 2021-2022.
 - (1) If the requirement for attending clinic is not met prior to the first play date in the sport, the coach will not be allowed to coach in contests until he or she is compliant, absent showing cause as currently occurs. This does not replace the \$400 fine.
 - (2) Head coach coaching in a contest prior to satisfying the rules clinic attendance requirement is a \$500 fine. If coach in question coaches in subsequent games without satisfying requirement, NCHSAA has authority to suspend the coach for the same number of contests they coached while being non-compliant.
 - (h) Any person paid or employed, as a principal shall not coach interscholastic athletic teams.
- 2.1.8 The host school of an event with three or more participating teams is encouraged to have a licensed athletic trainer or certified first responder on site at all times during the event.
- 2.1.9 **Middle School Rules and Regulations:** All questions relative to middle school rules and regulations must be directed to the NCDPI.