



**2011–2012**

**BYLAWS**

The following rules shall apply to all interscholastic athletics of any member school. (Approved rulings under Notes.)

**Rule I - Eligibility**

**SECTION 1. UNDERGRADUATES RULE.** Graduates of accredited high schools or equal grades are not eligible.

**Note:** A student enrolled in a high school who (1) has completed less than 24 units of high school credit, or (2) has yet to complete a required high school course for which no exceptions are made, and has not been granted a diploma of graduation or a certificate of attendance from high school is eligible as far as this section is concerned.

**SECTION 2. ENROLLMENT RULE.** In order to be eligible, a student must be enrolled within the first 20 days of the semester as a regular student in the school system where the student will participate. The 20-day requirement may be waived under extenuating circumstances.

**Note:** The student becomes eligible immediately at the member school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside if all other requirements are met.

**Note:** Students entering the seventh grade for the first time are eligible where they enroll.

**Note:** A student that has already been enrolled in a school is not affected by this rule.

**Note:** A regular student is one who is enrolled at the school and is taking six new units of work. A student must be enrolled at a school in order to participate in practice or interscholastic contests.

**SECTION 3. AGE RULE.** A student is ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year. If he/she reaches his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on or after August 1, he/she shall be eligible for the entire school year as far as the Age Rule is concerned.

A student is ineligible to participate in junior high interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year, and in middle school interscholastic athletics if he/she reaches his/her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year.

A student is ineligible to participate on a team, or in a game, composed only of seventh grade students if he/she reaches his/her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to August 1 of the current school year.

**SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.** Submitting eligibility information online at least five days before participation is mandatory for all students. The first time a school submits one of its students online, a copy of the student's certified birth certificate shall be filed in the principal's office and attached to the copy of the online Eligibility List on which that student's name was submitted. Also, a STAR Sportsmanship

certificate must be kept on file.

**Note:** A certified birth certificate is one issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where the student was born. In Alabama, these may be obtained at each county health department.)

**Note:** The passport of a foreign exchange student may be used in lieu of a certified birth certificate.

## **SECTION 5. PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS.**

(a) **EIGHT SEMESTER RULE.** A student may be eligible only eight consecutive semesters after entering the ninth grade. School attendance of 15 days or more of any semester is counted as a semester.

**Note:** This rule only affects students who miss a semester of attendance after the beginning of the 2011–2012 school year.

(b) **INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION RULE.** No student may participate in any one sport for more than six years (seasons) after entering the seventh grade or more than three years (seasons) after entering the 10th grade. A student who officially participates in one contest of a sport is credited with one year of participation in that sport.

**SECTION 6. OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION RULE.** A student who is a member of any school athletic team (grades 7-12) may not participate (includes practice) on a non-school team in the same sport during the school season of that sport. A student who is a member of any high school athletic team may not participate in an outside sport activity in the same sport during the school season of that sport.

**Note:** Olympic Development programs are exempted from the Outside Participation Rule. One evaluation per month has been approved by the AHSAA.

**Note:** Private individual instruction is not considered an outside sports activity.

A student who violates this rule becomes ineligible to compete on that school team or in that school sports activity for the remainder of that school season. Any student who participates on an outside team after the school sport season begins is ineligible to join that school team for the remainder of that season.

A team's season begins the day of that team's first contest and ends when that team's season has been completed. An ineligible student cannot

participate with an outside team after the school team's season starts and then join the school team upon becoming eligible.

**(A) INDEPENDENT RULE:** A student who is a member of any school track, cross country or wrestling team may participate as an independent in two outside activities during the season of a sport with the permission of the school principal. The schedule of the school team, including its championship play, takes precedent over any outside participation of an individual. (Members of tennis, golf and swimming teams are not limited to the number of outside events.)

**Note:** An outside event is one that is not sanctioned by the AHSAA.

**(B) FIFTY PERCENT RULE:** Participation (includes practice) during the school year on a non-school team outside the school season by students that will play the following season on the same high school varsity or junior varsity/B-team (grades 7-12) is limited to 50 percent of the number of players required to play the game (i.e., three in basketball, six in soccer, five in baseball, etc.).

**Note:** In each sport, only the specified number of students participating on a non-school team during the school year may be placed on the same high school team roster the following season. Those students cannot be interchanged on the school team roster. A freshman team at a high school is considered a junior high team just like a 9<sup>th</sup> grade team at a junior high school.

This rule does not apply to seniors who have completed their high school eligibility in that sport or to middle and junior high school students who will not play on a high school team the following season.

This rule applies to students attending individual camps during the summer.

**(Example No. 1** – If four students play on the same non-school basketball team outside the season, only three of them would be eligible for the same high school basketball team the following basketball season.)

**(Example No. 2** – If seven students play on the same non-school soccer team outside the season, only six of them would be eligible for the same high school soccer team the following soccer season.)

**SECTION 7. HIGHER LEVEL PARTICIPATION.** A high school student who enrolls or registers in an institution of higher rank than high school or plays on an athletic team of such an institution shall not be eligible to represent any high school in the state in athletics until reinstated by the

## Central Board of Control.

With the approval of a student's principal, enrollment in special classes for an accelerated or enrichment program is not a violation of the rules. However, a student who enrolls at another school in order to take special courses is not eligible at the new high school until the student has been enrolled for one full year.

**Note:** College tryouts are only permitted outside the high school sport season.

**SECTION 8. AMATEUR RULE.** Only amateurs are eligible. An amateur is one who does not use his/her knowledge of athletics or athletic skill for gain. Amateur standing shall be further determined by the following standards:

(a) A student is ineligible if he/she has received money as a prize, or has sold a prize received in a contest, or has bet on a contest in which he/she is a participant.

(b) Professionalism is defined as accepting remuneration, directly or indirectly, for playing on athletic teams and in sports activities or for playing under an assumed name.

(c) A student who accepts material or financial inducement from any source is ineligible.

(d) No student shall receive more than actual expenses involved in travel to and from a contest and necessary meals and lodging in the meantime. A student shall not at any time receive any portion of a livelihood for participation in athletics, other than actual expenses for any specific game.

1. A student cannot accept payment for loss of time or wages while participating in athletics as part of expenses.
2. Reasonable meals, lodging and transportation may be accepted if such are accepted in service rather than money or some material form.
3. Students playing on a non-home team which requires boarding away from home by the week, etc., will be looked upon as violating the professional rule if board is not paid by his family.
4. A team which plans to divide among its members any surplus either during or at close of season shall be considered a professional team.

(e) No award of any kind having a monetary value of more than 50 dollars – other than medals, trophies, plaques or AHSAA championship rings – shall be made to students. Violation of this rule on the part of school officials shall subject the school to suspension for one year. Acceptance of awards exceeding these limitations shall disqualify a student. Cash awards or merchandise for athletic performances or participation may not be given.

(f) A student who has lost his/her amateur standing may be reinstated after the lapse of one high school season for the sport in which he/she has become professional provided he/she has not persisted in breaking the amateur rule

## **SECTION 9. ACADEMIC RULE.**

### **Requirements**

- (a) Students entering the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least six new Carnegie units with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those six units.
- (1) Four core curriculum courses must be included in those units passed and averaged. (English, mathematics, science and social studies are core curriculum courses. Any combination of these courses is accepted.)
  - (2) Any student that accumulates more than four units of core courses per year may earn less than the required four core courses during the next school year and be eligible as long as the student remains on track for graduation with his/her class.
- (b) Students entering the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade.

**Note:** A new unit is one that has not been previously passed. A semester is half of a school year as defined by the local school system.

- (c) Students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time are eligible.
- (d) Students in high school must complete a STAR Sportsmanship online interactive course one time during their high school careers. Middle/junior high school students must take the Advanced Middle/Junior High STAR component. Students taking The Advanced Middle/Junior High component will not have to take another component in high school. A certificate of completion must be kept on file in the school principal's office along with other eligibility items. Cheerleaders must also complete the course one time during their high school years.

### **Guidelines**

1. Eligibility may be determined before the start of each new school year or at the beginning of the second semester. A student that is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year remains eligible for the remainder of that school year so far as grades are concerned. A student that regains eligibility at the beginning of the second semester remains

eligible for the remainder of the second semester so far as grades are concerned.

2. Students declared ineligible at the beginning of a school year may regain their eligibility at the end of the first semester (or trimester) by meeting the academic requirements listed above during their last two semesters (three trimesters or 2 trimesters and one semester) in attendance and summer school, if applicable. The regained eligibility of any student may be determined any time after the end of the first semester (or trimester), but all course requirements used to determine the eligibility must be completed no later than the fifth day of the second semester (or second trimester).

A student that regains eligibility at the end of the first trimester may not participate in interscholastic athletics until 88 days of the school year have been completed.

3. Only one unit (or subject) of physical education per year may be counted.
4. A maximum of two units (or subjects) earned in an approved summer school may be counted. If a unit (or subject) is repeated in summer school, the higher numerical grade for that unit (or subject) may be used to compute the composite grade average.
5. An accredited correspondence course may be accepted by a school system but must be completed before Sept. 1 and may be one of the maximum two summer units counted for eligibility purposes.
6. Units earned through Credit Recovery may also be among the maximum two summer units counted and must be completed before Sept. 1. If Credit Recovery is used to make up Carnegie units, those units can only be accepted if they are earned through a State Department of Education-approved program.
7. For eligibility purposes, special recitation, extra work, make-up work, tests, review, etc., may not be given for the purpose of making a student eligible.
8. To be eligible, all students (including repeaters and hold-backs) must be enrolled in a specified number of new units at the school they represent.
  - (a) 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders must be carrying at least six new units (three per semester on a 4x4 block schedule).
  - (b) 12<sup>th</sup> graders that are on track for graduation with more than the required number of units earned must be carrying at least four new units for the school year (two units per semester on a 4x4 block schedule).
  - (c) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders must be carrying at least five new subjects.
9. The eligibility of a student that has attended another school during the preceding year must be established by a transcript from that school before the student is permitted to participate at the new school.

**SECTION 10. OUT-OF-STATE TRANSFER.** A student that transfers from an out-of-state school must have been eligible academically at that school in order to be declared eligible at an AHSAA member school for the remainder of the school year.

**SECTION 11. ATTENDANCE INTERRUPTION.** A student who has dropped out of school without completing six units of work with a minimum composite grade average of 70 before dropping out – except on account of sickness for which a doctor's certificate is required – shall not be eligible for interscholastic athletics until he/she has received credits for attendance and six units of work with a minimum composite grade average of 70 during a succeeding year.

A doctor's certificate, which states the sickness of a student was of such nature and length that it was impossible for the student to receive credit for the required work, must be presented to the Executive Director for an official ruling, which may be appealed by the school to the District Board.

When a student is unable to attend school for one or more semesters and then re-enters school, his/her eligibility status will be the same as it was at the close of the last semester attended. A student may count credits earned only in the summer school immediately preceding the current school year.

**SECTION 12. TRANSFER RULE.** A student that enrolls in one school and later transfers to, or enrolls in, another school shall not be eligible immediately to represent the latter school in any athletic contest.

**Note:** For eligibility purposes a student is normally considered enrolled when the student has attended school for two days.

A student that transfers from any non-member school to a member school he/she is zoned to attend shall be eligible at the beginning of the next semester (first or second) if they meet all other requirements.

A **member school** is one that has been accepted by the Central Board as a member of the AHSAA. A new member school's official date of entry into the AHSAA is considered the first day of its school year.

**Note:** If a Board of Education policy allows a student completing the eighth grade in a gifted program to transfer within its system to an International Baccalaureate program (IB), that student would have immediate eligibility if all other requirements are met. A student placed out-of-zone within a school system based on a Special Education Individual Education Plan (IEP) would also have immediate eligibility if all other requirements are met.

**Exception 1. Completion of Highest Grade Taught.** Any student, upon completion of the highest grade taught in any school that offers less than the number of years required for high school graduation, becomes eligible



immediately at the member school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside if all other requirements are met.

**Note:** A student transferring under Exception 1 circumstances will become eligible immediately only at the member school within the same school system that serves the area in which the student's parents reside if all other requirements are met.

If a student, before completion of the highest grade taught in a member school, transfers to another member school that serves the same area where the student's parents reside, that student is ineligible for one year at the new school according to regulations for overlapping school zones. (See Overlapping School Zones, page 32.)

**Exception 2. Non-Resident Attendance Requirement.** Any student, after completing one year's attendance in a school and fulfilling all other requirements, becomes eligible in that school and the high school that it feeds in the same system. (This does not apply to foreign exchange students who participate in athletics during their first year of attendance.)

**Exception 3. Bona Fide Move.** A student whose parents make a bona fide move completely out of one school zone into another may transfer all his/her rights and privileges to the member school that serves the area where his/her parents reside.

If the change of school precedes the bona fide move on the part of the parents, the student is ineligible until the parents make a bona fide move.

**Determining a Bona Fide Move** – Sometimes it is very difficult to determine what constitutes a bona fide move. Family and home conditions differ and must be considered. The following factors are basic guidelines for determining a bona fide move:

- a. The household furniture of the family must be moved into an unoccupied house or apartment.
- b. All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence.
- c. The original residence should be closed, rented or disposed of and not used by the family.
- d. Nine months at the new residence will be required to make a move bona fide.

If a family moves into a new school zone and remains there for less than nine months, the move will not be considered bona fide and the family's child who is enrolled in the new school zone becomes ineligible there the

day the family leaves the new school zone.

The student remains ineligible for a full calendar year from the date the family moved out of the new zone. However, if the student did not participate in athletics, the period of ineligibility will be 12 months from the date of the student's initial enrollment.

Under unusual circumstances the Executive Director may decide a move to be valid even if all the above conditions have not been met. Each questionable case will be decided on its individual merits.

**Note:** Students entering the seventh grade for the first time are eligible where they enroll.

Just as in all other cases, the decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the District Board and a District Board's decision may be appealed to the Central Board of Control. In the final analysis, whether a move is bona fide or not will be determined by the Central Board.

**Change In Residence:** In order for a student to establish residence with a new family, that student must reside in the home for one year.

A **foreign exchange student** attending a member school located in the school zone where the host family resides is eligible to receive a waiver of the Transfer Rule for a period of one year provided this is the student's first year as a foreign exchange student. The student must be assigned by a program on the current Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.

This waiver is granted under the stipulation that the foreign exchange student meets all other eligibility requirements of the AHSAA and has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

**Note:** A Foreign Exchange Student Registration Form (No. 4) must be completed and filed with the State Office before eligibility can be determined on any foreign exchange student. After approval, the student must be submitted to the State Office via online reporting.

When a student is forced into a new home due to an emergency caused by a disaster, the District Board or the Executive Director may reduce the required time for establishing the residence with the new family.

**Divorce:** The eligibility of a student whose parents are divorced is determined by the following:

- (a) If there has been a divorce or a legal separation in a family and sole or physical custody has been awarded by the court granting the divorce to one of the parents, the athletic eligibility of the student will be established at the school that serves the area where that parent resides.

**Note:** If joint custody has been awarded and a transfer is involved, the student must attend the new school for one year before becoming eligible.

- (b) If it becomes necessary at a later date for the student to reside with the other parent, the move will be accepted as a bona fide move if the court that granted the divorce changes the custody to this parent. This type of move will be accepted for immediate athletic eligibility purposes only one time. Therefore, if a student subsequently decides to return and reside with the first parent in a different school zone, the student will be ineligible for a period of one year.

**Custody and Legal Guardianship:** Custody or legal guardianship assigned to anyone (including relatives) will not establish immediate athletic eligibility.

- Note:** (1) If a student transfers to another school zone to live with an appointed guardian without a bona fide move into that school zone by the parents, that student would be ineligible under the Transfer Rule.
- (2) If a student has been declared a “dependent of the state” and placed by the Department of Human Resources (DHR), that student would meet the Transfer Rule requirement in the school zone where the student has been placed.

**Exception 4. Home Rule.** If a student attends a member school that does not serve the area where the student’s parents reside, the student may return to his/her home school and be eligible at the beginning of any school year if all other requirements are met. If the change of schools is made after the school year has started, the student will not be eligible until the beginning of the next school year. (This does not change the existing rule concerning transfers within overlapping school zones in which both schools serve the area where the student’s parents reside.)

If a student attends a non-member school, that student may return to his/her home school and be eligible at the beginning of the first or second semester if all other requirements are met.

A student who attends a magnet school that does not offer interscholastic athletics may participate in athletics at the student’s home school within the same school system if all eligibility requirements are met. The home school is based on the parents’ residence.

Even though parents may move to an address that does not serve the school where a student is attending, the student may remain eligible at that school. However, if the student attends longer than the end of the school year in which the parents' move occurred, the student will not become eligible immediately at the school serving the parents' new address unless the transfer is made at the beginning of the new school year. If the transfer is made after the school year begins, the student will not become eligible until the beginning of the next school year if the transfer is from a member school.

**Note: Determination Of Undefined School Zones.** School bus routes within county and city school systems establish the school zones used to determine athletic eligibility. When bus routes cross county or city boundary lines, these routes will establish the school zones used in determining eligibility if there is an agreement between the school systems involved.

Private and/or parochial school zone lines for eligibility purposes are limited to the municipality in which the school is located. If the school is not located within a municipality, the school zone lines are the county system where it is located.

**Overlapping School Zones:** A student whose parents reside in an area served by more than one school lives in the school zone of each school, thus in overlapping school zones. A student who changes schools within these overlapping school zones is ineligible for one year at the new school.

**Note:** A student that transfers from a school within these overlapping school zones remains ineligible for one year at any of the other schools within these overlapping school zones.

Examples of the Transfer Rule are as follows:

If a student transfers from Montgomery Academy (a private school in Montgomery) to Sidney Lanier High School (Montgomery), the student must attend the new school one year before establishing eligibility.

If a student transfers from Murphy High School to Davidson High School (both in Mobile), the student will be eligible five days after being submitted to the State Office via online reporting if the parents actually move from the Murphy zone to the Davidson zone. If the parents do not move, the student must attend Davidson one year before establishing eligibility.

If a student transfers from Gadsden High School to Marion Military Institute and a year later returns to Gadsden High without a change of

residence by the student's parents, the student will become eligible at the beginning of the school year five days after being submitted to the State Office via Form 3 online reporting.

If a student who is eligible at Francis Marion High School withdraws after attending four weeks and moves with his/her parents to Selma, the student will become eligible at Selma High School five days after being submitted to the State Office via Form 3 online reporting.

**SECTION 13. FALSE IDENTITY.** Any student giving a fictitious age or entering a contest under an assumed name shall be ruled permanently ineligible to participate in high school athletics.

**SECTION 14. PHYSICAL EXAMS.** In order for a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics, there must be on file in the superintendent's or principal's office a current physician's statement certifying that the student has passed a physical exam, and that in the opinion of the examining physician (M.D. or D.O.) the student is fully able to participate in interscholastic athletics (grades 7-12). The AHSAA Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form (Form 5) must be used.

**Note:** A physical exam will satisfy the requirement for one calendar year as long as the physical is completed within the same calendar month each year from the date of the exam. Example: Physicals given any day in the month of May in 2011 will satisfy the requirement through the last day of May, 2012.

**SECTION 15. ILLEGAL PRACTICE.** Any student participating in an illegal practice in any sport may become ineligible for the next season in that sport.

**SECTION 16. SUSPENSIONS.** Any student who is under temporary suspension or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school is not eligible. A student's attendance, attitude and classroom efforts must be acceptable to the school in which the student is enrolled.

A transfer student must be in good standing with the student's previous school.

**SECTION 17. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT.** A student or coach who has been found guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct in an interscholastic contest, or who has been penalized for a serious offense or rule violation by expulsion from a contest because of unsportsmanlike conduct, may be suspended by the Executive Director from participating for the remainder

of the season in that sport.

Destruction of football goal posts is considered flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct.

**SECTION 18: CONDUCT RULE/EJECTION PENALTIES:** Penalties for coaches and players ejected from one or more contests are as follows:

**First Ejection:** A \$300 fine. (An athlete's fine can be reduced to \$100 if the athlete being ejected takes the online STAR Behavioral Mode within 10 days of the date of the ejection.)

**Second Ejection:** A one-game suspension and a \$500 fine

**Third Ejection:** Minimum penalty of a suspension for the remainder of the season plus a \$750 fine.

**Note:** If any of the ejections occur during the final contest of the season, a monetary fine will be placed on the school.

**Note:** Additional applicable penalties may be assessed upon review by the AHSAA.

**Note:** All fines are due within 30 days.

**Leaving The Team Area Ejection/Suspension:** If players leave the team area onto the court or field and are ejected under National Federation rules, they will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season contests. A tournament would count as one contest except in championship play where the suspension would be in effect contest by contest.

**Note:** Any player who leaves the team area onto the court or field without being ejected under National Federation rules will be subject to applicable penalties upon review by the AHSAA.

**Online Sportsmanship Requirement:** Students in high school must complete a STAR Sportsmanship online interactive course one time during their high school careers. Middle/junior high school students must take the Advanced Middle/Junior High STAR component, which will satisfy once-during-high-school requirement. A certificate of completion must be kept on file in the school principal's office along with other eligibility items. Cheerleaders must also complete the course one time during their high school years.

**SECTION 19. ELIGIBILITY RULE APPLICATION.** The eligibility rules of the Association shall apply to all students of member schools participating in interscholastic athletic contests with schools inside or outside of Alabama.

**SECTION 20. ELIGIBLE STUDENT PARTICIPATION.** Any student who is eligible for participation under the rules of the AHSAA shall be eligible to represent the school in any interscholastic contest. (This applies

to athletics only and does not supersede local rules that are stricter.)

**SECTION 21. UNDEFINED VIOLATIONS.** The Executive Director and the Central Board of Control shall determine the penalty for a violation if the penalty is not prescribed in a particular section of Rule I. If a student participates while ineligible, the usual penalty for the student will be a period of ineligibility equal to the time that the student participated while ineligible. This period may be determined to suit the nature of the case.

**SECTION 22. STUDENT RESTITUTION.** If a student participates while ineligible, the usual penalty for the student will be a period of ineligibility equal to the time that the student participated while ineligible. This period may be determined to suit the nature of the case.

**Note:** A student's period of ineligibility must extend over consecutive semesters until eligibility is regained.

## **RULE II - Reports**

**SECTION 1. RULES COMPLIANCE.** A superintendent or principal shall, when requested, furnish to the Boards such information as they may desire bearing upon the eligibility of contestants from his school. A failure to comply within a reasonable time shall forfeit a school's membership in the Association.

**SECTION 2. SUBMITTING STUDENT DATA.** At least five days before a student can participate in a contest of any athletic year, that student's name must have been submitted online to the State Office by the school principal. If the name of a student appears online on a school's current list of eligible students, that student's data does not have to be entered again.

All the required information must be submitted before a student becomes eligible.

If the name of a student does not appear online on a school's list of eligible students, that student's data must be entered at least five days before the student can participate in a contest. During the school year the data of additional students may be submitted online, but it must be entered at least five days before the students can participate in a contest.

To submit a cheerleader that does not participate in interscholastic athletics, enter the name and check the "Cheerleader Only" box.

Online submission of students for the following school year will not be processed until after June 1 and should not be submitted before that date.

The penalty for the failure of a school to submit eligibility data online shall be suspension from the AHSAA and/or the assessment of a monetary fine.

**SECTION 3. REQUIRED FORMS AND REPORTS.** Certain forms and reports are required by the State Office during the school year. All information relating to school membership, membership in the Athletic Directors & Coaches Association, and student eligibility must be submitted online via the AHSAA website, [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com).

All other necessary forms will be found on the AHSAA website as PDF files that can be printed, completed and then submitted to the State Office via fax or mail or either files that can be submitted on-line directly.

The list of forms (with applicable deadlines) is available online:

### **Administrative Forms**

**No.**

- 4 Foreign Exchange Student Registration Form
- 5 Physician's Certificate  
Concussion Information Form
- 7 Contract for Athletic Contests Between Schools
- 9 Application for Sanction of Interstate Athletic Event (Due in State Office 30 days before event)
- 17 Basketball Tournament Financial Report
- 20 Order Form (Rule books, all sports)

### **Miscellaneous Forms**

- 22 Application for Basketball Electric Clock Operator Exam
- 22A Application for Football Electric Clock Operator
- 25 Application for Special Pass (coaches with 25 or more years experience)

### **Nomination Forms**

- 30 Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame (Oct. 15, 2011)
- 31 Bryant-Jordan Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Award (Jan. 17, 2012)
- 32 Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Achievement Award (Jan. 17, 2012)
- 33 North-South All-Star Contests (Volleyball—Nov. 1, 2011; Baseball, Softball and Soccer—March 22, 2012)
- 34 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Football Game (June 1, 2012)
- 34A North-South All-Star Football Game (Nov. 1, 2011)
- 35 All-Star Basketball Games (Feb. 27, 2012)

### **Championship Program Forms**

- 41 Cross Country Section/State Meet Entry Form
- 41B Cross Country Section Director's Report (Girls & Boys)
- 42 Volleyball Area Tournament Bracket Form
- 43A Basketball Area Tournament Bracket Form (Girls & Boys)
- 47 State Swimming Meet Entry Form (Girls)
- 47A State Swimming Meet Entry Form (Boys)
- 48 Golf Section Tournament Entry Form
- 48A Golf Section Director's Report
- 48B Golf Section Director's Evaluation Form



### Championship Program Forms

- 49 Tennis Section/State Tournament Entry Form
- 49A Tennis Section Director's Report
- 52 Track & Field Section Meet Entry Form
- 53 Track & Field Section Meet Director's Report (Girls & Boys)
- 54 Decathlon & Heptathlon State Meet Entry Form
- 56 Softball Area Coordinator's Report

## RULE III - Contests

**SECTION 1. CONTEST RESTRICTIONS.** An AHSAA member school may not play a contest (includes scrimmages and practices) against a non-member school or against a school under suspension. Violations of these rules shall be sufficient grounds for suspension.

**Note:** Any out-of-state opponent must be a member of an association affiliated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

A high school may not engage in contests with junior high and middle schools.

**Note:** Practice contests between schools are not permitted at any time during the school year, which begins with the first fall practice date.

**SECTION 2. SUNDAY PLAY.** No interscholastic contest may be scheduled on Sunday without prior approval of the Central Board of Control. This includes summer play.

**SECTION 3. SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS.** No interscholastic athletic event involving more than two teams shall be permitted without the official sanction of the AHSAA. Volleyball, wrestling and track tri-matches, golf and cross country tri and quad-matches, swimming tri-meets and track four-way meets do not have to be sanctioned during regular season play.

Sanction request procedures:

- (1) Event with only Alabama Schools**—Request online (AHSAA member section)
- (2) Event with schools from bordering states:** Print off Form 9, complete and fax or mail to the AHSAA office at least 30 days prior to the date of the event.
- (3) Event with schools from non-bordering states that needs NFHS approval:** Request online at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) under Sports, then Sanctioning.

A team or individual cannot participate in any tournament or contest that is not sanctioned by the AHSAA.

**SECTION 4. AHSAA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.** All rules and regulations of the Association apply to all middle, junior high and high school contests which include, but are not limited to, junior varsity, B-team and varsity teams as well as to all jamborees and spring games.

Also, all rules and regulations outlined for the different sports in the Fall, Winter and Spring sports books apply.

Eligibility rules or playing rules may not be set aside for any athletic contest at any level.

**SECTION 5. SUBMITTING ELIGIBILITY ROSTERS.** At least five days before any athletic contest, the principal of each school involved shall email to the opposing school a completed Game Eligibility List (formerly Form 6) certifying that the students listed are eligible under AHSAA rules to represent that school in interscholastic contests. If the contest involves more than two schools, the list shall be mailed to the contest director.

Sending the Game Eligibility List certifies that each student listed has passed the required number of units of work the preceding year with a minimum composite grade average of 70, is now carrying the minimum required units of work and has exhibited acceptable attendance, attitude, and classroom efforts. No special recitation, make-up work or tests may be given for the purpose of making a student eligible.

**SECTION 6. GIRLS AND BOYS PARTICIPATION.** In sports where championship play is sponsored for both girls and boys, it is recommended that schools field a boys team and a girls team in those sports. If a girls team is provided in a sport, girls may not participate on the boys team in that sport. Boys are not permitted to participate on a girls' team under any circumstances.

**SECTION 7. DRESSING OUT RULE.** Only eligible students may be dressed in school game uniforms for a contest.

**Note:** Participation is defined as playing in a contest.

**SECTION 8. INELIGIBLE STUDENT PARTICIPATION.** If an ineligible student participates in a contest, or if a student enters a contest under an assumed name, that student's school will be required to forfeit that contest if it was won by the school. If a student participates under an assumed name, the school's membership in the AHSAA will also be jeopardized.

If an ineligible student participates in a contest composed of individual events (track meet, tennis match, etc.), that school will be required to forfeit the entire contest, including all points and awards (medals, trophies, etc.) earned by other members of the team.

**SECTION 9. CONTEST COMPLAINTS.** When a complaint is made against any member of a team or for other reasons immediately before or during the progress of a contest, the contest shall be completed as scheduled **according to NFHS Rules** and the complaint filed with the Executive Director for settlement later.

**SECTION 10. FAILURE TO COMPLETE CONTESTS.** A school that takes its team off the field or court during a regular season or tournament contest may not expect to collect its expenses or guarantees. Such an act will be considered flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct.

After a contest begins, each school waives all rights as far as objections to the officials are concerned.

**SECTION 11. POST-SEASON CONTESTS.** Post-season contests are prohibited unless sponsored by the AHSAA. A team's season ends in all sports when the team is eliminated in the state championship program.

Practice contests between schools are not permitted at any time during the school year, which begins with the first fall practice date.

**Exceptions.** (a) When a school is invited to an officials' workshop sponsored by an officials' association that serves that school, the school may participate against member schools under the workshop guidelines set forth by the AHSAA. Workshop guidelines must be submitted by the officials association for approval by the AHSAA. An association shall conduct only one workshop per year.

**Note:** An AHSAA member school may participate at any time during the year in one local officials workshop or one AHSAA District Officials Camp and one AHSAA State Officials Camp. AHSAA District or State Officials Camps may occur during the summer months or during the school year after the first practice date for a certain sport and before the regular season in that sport begins.

(b) Jamborees and spring games are permitted only for football according to the established guidelines in Rule III, Section 12 of this Handbook.

**SECTION 12. NFHS RULES COMPLIANCE.** Official rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations have been adopted for all

interscholastic contests of the AHSAA.

The interpretation and application of the rules and procedures for all AHSAA championship programs are vested in the Executive Director and the Central Board of Control of the AHSAA and cannot be appealed.

**Note:** Protests are not allowed under National Federation rules.

**SECTION 13. CONTEST/TOURNAMENT LIMITATIONS.** Limitations are established for the number of contests and tournaments a school may play in each sport, and the first practice and contest dates are set for each sport. (See Sports Calendar on page 41.)

A student may participate in the number of contests his/her team is permitted to play in that sport. If a student participates on more than one level of competition in the same sport during the same season, the maximum number of contests that the student may participate in is the number of contests his/her highest-level team is permitted to play. (Ex.: A student playing a combination of junior varsity and varsity basketball games may participate in a maximum of 20 games, the number a varsity high school team can play.) The only exception is in football where a student may play a total of 18 games.

**Note:** The scheduling of all practices is left up to the discretion of the local school administration. A student may participate only at a member school where he/she is enrolled and eligible.

The dates for the first fall contests for the next two years in football, cross country, swimming and volleyball are as follows:

2011 – August 25–27 (Volleyball – Aug. 18)

2012 – August 30–Sept. 1 (Volleyball – Aug. 23)

**SECTION 14. TEAM PRACTICE RESTRICTIONS.** No team shall engage in any interscholastic competition before it has had at least three weeks of practice during the current season.

**Note:** A student changing directly from participation in another sport may have less than three weeks of practice before beginning competition.

During the school year, exclusive of allowable dates, school gymnasiums and other facilities may not be open after school for practice and no balls or equipment of the game may be used to develop skills.

Weight training and conditioning programs are exempt from these restrictions.

# 2011–12 Sports Calendar

Sports	First Practice	First Contest	End Of Season	Contests Allowed*	Tournaments Allowed+
<b>F A L L</b>					
<b>Volleyball</b> Varsity Jr. High/Middle	July 28 July 28	Aug. 18 Aug. 18	Oct. 27 Oct. 3	15 dates 10 dates	weekends only++ weekends only++
<b>Football</b> Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Aug. 1 Aug. 1	Aug. 25 Aug. 25	Dec. 2 Oct. 29	10 8	n/a n/a
<b>Cross Country</b> Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Aug. 1 Aug. 1	Aug. 25 Aug. 25	Nov. 12 Oct. 22	10 8	n/a n/a
<b>Swimming</b>	Aug. 1	Aug. 25	Dec. 3	8	n/a
<b>W I N T E R</b>					
<b>Basketball</b> Girls Varsity Boys Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Oct. 17 Oct. 17 Sept. 19	Nov. 7 Nov. 7 Oct. 10	March 3 March 3 Feb. 18	20 20 16	3 3 3
<b>Wrestling</b> Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Oct. 31 Oct. 24	Nov. 21 Nov. 14	Feb. 18 Feb. 11	14 dates 8 dates	weekends only++ weekends only++
<b>Indoor Track</b> Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Nov. 18 Nov. 18	Dec. 9 Dec. 9	Feb. 4 Jan. 28	4 3	1 holiday meet++ 1 holiday meet++
<b>S P R I N G</b>					
<b>Tennis</b> Girls Varsity Boys Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 16 Jan. 16 Jan. 16	Feb. 6 Feb. 6 Feb. 13	April 27 April 27 April 14	18 dates 18 dates 10 dates	3 3 2
<b>Soccer</b> Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 23 Jan. 23	Feb. 13 Feb. 13	May 12 April 28	20 14	2 2
<b>Softball</b> (throwing 1-9**) Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 30 Jan. 30	Feb. 20 Feb. 20	May 19 May 4	18 games 14 games	7 5
<b>Baseball</b> (throwing 1-9**) Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 30 Jan. 30	Feb. 20 Feb. 20	May 19 April 19	18 dates 14 dates	2 2
<b>Golf</b> Girls Varsity Boys Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Jan. 30 Jan. 30 Jan. 30	Feb. 20 Feb. 20 Feb. 20	May 8 May 8 April 21	14 dates 14 dates 8 dates	Only weekday tourneys included in playing dates.
<b>Outdoor Track</b> Varsity Jr. High/Middle	Feb. 10 Feb. 10	Mar. 2 Mar. 2	May 5 April 26	10 8	n/a n/a
KEYS & EXPLANATIONS					
<p>*=Includes only regular season contests per school.      **Throwing conditioning (gloves &amp; balls only)</p> <p>+ =Not counted as playing dates.      ++=Must be held with no loss of school time      n/a=Not applicable</p> <p>NOTE: In all sports, a team's season ends when the team is eliminated in the state championship program. A team's season begins the day of its first contest in that sport.</p>					

**SECTION 15. COACHING OUTSIDE SCHOOL YEAR.** No coach or non-faculty coach from a school's staff of the same sport may hold organized practice or competition for its school or its feeder school players (students in grades 7-12) in that sport outside the sports season during the school year (includes the school day). Members of a school coaching staff are not allowed to coach girls or boys players from his/her school sport teams during the off-season during the school year. The only exceptions are the allowable 10-day evaluation periods for football and the five-day evaluation periods for other sports.

Any coach that coaches a student from another school renders that student ineligible at the coach's school for the next school year (practice or competition).

**SECTION 16. EVALUATION PERIOD.** Each school is permitted one Evaluation Period per sport during the off-season. All sports except football may have a maximum five days in a consecutive 10-school day calendar period. Football is permitted a maximum 10 days in a consecutive 20-school day calendar period. The evaluations for spring sports must be held anytime during the first semester and the evaluations for all other sports during the second semester. All students may participate in the evaluations.

**Note:** Tryouts for any sport must be conducted only during an off-season Evaluation Period and the designated pre-season practice period for that sport.

**SECTION 17. SPRING EVALUATION PERIODS.** Spring Evaluation Periods are permitted for football, basketball and volleyball. Football is permitted spring practice for a maximum 10 days in a consecutive 20-school day calendar period while basketball and volleyball practice is permitted for five days in a consecutive 10-school day calendar period. Days during a spring break will not be counted as calendar days for schools that do not use these days during a practice period.

**Note:** Spring practice is any organized or supervised group practice with or without protective equipment. Individuals or small groups who are not organized or supervised may participate in activities such as passing, punting, shooting, dribbling, etc. Touch football in a physical education class is not a violation.

Prior to the start of a 10-day spring football evaluation period, three days of heat conditioning in helmets are required. No other equipment (balls, pads, etc.) may be used and no coaching is permitted. Anything that simulates practice will mark the first day of a school's allotted 10 days of practice. **Note:** The three days of heat conditioning in helmets are not required for students involved in a spring sport.

Football and basketball practices may be held any time during the second semester while volleyball practice must be conducted any time between the conclusion of a school's basketball season and the end of school.

Spring practices shall be open to incoming students from feeder schools. If the feeder school students meet eligibility requirements, they may participate in a football jamboree or regulation game. Students must be enrolled in the school system in order to participate in practice, workouts or any athletic functions of the school.

Sixth graders from a feeder school may participate in spring practice but are not eligible to participate in a game or jamboree. These students and other students that are ineligible but allowed to practice may be covered by the catastrophic insurance program if they are submitted to the State Office on a "tryout list". Students must be enrolled in the school or feeder school in order to practice and be covered by insurance.

A student may participate in only one spring practice period per sport per school year.

A jamboree or regulation game is permitted only for football. A limited contest (with modified rules) may be played after 10 days of practice, but one school may not participate in more than four 12-minute quarters. (Ex. If a school plays in a regulation game or jamboree in the fall, then the school may also play in either of the events in the spring of the same school year.)

Each 7-12 school is permitted to have separate 10-day spring football practice periods for its high school and junior high/middle school team, and each team may have a jamboree or regulation game. A student may participate in only one jamboree or regulation game (high school or junior high/middle school). A ninth grade team is considered a junior high team. A jamboree must include three or more teams with no one school playing more than four 12-minute quarters. All jamborees must be sanctioned **online**.

**SECTION 18. FALL FOOTBALL PRACTICE REGULATIONS.** The first three days of fall football practice must be in shorts. These three days are designed for coaches to determine if the students are conditioned physically for football practice. During the first three days of practice, teams are allowed to use hand-held blocking pads. Helmets may be worn from the first day of practice, full pads from the fourth practice day. The earliest date full pads may be worn is August 4.

No matter when a student begins fall football practice, that student must practice for three days in shorts before practicing in pads.

During two-a-day practices, only one practice per day may be in full pads. The other practice that day can be only in helmets and shoulder pads.

Between the close of the football season and the end of that school year, any football practice is prohibited except during the allowable spring practice period. A student who participates in an illegal practice may be declared ineligible for interscholastic football.

**SECTION 19. LEVELS OF COMPETITION.** No student shall be allowed to participate in two levels of competition (varsity, junior varsity, B-team, junior high or middle school) in one sport during the same event or on the same day. In football, a student may not participate in games at different levels (or the same level) on consecutive days.

**Note:** This includes the same activity or sport for such events as county and conference tournaments and meets, section meets, etc., even though these events may be played at different sites over several days.

A student may participate in a sport only one time per school year. If a student transfers from a member school after a season in a certain sport is completed, that student is ineligible to participate in the same sport at the new member school during the same school year. If a student transfers from a member school before the season in a certain sport is completed, that student would be eligible to participate in the same sport at the new school provided its season had not been completed.

Two teams from the same school may not participate in the same division of an event (tournament, meet, match, etc.) in any sport.

An ineligible student is not allowed to participate in any interscholastic contest on any level, including summer contests.

**SECTION 20. ALL-STAR REGULATIONS.** Participation, directly or indirectly, in the officiating, management, supervision, player selection, coaching or promotion of all-star high school teams, high school championship teams or similar teams in contests in any sport, unless under the supervision and sanction of the AHSAA, by member schools, their officials or their teachers, shall be considered a violation of the spirit and purpose, if not the actual wording, of these rules and regulations.

A member school shall not permit the use of its equipment or facilities for an all-star contest that is not sanctioned by the AHSAA. Any school violating the spirit, purpose or wording of these rules and regulations shall cause its school to be suspended from the AHSAA for such length of time as the Central Board deems advisable. Registered officials shall be suspended for promoting or officiating such contests.



**SECTION 21. CAMPS.** Students may attend camps (for individuals) provided they do so individually at their own expense.

During the school year when students attend camps as individuals, the Fifty Percent Rule will be in effect for team play.

**Note:** During the school year coaches cannot coach his/her own students outside the school season.

All individual and team camps sponsored by a school must be held prior to the starting practice date for fall sports. All-Star Sports Week is a “dead week” for team camps.

The maximum length of a team camp is one week (seven consecutive days). A junior high/middle school team may attend a team camp at a different time than its high school varsity. Helmets are the only type of protective equipment that may be worn at an organized football team or individual camp.

Each day at a team camp (includes 7-on-7 competition) counts toward the maximum seven days allowed for summer practice competition. Only eligible students may participate in summer competition or practice under the jurisdiction of a local school.

Other guidelines for a team camp:

- (a) Camp fees charged each school should cover room, board and insurance for all participants.
- (b) Team camps are instructional in nature. Practice times are provided for teams when they are not participating in modified games.
- (c) All teams must be guaranteed an equal number of modified games (Most camps guarantee a minimum of 10 games.)
- (d) Modified games must use a running clock.
- (e) Schools cannot be required to wear game uniforms.
- (f) The Amateur Rule is in effect.
- (g) No trophies may be awarded.
- (h) Spectators may not be charged admission.

A high school coach may work at team and individual summer camps, but coaching his/her own players in team competition would count as one of the allowed seven days of competition.

**SECTION 22. SUMMER PRACTICE RULES.** Coaches are allowed to practice with their own students during the summer months (from the end of school until the starting practice date for fall sports) and use drills to teach skills. Sports-specific mandatory practices are prohibited until the starting practice date for fall sports. No football equipment except helmets

and hand-held blocking pads may be used until the starting date for fall practice. Sleds are not permissible.

Weight training and conditioning programs are not restricted. It is the responsibility of each school to see that the Summer Practice Rule is not violated.

### **Summer Practice Competition.**

1. A school may participate in seven days of practice competition per sport during the time school is out until the first fall practice date (Aug. 1, 2011). Volleyball practice competition can be held until July 27. No interscholastic contest may be scheduled on Sunday without prior approval of the Central Board of Control. This includes summer play.

**Note:** If a coach conducts more than seven days of practice competition, he/she could be restricted from coaching that team the following school season.

2. Each student is allowed seven days of practice competition per sport. Only eligible students may participate in summer competition.
3. Coaches may coach their own school players in practice competition. Coaches may coach their own children in more than seven days of competition if none of the coach's other players are on the child's team.
4. Each day of practice competition in organized events (team camps, Sports Festival, etc.) will count toward the maximum seven days allowed.
5. All practice competition and team camps sponsored by AHSAA-member schools must include only AHSAA-member schools or schools from other NFHS-affiliated state associations. (All Team camps hosted by colleges and other outside organizations are excluded.)
6. Practice competitions between schools are deemed to be modified or practice contests under the jurisdiction of participating schools, therefore AHSAA-registered officials are not required and National Federation rules may not apply.
7. Each school should analyze the liability issues of its practice competition and act accordingly.

8. Admission may be charged to any practice competition under the direction of the school principal.
9. No practice competition involving coaches and players in grades 7-12 (including team camps) is allowed during All-Star Sports Week, a “dead week”.
10. Helmets and hand-held blocking pads are the only types of protective equipment that may be used in any football practice competition (includes team and individual camps).

**SECTION 23. VIDEO RESTRICTIONS.** A school may not video tape nor film any contest in which it is not involved unless it has received permission from both participating schools. No outside group or individual may video tape or film any contest without permission from all participating schools.

**SECTION 24. CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPATION RULE:** A school that sponsors a team or an individual in any sport competition must participate in the championship program of that sport unless the school is not eligible for the championship program at that time.

**SECTION 25. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY INTERRUPTION POLICY:** This policy, adopted by the AHSAA Central Board of Control, will be followed when championship play is interrupted or threatened by public health/safety concerns, acts of God or other uncontrollable and unforeseen circumstances. Necessary decisions concerning any circumstances that are not covered by this policy will be left to the discretion of the AHSAA administrative staff and the Central Board of Control.

This policy shall be observed for all AHSAA-sponsored championship playoff events.

1. In the event of school closings within two calendar days of scheduled playoff contests, the AHSAA administrative staff, in collaboration with the Central Board and playoff event personnel, will attempt to delay or reschedule the playoff contests without adversely affecting the next round of the playoff schedule. Any part of a revised schedule may need modification.

**Note:** For purposes of this policy, “closure,” “closed” or “school closing” shall mean that the local authorities of the interruption cause or Board of Education/Governing Board has cancelled all high school classes and school-sponsored extracurricular activities for a minimum of one calendar day due to a specific concern.

2. **Two-team contests:** Postponed contests must be re-scheduled on the next available date unless the next round of the playoff is adversely affected. The failure of a team to participate would result in a forfeit.
3. **Multi-team events:** If a revised schedule adversely affects the next round, the event may be played according to the original schedule. The failure of a team or individuals to participate would result in a forfeit.
4. In the event that schools remain open, participants and teams shall be expected to play the contests on the scheduled dates.
5. Information on any changes regarding AHSAA playoff scheduling will be posted on the home page of the AHSAA website ([www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com)).

**SECTION 26. INTRAVENOUS FLUID USE POLICY:** An athlete requiring intravenous fluid treatment (hydration/rehydration) will not be allowed to participate in any athletic activity until cleared by a medical doctor and approved by the parents or guardian. A direct verbal or written order from a medical doctor is required.

**SECTION 27. CONCUSSION POLICY:** Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the contest and shall not return to play until a medical release is issued by a medical doctor.

Any health care professional or AHSAA certified coach may identify concussive signs, symptoms or behaviors of a student athlete during any type of athletic activity. Once concussive signs are identified, only a medical doctor can clear the athlete to return to play. Any school in violation of the AHSAA policy application of National Federation rule will be subject to sanctions.

An online NFHS Concussion Course is required for all certified coaches (faculty and non-faculty). The free educational course will aid in identifying symptoms of a concussion and the procedure to follow when these symptoms are recognized. The course is available at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

A Concussion Information Form signed by each student and his/her parent must be kept on file in the principal's office where the student is enrolled. (The form will satisfy the requirement for one school year.)

(NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of a Concussion are found in the Appendix in the back of each NFHS Rules Book).

## **RULE IV - Game Officials**

**SECTION 1. OFFICIALS' LISTS.** The Central Board shall prepare and publish a list of officials who meet the AHSAA standards. School principals shall be jointly responsible for the selection of officials for any contest.

Only Class 2 and 3 officials will be used for championship play in football, basketball and baseball. This rule may be waived when the Executive Director and District Board determine that a sufficient number of Class 2 and 3 officials are not available.

### **SECTION 2. REGISTERED OFFICIALS' CONTEST REQUIREMENTS.**

Only officials who are registered with the AHSAA may be used by member schools as officials in football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling and soccer. Some registered officials are required in track and field. Violation of this rule shall subject the school or schools to a fine.

All member schools of the AHSAA are required to use in-state officials associations when they are available. Private dressing rooms with hot and cold showers must be provided for all officials.

Electric Clock Operators must be registered by the AHSAA through member schools or local officials associations in order to serve as clock operators for interscholastic contests. For varsity football games, electric clock operators will be assigned from the officials' associations working the games.

The Officials Guide, approved by the Central Board, is the official publication governing the AHSAA officiating program.

**SECTION 3. OFFICIALS' RESTRICTIONS.** An official who is an employee of a given school may not officiate in any contest if his/her school competes with either school participating in the contest he/she officiates. An employee of a participating school may not officiate in any interscholastic contest in which his/her school is involved.

**Note:** Swimming is excluded since judges are not certified by the AHSAA for this sport.

**SECTION 4. OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION RESTRICTIONS.** A varsity coach who is a member of an officials association which registers officials with the AHSAA may not use an official from that association in that coach's varsity game. This applies to all sanctioned AHSAA sports.

## RULE V - Coaches

**SECTION 1. COACHING REQUIREMENTS.** A coach or persons responsible for the immediate training of athletes or athletic teams must be employed or approved by the Board of Education as a certified teacher under the supervision of the school principal.

**Note:** “Coach” refers to any person who is given direct responsibility by the school and/or the Board of Education for the training or instructing of any athletes or athletic team. A school team may not participate in an interscholastic contest unless the team is accompanied by a certified teacher (faculty member).

**Note:** All head coaches of high school teams and the highest level of junior high/middle school teams are required to attend a rules clinic at All-Star Sports Week or online. Coaches failing to comply will be fined as follows: \$300 for high school coaches and \$50 for junior high/middle school coaches.

**Note:** Completion of the online STAR Sportsmanship and NFHS Concussion courses is mandatory for all coaches (faculty and non-faculty).

**Note:** Coaches may coach their own children during the school year and summer (the seven days of competition is allowed) if none of the coach’s other players are on the child’s team.)

**Non-Faculty Coach:** Schools may use a non-faculty coach in any sport when that person is serving directly under the supervision of a coach (faculty member) employed by the Board of Education and is also employed by the school and/or the Board of Education.

**Note:** A non-faculty coach is a person with any coaching responsibility at a member school, is certified or working toward certification under the Coaches’ Education Program course requirements, is CPR certified and has completed the STAR Sportsmanship and NFHS Concussion courses.

Non-faculty coaches may be disqualified and discontinued by the Executive Director or Central Board at any time it appears that their instruction is not in the best interests of the statewide athletic program.

A school that uses a non-faculty coach that is not employed or approved by the school and/or the Board of Education is subject to penalty from the AHSAA.

A non-faculty coach must be accompanied at all contests by a faculty member or full-time employee of the school.

**SECTION 2: COACHES EDUCATION PROGRAM:** Non-faculty coaches and first-time coaches in the AHSAA are required to take two courses—Coaching Principles (NFHS or ASEP) and Sports First Aid (ASEP or PREPARE)—in the Coaches Education Program, after which they are eligible to apply for a coaches' card. The courses are recommended for all other coaches. Courses may be taken for Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

All coaches must have an active CPR Certification each year.

**Note:** Each member school must keep on file in the principal's office a verification for each coach that has been certified from 2001-02 to the present (course requirements) and a verification of all coaches' CPR certification plus STAR and Concussion courses. Coaches at member schools prior to 2001-02 are exempt from the Coaching Principles and Sports First Aid course requirements. A coach's certification will be checked at all championship events.

Program requirements for each of three categories are as follows:

### 1. Non-Faculty Coaches

- Must complete Coaching Principles and Sport First Aid courses. One course must be completed by the end of the first year and both courses completed by the end of the second year. (If one of the courses is not completed during the first year, the coach cannot continue coaching the second year.)
- Must be CPR certified. Certification must be active each year.
- Must have completed the STAR Sportsmanship and Concussion courses one time.

### 2. First Time Coaches in the AHSAA

- Will have two years after being hired to complete Coaching Principles and Sport First Aid courses. Coaches will be exempt if these courses were taken during undergraduate or graduate programs and approved by the AHSAA office.
- Must be CPR certified. Certification must be active each year. **Note:** A school using a non-certified coach that is not involved in the Coaches Education Program as described above will be fined \$300 and the coach will be suspended.
- Must have completed the STAR Sportsmanship and Concussion courses one time.

### 3. All Other Coaches

- Are recommended to take the Coaching Principles and Sports First Aid courses for professional development or personal development.
- Must be CPR certified.
- Must have completed the STAR Sportsmanship and Concussion courses one time.

**SECTION 3. COACHES' CONDUCT.** A coach or non-faculty coach found guilty of immoral or unsportsmanlike conduct may be disqualified by the Central Board of Control. Any school using a disqualified coach or non-faculty coach shall be subjected to suspension from the AHSAA.

**SECTION 4. ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS & COACHES ASSOCIATION.** All coaches that meet the AHSAA Coaches Education Program requirements and are assigned athletic coaching responsibilities are eligible for membership in this organization, established in 1948 under the auspices of the AHSAA. There is a service fee of \$30 each per membership year.

Administrators (principals and assistant principals) are eligible for membership with a \$40 annual fee per administrator.

The membership card entitles the member to voting power in the Coaches Association and serves as a pass for the "holder and one" to all events sponsored by the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association as well as to the championship playoff events sponsored by the AHSAA.

The service fee also entitles the member to \$1 million personal liability insurance coverage, which includes the classroom.

The current activities and projects of the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association include the All-Star Sports Week, rules clinics, mini-clinics, the coaches' awards banquet, the publication of the coaches' directory, and the co-sponsorship of the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame program along with the AHSAA.

Steve Bailey is director of the AHSADCA.

The 2011-12 officers:

President ..... Jim Hunter, Calhoun  
 Co-1st Vice-President..... Myra Miles, Hoover  
 Co-1st Vice-President..... John Grass, Oxford  
 2nd Vice-President .....David Wofford, Baldwin County  
 3rd Vice-President ..... James Jackson, Carver-Montgomery  
 Secretary-Treasurer..... Steve Savarese, AHSAA

*(New officers are elected during All-Star Sports Week.)*



## **RULE VI - Administration**

**SECTION 1. AHSAA YEAR.** The Athletic Association year begins July 1 and ends the following June 30 of each calendar year.

**SECTION 2. PRINCIPALS' ACCOUNTABILITY.** The principal of a school shall be held ultimately responsible in all matters that concern interscholastic athletics at his/her school.

**SECTION 3. JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION.** Students at a junior high/middle school may participate at all levels of competition (varsity, junior varsity, B-team, etc.) at the high school where they are zoned to attend if all other requirements are met.

**SECTION 4. CONTEST CONTRACTS.** The superintendent or principal shall countersign all contracts to engage in interscholastic contests. When contracting for a contest, provision must be made for a forfeiture fee to be paid by the school that fails to carry out the arrangement made. There shall be no cancellation of a contract once entered into, except by mutual agreement, unless the forfeiture fee provided by the contract is paid.

**Note:** If a school has a contract for a game and breaks it (by paying the forfeiture fee) without mutual agreement of the other school involved, this may count as one of the offended school's allowed games and will be officially a forfeited game. If the game is replaced by the offended school, no forfeit will be granted.

The school breaking the contract will not be allowed to replace the forfeited game.

The Central Board recommends that (1) member schools play interscholastic athletic contests on only one night preceding a school day in any given week and (2) contracts be used for contests in all sports.

**Note:** A contest starting at 5 p.m. or after is considered a night contest.

**SECTION 5. CONTRACTING CONTEST OFFICIALS.** It is the responsibility of each school to contract with local officials associations to assign registered officials for each of its regular season contests in all sports.

**Note:** A school that takes its team off the field or court during a contest may not expect to collect its expenses or guarantees. Such an act will be considered flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct.

After a contest begins, each school waives all rights as far as objections to the officials are concerned.

**SECTION 6. ALTERING AHSAA RULES.** Mutual agreements to violate the rules of the AHSAA may result in the suspension of all schools involved.

**SECTION 7. FINANCIAL AID.** A student that transfers to a member school and receives any financial aid shall remain ineligible at that school for one year.

**Note:** Private school financial aid is not considered recruiting unless offered as an inducement to attend that school.

**SECTION 8. PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT ENTICEMENTS.** Any school official (superintendent, principal or coach) who encourages or collaborates in negotiations leading to the signing of a high school student to a professional contract shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and may be disqualified and the school may be suspended from the Association.

**SECTION 9. SCHOOL OFFICIAL REQUIRED.** A certified administrator or certified teacher authorized by the principal or superintendent must accompany school teams and individuals to all contests in which the school participates.

**SECTION 10. SCHOOL RESTITUTION RULE.** If a school that has been disqualified or a student who has been declared ineligible is allowed to participate in interscholastic competition because of a court restraining order and/or injunction against the school or the AHSAA, and if such restraining order and/or injunction is subsequently vacated, stayed, reversed or a final judicial determination is made that injunctive relief was not justified, then all contests in which such ineligible student participated shall be forfeited as well as any honors, points or awards received by the school or the ineligible student. In addition, the school may be fined or placed on probation in the interest of restitution and fairness to other member schools.

Any member school that sues the AHSAA, or is involved in a suit against the AHSAA, and loses the case shall be required to pay all legal expense in the litigation.

**SECTION 11. UNSCHEDULED CENTRAL BOARD MEETING:** If a school requests the Central Board to convene on a date other than its four annual meeting dates, the requesting school will be assessed the expenses of the meeting.

**Note:** If the requested meeting involves an appeal, the requesting school(s) will be assessed the expenses of the meeting if the appeal is denied.

**SECTION 12. RECRUITING.** No person connected in any way with a school may contact a student or prospective student, or his/her parents or guardian, who resides outside of the school district to inquire or encourage them to transfer or enroll in their school for the chief purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

It is permissible for a coach, or anyone else connected with a school, to talk or speak with a student(s) or parent(s) who, on their own, visit their school for any specific purpose.

Anyone connected in any official capacity with any high school who offers material or financial inducement or enticement to any student to come to that school for the purpose of engaging in athletics shall subject that school to suspension from the AHSAA.

A violation of this rule renders the contacted student permanently ineligible at the school where the violation occurs. Any school violating this rule may be placed on probation for a period of one year and assessed a monetary fine. The probation may be restrictive or it may suspend the school from membership in the AHSAA. Repeated violations of this rule will cause a school to be suspended from the AHSAA.

**SECTION 13. RECRUITING OUTSIDE DISTRICT.** Athletic recruiting outside of one's own school district, zone, etc. is illegal. Also, athletic recruiting within overlapping school zones is illegal.

**SECTION 14. CHEERLEADERS.** A cheerleading squad is recognized as a support group for all interscholastic teams within its school, therefore cheerleaders do not fall under the eligibility rules that govern interscholastic athletics. In order to be covered under the catastrophic insurance program, cheerleaders must be submitted online via Form 3 reporting and checked under the "Cheerleader Only" column.

The National Federation guidelines outlined in the Spirit Rules book have been adopted as minimum standards for cheerleading programs at member schools.

**Note:** Cheerleaders will not be allowed to stand along the sidelines or end lines during a basketball game while the ball is in play. Cheerleaders should be seated in front of their student sections but will be allowed on the floor or sidelines during timeouts and between the quarters of a game. Cheerleaders may use the sideline or end line areas before games as long as they do not interfere with pre-game warm-ups.

**SECTION 15. PARTICIPATION PRIVILEGE.** Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege granted to students that meet the minimum standards of eligibility adopted by the member schools of the AHSAA.

**SECTION 16. STARTING DATE CHANGES.** Major changes in sports starting dates must be approved by a vote of member schools.

**SECTION 17. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS.** Legislative Proposals may be submitted by member schools and must include a rationale, be signed by the principal, and reach the State Office by Jan. 31.

**SECTION 18. MEDIA/AUDIO-VISUAL POLICY FOR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS.** This policy regulates all photography, video (film), internet streaming and audio at all championship events. Championship events include all contests that have a bearing on championship play.

- (a) **Media:** Members of the media are authorized, without paying a fee, to cover AHSAA championship events, to take still photographs and take short film, internet streaming, video and audio clips of AHSAA events for print and electronic news coverage.
- (b) **Credentials:** To cover AHSAA championship events, media are required to display a visible credential issued by the AHSAA at all times. All media credentials must be requested on line at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com) at least one week prior to the event.

Media can request Permanent (year-long) AHSAA credentials on line at the media link at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com), filling out the request and then transmitting a photo of the applicant via email to [ringram@ahsaa.com](mailto:ringram@ahsaa.com). All applications will then be reviewed and approved or denied based on the AHSAA media policy requirements. These credentials will admit the holder to any AHSAA championship or special event for one school year. However, the holder is asked to notify the AHSAA by email of their intent to cover such events by sending a notification to [ringram@ahsaa.com](mailto:ringram@ahsaa.com) before each event's deadline. Those who do not request Permanent credentials must make application for credentials for each event via the media link at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com).

- (c) **Photography, Video, Film, Internet Streaming and Audio:** The AHSAA is the owner of the rights to and the copyright holder of all AHSAA audiovisual work, which includes all still photographs taken of AHSAA events, all film, internet streaming, videotape and audiotape of AHSAA events and the live audio and visual broadcasts of AHSAA events. Still photography, filming, internet streaming,

videotaping and audio recording is prohibited at AHSAA events, except as expressly and specifically authorized by the AHSAA.

All video, broadcast, title and broadcast rights for AHSAA events are the exclusive property of the AHSAA. The AHSAA events cannot be reproduced, rebroadcast or used for any other purposes without the express written consent of the AHSAA.

Under no circumstance may still photographs, films, internet streaming, videos or audio tapes, in full or in part, be used for any commercial purpose, unless authorized by, and a rights fee has been paid to, the AHSAA. No live streaming or video TV/Internet clips of championship events is permitted without authorization from the AHSAA.

Videotape or film or internet streaming taken at any AHSAA event shall be used for the sole purpose of showing excerpts thereof as a part of a regularly scheduled sports or news program and for no other reason.

The station will not lend, give away or sell the film or internet streaming or videotape, in whole or in part, except only for the purposes herein above specifically set forth and/or in such cases as the AHSAA requests for use by the Association.

Individual **Spectators** are authorized to personally take still photographs at events, for strictly personal use. Individual spectators are authorized to personally film, internet stream, video tape and audio tape portions of AHSAA events for strictly personal use.

Under no circumstance may still photographs, films, internet streaming, videos or audio tapes, in full or in part, be used for any commercial purpose, unless authorized by, and a rights fee has been paid to, the AHSAA.

Any still photography, filming, internet streaming, videotaping and audio taping shall be conducted from the seating area, or, if space is available, from a designated area.

- (d) Participating Schools:** Representatives of participating schools are authorized to take still photographs of AHSAA events. Representatives of participating schools are authorized to film, **internet stream**, video tape and audio tape AHSAA events, only if the principals of the participating schools receive advanced permission from the host school principal at any event.

Still photographs, films, internet streaming, videos or audio tapes may not be used to review decisions of game officials at any contest. Principals can request media credentials for school photographers/reporters (maximum one each) for AHSAA Championship Events by applying on line at the media link at [www.ahsaa.com](http://www.ahsaa.com) before each event's deadline. Under no circumstance may still photographs, films, internet streaming, videos or audio tapes, in full or in part, be used for any commercial purpose, unless authorized by, and a rights fee has been paid to, the AHSAA.

**e) Purchase:**

1. The selling of photographs by any means (through websites, freelance photographers, etc.) is strictly prohibited by the AHSAA **without written consent of the AHSAA.**
2. "The selling or redistribution of images (still or video) from the AHSAA state championship events for personal or commercial gain is prohibited without the expressed written permission of the AHSAA. Discovery of unauthorized distribution of images from the AHSAA state championship events will result in the revocation of credentials for the AHSAA event(s). Further, the AHSAA may seek damages for the unauthorized distribution of images (still or video) to the fullest extent permitted by law, including civil damages and injunctive relief."