



MHSAA HANDBOOK

2015-2016



Mississippi High School Activities Association

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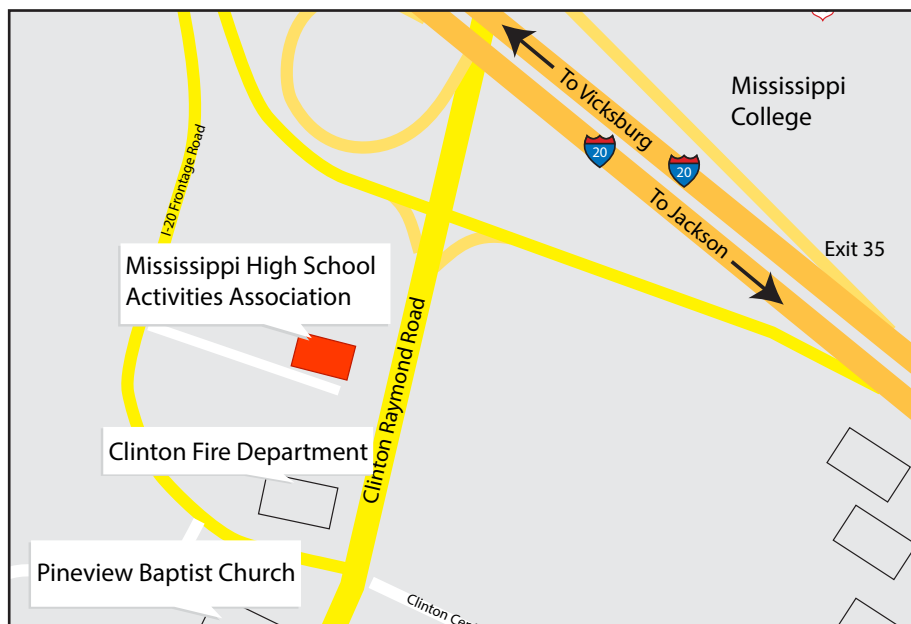


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FOREWORD

The Mississippi High School Activities Association (MHSAA), Inc. is a private, voluntary nonprofit organization for public, private and parochial secondary schools that choose to join and participate in the organization. The MHSAA is a self-supporting organization that does not rely on taxpayer dollars from any agency of the state or federal government.

The MHSAA is a member in good standing with the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). The primary function of the association is to provide leadership and coordination of interscholastic activities for its member schools.

Most public school districts throughout the state and several non-public parochial and private schools throughout the state have chosen to join the MHSAA on an annual basis and have agreed voluntarily to enforce the rules and regulations of the association. Schools adopt the rules and interpretations of this Handbook as their own, agree to abide by the rules, and are responsible for its enforcement.

The legislative body of the MHSAA is the Executive Committee (15 member board) and the Legislative Council (41 member board). These school representatives develop the rules and regulations that tend to promote fairness in competition for the student athletes and maintain a balance with the other educational programs and activities of member schools. These committees continue to be responsive to school proposals and actively solicit input from the membership body to insure fairness and equity throughout the entire organization.

This Handbook is published as a service to the member schools and constituents of the MHSAA. These rules are constantly under review by the Executive Committee and Legislative Council of the MHSAA, and by its member schools. The rules may be revised, deleted, and added. The **official document of record** will be the electronic version of the Handbook posted on the MHSAA website www.misshsaa.com, making the online version the official document of record.

Each school will receive two complimentary copies of the official MHSAA Handbook. Administrators are encouraged to make this publication available to those responsible for conducting the various programs in their schools. Additional copies may be purchased by member schools for \$12.00.

July 1, 2015

Anthony Jenkins, President
Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.

MHSAA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Mississippi High School Activities Association is to serve its member schools by providing leadership and coordination of interscholastic activities which will enhance the educational experiences of secondary students and reduce risks of their participation. The MHSAA will promote participation and sportsmanship to develop good citizens through interscholastic activities which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals.

The MHSAA is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), which consists of the 50 individual state high school athletic and/or activities associations and the association of the District of Columbia and nine Canadian organizations. These associations have united to secure the benefits of cooperative action and increased efficiency through the coordinating of ideas of all who are engaged in high school athletic and activities programs.

NFHS MISSION STATEMENT

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) serves its members, related professional organizations and students by providing leadership for the administration of education-based interscholastic activities, which support academic achievement, good citizenship and equitable opportunities.

MHSAA NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. This will be done in accordance with applicable provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the American Disabilities Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and all other applicable laws, regulations and ordinances.

PART I: CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1: NAME

- 1.1 The name of the Association is the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated.
- 1.2 The State Association is incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi as a voluntary nonprofit organization and has the authority to acquire, purchase, lease, accept by donation or otherwise, property – real, personal and mixed, to control and manage the same, with members of the State Executive Committee being Ex-Officio trustees for said property.
- 1.3 The Association consists of the eligible schools of Mississippi holding membership in district units. The district units function through their executive committees, and the State Association functions through the State Executive Committee.
- 1.4 The MHSAA is a member in good standing of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Member schools must abide by the rules of the NFHS and/or the MHSAA.
- 1.5 The principal place of business and the principal office of the Association is located in Clinton, Mississippi.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this organization is to promote the general welfare of member schools in their relations with each other. This is accomplished through:
 1. Planning, directing, and controlling contests, games and other inter-scholastic activities.
 2. Defining and assigning responsibility.
 3. Elevating the standards of sportsmanship by seeking to strengthen the moral fiber of all concerned.
 4. Developing a higher standard of scholarship and encouraging pride in scholastic achievement.
 5. Encouraging the formation and promotion of noncompetitive activities, which contribute to molding values in character development as part of a well-rounded extracurricular program.
- 2.2 No part of the net earnings of the Association shall insure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payment and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Article. The

Association shall not carry on any activities not permitted (a) by an association exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an association, contribution to which are deductible under section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

- 2.3 Member schools are prohibited from hosting or participating in any interscholastic event at any facility that practices discrimination.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Eligible Schools

- 3.1.1 Secondary schools accredited by the State Department of Education of Mississippi or the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools (AdvancED) are eligible for membership in the MHSAA.

- 3.1.2 **Withdrawal of Accreditation.** The following conditions, as stated in the *Mississippi Public Schools Accountability Standards*, **will become effective one (1) calendar year following the Withdrawal of Accreditation by the Commission on School Accreditation and the State Board of Education.**

The withdrawal of a school district's accreditation by the Commission on School Accreditation will result in the following:

- A school or schools within a district shall be limited to participation in no more than fifty percent (50%) of the regular season of any interscholastic activity, which shall include division/district/regional games,
- The interscholastic season schedule for a school or schools within a district shall not include the opening day of season or any type of post season participation, as determined by the Office of Accreditation, and
- Cheerleading, drill and dance squads, speech and debate, choral music, and band may participate in district or state contest, but shall not be eligible to receive ratings.

All schedule requests must be submitted in writing to the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Accreditation, at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the season. **The Office of Accreditation shall pre-approve all schedules and participation in interscholastic activities.** In addition to the suspension of all post-season activities, the school district shall not be allowed to participate in jamborees, special games, parades, tournaments, holiday tournaments, or competitions of any nature.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the suspension of ALL interscholastic activities, by the MS Department of Education.

Failure of a district to have its accreditation reinstated by the Commission on School

Accreditation after a period of two (2) calendar years from the date of the withdrawal of accreditation shall result in the immediate suspension of ALL interscholastic activities until the district's accreditation status is reinstated.

Note: Interscholastic activities include, but are not limited to, football, basketball, baseball, track and field, cross country, tennis, golf, volleyball, softball (fast pitch and slow pitch), soccer, wrestling, swimming, powerlifting, bowling, archery, cheerleading, drill, and dance squads, speech and debate, choral music, and band.

- 3.1.3 Membership by an individual school in Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. includes membership in the appropriate district of the State Association, but in no way releases the school from its obligation to pay a district membership fee when such a fee is assessed by the vote of member schools of the district.
- 3.1.4 The principal or his/her designee will be the voting member for an individual school. In matters pertaining to athletics or activities of a school, the principal is responsible to the Association. All official relations shall be through the principal. The member school principal shall be officially recognized by the MHSAA as the person registered with the Association on the annual membership renewal form submitted to the Association by August 15th of each year.
- 3.1.5 By completing and returning the annual membership form, the principal binds himself/herself and the members of his/her faculty to familiarize themselves with the Constitution and regulations of the Association; to instruct the student body and the public in them, especially those students who are candidates for interscholastic activities; to keep on file detailed scholastic, athletic and attendance records of all students; to forward promptly to the Executive Director all eligibility lists, reports, and records required; and to enforce the provisions of this Constitution within his/her school.
- 3.1.6 When an agricultural high school is located in the territory of a consolidated school, the separate district may hold a joint membership in the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., provided an application shall be approved by a resolution of the governing boards regarding the eligibility of contestants in the combined schools. Only students who reside in the taxing district of the consolidated or separate district shall be eligible for interschool competition in this combined unit except as provided in the eligibility regulations, of the By-laws of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated.
- 3.1.7 The district of a private or parochial school will be a boundary of twenty (20) mile radius from the actual location of the school. The district can only contain territory in Mississippi.

ARTICLE 4: GOVERNANCE

4.1 Executive Committee

- 4.1.2 The Executive Committee shall serve as the Board of Directors of the MHSAA.
- 4.1.3 The Executive Committee shall consist of fourteen members and the President of the Association. One member will be elected from each of the eight activity districts, and four

members will rotate between districts 1 and 2, districts 3 and 4, districts 5 and 6, and districts 7 and 8. Two at-large members, one from districts one through four and one from districts five through eight, shall be recommended by the Executive Director. All members shall be approved by the Legislative Council and the Executive Committee. The Association will be sensitive to maintaining a culturally diverse Executive Committee.

- 4.1.4 Executive Committee members shall be employed as licensed full-time administrators in member schools of the association. Should an Executive Committee member cease to hold a full-time administrative position during his/her term of office, he/she shall thereupon become ineligible to be an Executive Committee member.
- 4.1.5 Executive Committee members are elected to serve staggered four-year terms and may be reelected to serve a consecutive term. Any member who has served two full consecutive terms shall be required to remain off the Committee for at least one calendar year from the expiration of his/her term before being considered for re-election.
- 4.1.6 Fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- 4.1.7 Executive Committee members shall attend two-thirds of the scheduled meetings and special called meetings each year or be subject to removal.

4.1.8 Powers

- 1. Employ a full-time Executive Director on a contractual basis based upon a satisfactory annual performance review process to be completed by May 1 each year.
- 2. Approve or disapprove all changes in the constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations of the Association. The Executive Committee shall have full authority to adopt rules and regulations which shall be uniformly effective and binding upon all members of the Association.
- 3. Interpret rules and regulations when called upon to do so by the Executive Director.
- 4. Approve or disapprove policies recommended by the Executive Director.
- 5. Serve as an Appeals Board.
- 6. Transact all executive and administrative duties not delegated to the Executive Director.
- 7. Have final authority over all actions of the Executive Director.
- 8. Suspend district officers, after a hearing, for failure to perform their duties.
- 9. Authorize checks to be signed in case of an emergency.
- 10. Provide adequate bond for the Executive Director.

11. Provide for an annual financial audit.
12. Modify the application of athletic game rules when the common welfare of the activities program may demand such modifications.
13. Approve or disapprove a temporary waiver of an eligibility rule by the Executive Director.
14. The annual MHSAA Handbook revision(s) shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

4.2 Officers

4.2.1 Elective officers of the Association shall be a President and a Vice-President who also shall serve as officers of the Executive Committee.

4.2.2 **President:** He/she shall be employed by a member school in any district in the state as a full-time licensed administrator. The Presidency shall rotate between the North (Districts 1 – 4) and the South (Districts 5 – 8) and must have served a full term on the MHSAA Executive Committee or the Legislative Council. Persons choosing to run for President of the Association shall submit a letter of interest to the Executive Director prior to the joint meeting of the Legislative Council and Executive Committee in February of the year in which the election will occur. At that meeting, candidates will be presented and given the opportunity to address the Legislative Council/Executive Committee. At the April meeting, the President shall be elected by the Legislative Council and approved by the Executive Committee for a four-year term.

4.2.3 The duties of the President shall include the following:

1. Call and preside over meetings of the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee and Legislative Council.
2. Monitor the association's finances and ensure that quarterly financial statements are presented (electronically or by hard copy) to the Executive Committee and Legislative Council.
3. Assist the Executive Director in conducting the business of the Association when called upon to do so.
4. Approve minutes from previous Legislative Council and Executive Committee meetings.

4.2.4 **Vice-President:** The Vice-President of the Association shall be elected from the Executive Committee and approved by the Legislative Council. The Vice-President must be from the same region (North/South) as the President. The term of the Vice-President shall expire with his/her term as a member of the Executive Committee or the term of the President, whichever comes first.

4.2.5 The duties of the Vice-President shall include the following:

1. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and Legislative Council in the absence of the President.
2. Fill the unexpired term of the President should he/she cease to hold that position until a new election is held.
3. Approve minutes from previous Legislative Council and Executive Committee meetings.

4.3 Legislative Council

- 4.3.1 The Legislative Council shall consist of the President of the Association and forty-one culturally diverse members: thirty-two high school members (four from each of the eight activity districts), eight junior high members (one from each activity district), and one at-large fine arts member representing band/chorus/speech/debate appointed by the Executive Committee.
- 4.3.2 Members of the Legislative Council shall be full-time certified administrators, teachers, or coaches of member schools and must remain so throughout their term of office.
- 4.3.3 The term of office for members of the Legislative Council shall be for a four-year period, staggered so that one high school member from each district will be retired each year.
- 4.3.4 Legislative Council members shall attend two-thirds of the scheduled meetings each year, or be subject to removal. Meetings will be held in October, February and April.
- 4.3.5 Proposed changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, or a rule or regulation brought forth from district meetings shall require a majority vote of the Legislative Council concurred by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Items acted upon favorably at one meeting shall be presented at the following meeting for final approval.
- 4.3.6 If the Executive Committee fails to approve a proposal by a majority vote, the Legislative Council may override the veto of the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of the Council membership present.

4.3.7 Powers

1. Amend the Constitution, subject to approval by the Executive Committee.
2. Amend the By-Laws or make new ones, subject to approval by the Executive Committee.
3. Make appointments as specified in the Constitution.
4. Represent their respective districts in Legislative Council meetings and make reports to their constituency on action taken. Individual councilmen have no authority except in Legislative Council meetings.

ARTICLE 5: ADMINISTRATION

5.1 Executive Director

- 5.1.1 The Executive Committee shall employ an Executive Director with an administrative background and an interest in, and knowledge of, high school athletics. He/she shall be appointed for a contractual term of a maximum of four years. The terms of the contractual relationship shall be negotiated between the Executive Committee and Executive Director with advice of legal counsel. He/she shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for the performance of duties delegated to him/her by the Committee.
- 5.1.2 Extension of the contractual agreement with the MHSAA shall be contingent upon a satisfactory yearly performance review conducted by the Executive Committee.
- 5.1.3 Other personnel necessary to carry out the functions of the association shall be employed by the Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.
- 5.1.4 The duties of the Executive Director include the following:
1. Keep accurate minutes of meetings of the MHSAA Executive Committee and Legislative Council. Upon approval of these minutes by the President and Vice-President the Executive Director will be responsible for posting these minutes to the MyMHSAA web site.
 2. Submit proposals to the Legislative Council and Executive Committee in advance of the joint meeting at which the proposal will be considered .
 3. Keep accurate records of all state contests and eligibility status of all students.
 4. Furnish necessary forms and information to member schools.
 5. Receive and disperse money in accordance with policy set up by the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee.
 6. Renders quarterly a financial statement of receipts and expenditures to the Executive Committee and Legislative Council (electronically or by hard copy). The Executive Director or designee will also submit said quarterly financial reports to the Executive Committee for approval. Upon approval by the Executive Committee, said financial reports will be posted to the MyMHSAA web site.
 7. Perform work as directed by the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee.
 8. Interpret the rules of the Association.
 9. Rule on all questions of eligibility referred to him/her.

10. Penalize member schools and assess fines for failure to comply with regulations.
11. Investigate cases where irregular conduct seems to have occurred.
12. Arrange and control all state contests with all RFP's and contracts for television productions and state championship sites approved by the MHSAA Executive Committee.
13. Serve as the Executive Officer of the Association in the execution of policies set up by the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee.
14. Meet with the Advisory Committees, when possible.
15. Investigate any cases of irregular conduct reported to him by member schools or district committee.
16. Request district committees to make investigations of irregular conduct in their districts and report irregularities to him. All requests to the Executive Director for rulings and all opinions rendered by him must be in writing. Oral opinions shall not be binding on the Executive Director of the Association.
17. Approve a temporary waiver until the next Executive Committee meeting of eligibility rules with the exception of the age limit rule for a student who in his opinion is faced with unforeseen, unavoidable, or unusual circumstances.
18. Based on an annual job performance review by the Executive Director, recommend to the Executive Committee all other MHSAA personnel for hire, along with their determined salaries and duties.

ARTICLE 6: ACTIVITY DISTRICTS

- 6.1 Member schools shall be assigned geographically to Activity Districts for administrative purposes. The principal or his/her authorized representative (assistant principal) shall be the voting representative at Activity District meetings.
- 6.2 Voting representatives from each member high school and middle school must be present and shall represent only their school.
- 6.3 Each Activity District shall have a District Executive Committee composed of a president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and five committeemen. The president shall be elected for a one-year term, with the vice-president becoming president at the end of his/her first year. One committeeman from each classification, Classes 1A through 4A, and one committeeman representing classes 5A and 6A shall be elected for three-year terms, The secretary/treasurer shall be elected for a five-year term.

NOTE: District secretaries elected in 2000 or earlier may continue to serve until not re-elected.

- 6.4 The District Executive Committees shall have the following duties and powers:
1. Arrange dates and control all district contests, tournaments, and festivals within their respective districts in consultation with the Executive Director.
 2. Investigate, on its initiative or on request of the Executive Director, any cases of irregular conduct and make a report to the Executive Director.
 3. Assist the Executive Director, upon his request, in securing information related to eligibility cases.
 4. Aid the Executive Director in conducting hearings when schools or individuals are charged with a violation of the rules and regulations of the Association.
 5. Certify the condition of athletic facilities within their activity district to ensure a safe environment for players and fans. Non-certified facilities shall not be used for interschool competition.
 6. Appoint an administrator to fulfill an unexpired term of a State Executive Committee member.

6.5 Meetings

- 6.5.1 A minimum of two Activity District meetings shall be held each year, one at the beginning of the school year, and one prior to February 1 of that same school year.
- 6.5.2 Items or proposals to be submitted to the Association for consideration at the next joint meeting of the Legislative Council and Executive Committee must be approved by a majority vote of an Activity District.

6.6 Activity Districts

The state shall be divided into eight geographical activity districts. Placement of school activity districts may be found in the MHSAA Sports Information Manual.

Activity District I:

Aberdeen High School	Alcorn Central High School	Amory High School
Baldwyn High School	Belmont High School	Biggersville High School
Booneville High School	Bruce High School	Calhoun City High School
Corinth High School	Falkner High School	Hamilton High School
Hatley High School	Houlka Attendance Center	Houston High School
Itawamba Agricultural HS	Jumpertown High School	Kossuth High School
Mantachie High School	Mooreville High School	Nettleton High School
New Albany High School	New Site High School	North Pontotoc High School
Okolona High School	Pine Grove High School	Pontotoc High School
Ripley High School	Saltillo High School	Shannon High School
Smithville High School	South Pontotoc High School	Thrasher High School
Tishomingo County HS	Tremont High School	Tupelo Christian Preparatory
Tupelo High School	Vardaman High School	Walnut High School
West Point High School	Wheeler High School	

Activity District II:

Ashland High School
Byhalia High School
Coffeeville High School
East Union Attendance Center
Hickory Flat Attendance Center
Independence High School
Lake Cormorant High School
North Panola High School
Potts Camp High School
Southaven High School
West Union Attendance Center

Blue Mountain High School
Center Hill High School
Coldwater High School
Grenada High School
Holly Springs High School
Ingomar Attendance Center
Lewisburg High School
Olive Branch High School
Senatobia High School
Strayhorn High School

H W Byers Attendance Center
Charleston High School
DeSoto Central High School
Hernando High School
Horn Lake High School
Lafayette High School
Myrtle Attendance Center
Oxford High School
South Panola High School
Water Valley High School

Activity District III:

Amanda Elzy High School
Cleveland High School
East Side High School
Greenville High School
Humphreys County High School
Leland High School
Ray Brooks High School
Ruleville Central High School
Solomon Magnet High School
West Bolivar High School

Broad Street High School
Coahoma Agricultural HS
Gentry High School
Greenwood High School
J F Kennedy High School
M S Palmer High School
Riverside High School
Shaw High School
South Delta High School
West Tallahatchie High School

Clarksdale High School
Coahoma County High School

Holmes County Central High School
Leflore County High School
O'Bannon High School
Rosa Fort High School
Simmons High School
St. Joseph High School

Activity District IV:

Caledonia High School
Columbus High School
East Webster High School
French Camp Academy
Leake Central High School
McAdams High School
Nanih Waiya High School
Noxapater High School
Starkville High School

Choctaw Central High School
Durant High School
Ethel High School
J Z George High School
Leake County High School
Miss School for Math & Science
Neshoba Central High School
Noxubee County High School
West Lowndes High School

Choctaw County High School

Eupora High School
Kosciusko High School
Louisville High School
Montgomery County HS
New Hope High School
Philadelphia High School
Winona High School

Activity District V:

Bay Springs High School
Enterprise (V) High School
Laurel High School
Mount Olive Attendance Cent
Newton High School
Raleigh High School
Stringer Attendance Center
Wayne County High School

Clarkdale Attendance Center
Heidelberg High School
Meridian High School
NE Lauderdale High School
Northeast Jones High School
SE Lauderdale Attendance Cent
Taylorsville High School
West Jones High School

Collins High School
Kemper County High School
Mize Attendance Center
Newton County High School
Quitman High School
South Jones High School
Union Public High School
West Lauderdale Attendance Cent

Activity District VI:

Brandon High School
Clinton High School
Forest Hill High School
Lake High School

Callaway High School
Florence High School
Germantown High School
Lanier High School

Canton High School
Forest High School
Jim Hill High School
Madison Central High School

Magee High School
MS School for the Blind
Murrah High School
Attendance Center
Port Gibson High School
Raymond High School
Scott Central Attendance Cent
St. Andrews Episcopal School
Velma Jackson High School
Wingfield High School

McLaurin Attendance Center
MS School for the Deaf
NW Rankin Attendance Center
Piney Woods School
Provine High School
Richland High School
Sebastopol Attendance Center
St. Joseph Catholic School
Vicksburg High School
Yazoo City High School

Mendenhall High School
Morton High School
Pearl High School Pelahatchie
Pisgah High School
Puckett Attendance Center
Ridgeland High School
St. Aloysius High School
Terry High School
Warren Central High School
Yazoo County High School

Activity District VII:

Amite County High School
Cathedral High School
Franklin County High School
Lawrence County High School
MS School for the Arts
Salem Attendance Center
Wesson Attendance Center

Bogue Chitto Public School
Crystal Springs High School
Hazlehurst High School
Loyd Star Attendance Center
Natchez High School
South Pike High School
West Lincoln High School

Brookhaven High School
Enterprise(VII) Attendance Center
Jefferson County High School
McComb High School
North Pike High School
Tylertown High School
Wilkinson County High School

Activity District VIII:

Bassfield High School
Columbia High School
East Marion High School
George County High School
Hancock High School
Long Beach High School
North Forrest High School
Our Lady Academy
Pearl River Central High School
Picayune Memorial High School
Purvis High School
Sacred Heart High School
St. Patrick High School
Sumrall Attendance Center
West Marion High School

Bay High School
D' Iberville High School
Forrest County Agricultural HS
Greene County High School
Harrison Central High School
Lumberton High School
Oak Grove High School
Pascagoula High School
Perry Central High School
Poplarville High School
Resurrection Catholic HS
Seminary Attendance Center
St. Stanislaus High School
Vancleave High School

Biloxi High School
East Central High School
Gautier High School
Gulfport High School
Hattiesburg High School
Moss Point High School
Ocean Springs High School
Pass Christian High School
Petal High School
Prentiss High School
Richton High School
St. Martin Attendance Center
Stone High School
West Harrison High School

ARTICLE 7: ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- 7.1 There shall be four Advisory Committees, band, music (vocal), spirit, and sports medicine.
- 7.2 The Band Advisory Committee shall be composed of elected officers of the Mississippi Band Masters Association.
- 7.3 The Music Advisory Committee shall be composed of officers of the high school division of the Mississippi Music Educators Association.

- 7.4 The Spirit Advisory Committee shall be composed of elected representatives from each activity district, a junior high representative, and one technical advisor.
- 7.5 The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee shall be composed of sports medicine personnel, member school administration, coaches and a member of the MHSAA staff.
- 7.6 Advisory Committees will be consulted in both athletic and activity areas when appropriate.
- 7.7 Duties**
1. Recommend rules and regulations for the administration of contests, festivals, and other activities that come under their respective jurisdictions.
 2. Make plans in cooperation with the Executive Director for holding contests, festivals, and other activities within the jurisdiction of their respective committees.

ARTICLE 8: CLASSIFICATION

8.1 Purpose and Determination of Classification

- 8.1.1 Membership classification shall be used for administration and competition purposes. A school may not participate in a classification below that mandated by its enrollment. Enrollment is based on the Mississippi State Department of Education figures.
- 8.1.2 Official titles of the MHSAA classifications shall be Class 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A.
- 8.1.3 The thirty-two (32) member schools with the greatest enrollment in grades 9-12 will be classified as 6A schools. The next 32 schools will be classified as 5A. The remaining four classifications will be divided as evenly as possible to contain the same number of schools in each classification. Odd number schools will be placed in Class 1A. In assigning schools to classification, and if two or more schools have the same enrollment for the last place of a class, these schools will be placed in the higher classification for the two-year period.

8.2 Changes in Classification

- 8.2.1 Classification changes and redistricting shall be considered in even numbered years to become effective the following school year.
- 8.2.3 Changes in classification and districts shall be made at regular two-year intervals.

8.3 Enrollment Calculation

- 8.3.1 In a classification year, a school's classification shall be based on its total enrollment in grades 9-12 as of October 1 of the current school year as verified by the Mississippi Department of Education. The Executive Director or his/her designee shall obtain the enrollment numbers from MDE. School enrollments reported to the MDE shall be considered official for classification purposes.
- 8.3.2 No requests for corrections shall be accepted by the Executive Committee after the MDE has certified the enrollment figures and the figures have been received by the Executive Director or designee.
- 8.3.3 A school's classification enrollment shall include all students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Each student shall be counted as one (1), regardless of the percentage of hours enrolled.
- 8.3.4 Students who may be assigned to another school for all or a portion of the day through a special program approved by the local educational authority shall be counted at the school where the student's permanent records are on file. A member school may petition the MHSAA Executive Committee for special consideration for a reduction in enrollment numbers when that school has a unique situation that could affect the enrollment numbers enough to impact classifications.
- 8.3.5 For schools with ***less than four (4) grades***, enrollment figure shall be increased by ***1.40 for each grade that does not exist at the school***.
- 8.3.6 Figures shall be doubled for all-boys' or all-girls' schools.

8.4 Executive Director's Classification Responsibilities

- 8.4.1 The Executive Director's duties include the following:
1. Conduct meetings with staff to classify and district schools.
 2. Verify the classification enrollments of all schools.
 3. Divide classifications.
 4. Place schools in proper classifications.
 5. Adopt a final plan for the division of schools, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.
 6. Consider schools' requests to compete in certain regions.
 7. Place schools in regions by sport and number districts within classifications subject of the approval of the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final.

8. Schools may request, in writing to the Executive Director, to appear before the Executive Committee to appeal their classification placement. Schools shall have five (5) days after the date of Executive Committee approval to appeal their placement.

ARTICLE 9: FINANCES

9.1 Membership Dues and Assessments

- 9.1.1 Membership dues shall be determined and assessed annually by the Executive Committee to assist in the operation of the MHSAA. Refer to the *MHSAA Sports Information Manual* for appropriate form. The Executive Committee shall regulate all financial expenditures, and determine all necessary contest fees, game percentage shares, and such other assessments as shall be adequate to meet the total expenses involved in the conduct of such activities, and such proportionate share of overhead as deemed necessary.
- 9.1.2 Schools organized as four-grade high schools (9-12) shall pay membership dues for all students enrolled.
- 9.1.3 Schools organized as three-grade high schools (10-12) shall pay membership dues for all students enrolled. Schools allowing one or more ninth grade students to participate in interscholastic activity shall pay membership dues for all students enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.
- 9.1.4 Schools organized as two-grade high schools (11-12) shall pay membership dues for all high school students. Schools allowing one or more tenth grade students to participate in interscholastic activity shall pay membership dues for all students enrolled in grades 10, 11, and 12.
- 9.1.5 Middle schools or junior high schools shall pay membership dues based on the school's total enrollment. Dues are based upon the enrollment reported to the accrediting commission for the current year and due to the MHSAA office by August 1st of each year. Refer to the *MHSAA Sports Information Manual* for appropriate form.

9.2 Scrimmages, Classic Games, Invitationals, Playoff Games, and State Championship Events

- 9.2.1 Refer to the *MHSAA Sports Information Manual*, which is considered Part II of the MHSAA Handbook. The collection of all activity fees and the collection and final distribution of receipts from all contest sponsored by the association shall be left to the discretion of the Executive Committee.

9.3 MHSAA Pass Processing Fee

- 9.3.1. Refer to the *MHSAA Sports Information Manual*, which is considered Part II of the MHSAA Handbook for guidelines and appropriate form.

9.4 Catastrophic Insurance

9.4.1 Member schools are required to purchase catastrophic insurance through the MHSAA. Refer to the *MHSAA Sports Information Manual* for appropriate form.

9.5 Expenses

9.5.1 Expenses for conducting Association activities on the state level shall be paid by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, except expenses of Legislative Council members attending the three regular, annual joint meetings of the Legislative Council and Executive Committee which shall be paid by the respective activity districts. Expenses of Legislative Council members to attend special meetings shall be paid by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

PART II: BY-LAWS

SECTION 1: RESPONSIBILITY

1.1 APPLICATION

- 1.1.1 The superintendent, principal, coach, or other designated representative of a school or school district shall be responsible for the following:
1. The conduct of those associated with their school at both home and away athletic events/activities.
 2. The courteous treatment of visitors to their school during the game or contest.
- 1.1.2 The school shall be held responsible for any acts of violence instigated by school officials, students, or partisan fans.
- 1.1.3 The school administration has the responsibility to educate student athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons regarding Association regulations that could affect them and shall monitor compliance with such regulations.
- 1.1.4 An annual security plan shall be submitted to the MHSAA office prior to the first athletic event and must be adhered to at all events.
- 1.1.5 The Executive Committee and the Executive Director of the Mississippi High School Activities Association will not recognize a plea of extenuation by school officials suggesting that they are not responsible.

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

2.2 APPLICATION

- 2.2.1 Eligibility rules shall apply to all students participating in interscholastic athletic completion in all activities/athletics at all levels of play, including middle schools.
- 2.2.2 An ineligible student shall not dress out in uniform for any games or contests. Ineligible students shall not be allowed to participate in any MHSAA sanctioned event.
- 2.2.3 It is a school's responsibility to educate student-athletes, parents, coaches, and other appropriate persons on MHSAA rules, including eligibility rules that affect them. Additionally, a school is required to monitor its compliance with all MHSAA constitutional rules and by-laws, including MHSAA rules governing sports and activities and NFHS rules governing the same.
- 2.2.4 The school shall maintain information on each student-athlete in a place to be determined by the principal. A school failing to adhere to all required rules and/or failing to have all required eligibility forms properly completed, signed, and maintained shall be subject to a penalty. The following eligibility documents are required:

1. Legal proof of birth
2. Current Medical Examination Form
3. Completed and properly signed Student Participation Clearance Form
4. Recommend a completed and properly signed Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract
5. Official copy of grades readily available
6. An official copy of the student's transcript

2.3 OFFICIAL RULING REQUEST

- 2.3.1 If the eligibility of a player is questioned, the principal shall have the right to ask the Executive Director for a ruling on the player's eligibility. All information shall be true and accurate.
- 2.3.2 A principal may request for an eligibility ruling on a player from his/her own school or from another school.
1. All official requests for eligibility rulings shall be in writing and signed by the principal.
 2. Official requests shall only be accepted by U.S. mail, fax, or hand delivery.
 3. The Executive Director shall issue an official ruling in writing.
 4. Unwritten rulings or opinions are non-binding on the Executive Director of the Association.
- 2.3.3 Once a principal officially requests an eligibility ruling on a student from his/her school, **the student shall be ineligible** for interscholastic participation at all levels in all MHSAA activities until he/she is ruled eligible by the Executive Director.

2.4 REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF STUDENTS

- 2.4.1 Prior to the first interscholastic contest (jamboree or regular season game) of each activity year, each student shall be properly and completely entered into the remote eligibility program before being allowed to participate. Proper and complete registration of each student shall include the correct date of birth and birth certificate number. This information shall be filed before playing in a scrimmage or regular season contest, whichever occurs first.
- 2.4.2 No student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition until his/her name with all required information has been submitted to the MHSAA each school year.
- 2.4.3 It shall be the school's responsibility to verify and certify that each student is eligible under all MHSAA's eligibility rules and should keep a filed copy of eligibility documents.
- 2.4.4 If a principal or school official fails to check records adequately, and a coach has played an ineligible player or players who would otherwise be eligible, that player(s) will be dropped from the team, and the school will be fined \$100.00 for each player. If cleared by the Executive Director, the player may be reinstated, and the team may take part in the playoff, if it so qualifies. Should this occur a second time during the same school year, the school will be fined \$500.00 and that sport placed on probation for a period not to exceed twelve months.

2.5 ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

- 2.5.1 A student shall be a bona fide student. He/she shall be enrolled in a MHSAA member school, take the required number of subjects for graduation by his/her local district and conduct himself/herself appropriately.
- 2.5.2 For junior high/middle school activities, a student must be a bona fide student. He/she shall be enrolled in a MHSAA member school, take four basic courses (any subject that meets the equivalent of at least 250 minutes per week or meets the Mississippi Department of Education requirement and conduct himself/herself appropriately).
- 2.5.3 A student in a homebound or home-schooled program shall not be considered a bona fide student of a MHSAA member school.
- 2.5.4 A student may not have participated in activities/athletics above the high school level.
- 2.5.5 A student may take college courses approved by the Mississippi Department of Education but none that would render the student more proficient in any sponsored activity of the MHSAA.
- 2.5.6 Students who participate in summer college academic programs may not take a course that could make them more proficient in a sponsored high school activity than a student not enrolled in the course. An example of this restriction is a student could not take a summer college course in debate or public speaking if he/she plans to participate in this activity.

2.6 AGE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 2.6.1 A student becomes ineligible for interscholastic participation if he/she has reached his/her 19th birthday before August 1 of that school year.
- 2.6.2 A fine of \$1000.00 will be assessed any school that plays a student who does not meet the age requirement.
- 2.6.3 If a student becomes 19 on or after August 1, he/ she shall be eligible for the remainder of the school year, if he/she meets all other eligibility rules.
- 2.6.4 A seventh grader must not have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1.
- 2.6.5 An eighth grader must not have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1.
- 2.6.6 A ninth grader must not have reached 16 years of age prior to August 1.
- 2.6.7 Evidence of legal birth date shall be established by one of the following:
 - 1. A legal copy of a birth certificate
 - 2. An official record of birth from the Bureau of Vital Statistics
 - 3. An official notification of birth issued by the state, parish or county health unit
 - 4. An official passport
 - 5. A hospital certificate signed by a physician and/or the hospital administrator

6. Legal adoption papers issued by a court
7. Official records verifying proof of birth issued by the Department of Welfare
8. Official immigration and naturalization papers issued by the United State Department of Immigration and Naturalization

2.6.8 Proof of birth shall be available to the MHSAA within 24 hours, if requested.

2.6.9 The penalties for failure to have proof of age in the school files shall be as follows:

1. A school shall be fined \$50.00 per student, per sport/activity for each legal proof of age document not on file with the school not to exceed \$500.00 per sport/activity. A student in violation of this rule shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic participation until the required proof of age is provided to the MHSAA.
2. If legal proof of age cannot be provided within the 24-hour time period, the student shall have participated as an ineligible student and the school shall be penalized.
3. The head coach, director, or sponsor of a sport/activity in violation of this rule shall be required to review the eligibility requirements of the MHSAA, and the principal shall verify in writing that the coach, director, or sponsor reviewed the requirements.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

2.7 LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY

2.7.1 Upon entering the 9th grade for the first time, a student shall be eligible for competition on high school athletic/activity teams for four consecutive years. Proof of a student's entry into the 9th grade shall be made available to the MHSAA within 24 hours, if requested.

2.8 MEDICAL HISTORY EVALUATION AND EXAMINATION

2.8.1 Prior to tryouts or practices in the season in which he/she participates, each student shall pass a medical examination administered annually by a licensed physician, a licensed nurse practitioner who is in collaboration with a licensed physician, and/or a licensed physician's assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician. **The medical examination shall be valid for one calendar year. Physicals on or after April 1 shall be valid for the entirety of the following school year.**

2.8.2 The following penalties will be imposed for failure by a student(s) to take and pass a medical examination:

1. If a student(s) has failed to take and pass the required annual medical exam, the student(s) shall be ruled ineligible, and the school shall be penalized.
2. A student(s) shall be withheld from practices and further interscholastic participation until he/she has passed the required medical examination and written documentation is provided to the Executive Director.

- 2.8.3 A copy of the physical form for athletes, cheerleaders and dance squad members shall be on file at the school.
- 2.8.4 It is strongly recommended that band students have annual physicals.
- 2.8.5 It is recommended that students who participate in interscholastic competition be adequately insured for all accidents, injuries, emergencies, and medical aid is immediately available at all contests.

2.9 ABUSE AND/OR MISUSE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

The MHSAA recommends that each member school develop and implement a substance abuse/misuse policy, including procedures for chemical testing of student-athletes.

2.10 SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

- 2.10.1 The MHSAA requires students participating in MHSAA sanctioned competitions to make “satisfactory progress toward graduation”. **Each school district shall determine the requirements for “satisfactory progress toward graduation” through its graduation requirements and shall interpret this rule according to its requirements.**
- 2.10.2 According to Mississippi law, a student must maintain a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or “C” average in order to participate in interscholastic sports/activities. Grade point averages will be calculated at the conclusion of the first semester using the semester averages of **all** courses the student is taking. Students who do not have a 2.0 or “C” average for the first semester will be ineligible for the second semester.
- 2.10.3 At the end of the school year, each student’s grade point average for the year will be assessed. This assessment will reflect the average for the entire year using the **final** grades for each course. A student who does not have a grade point average of at least a 2.0 or “C” average, will be ineligible for fall semester.
- 2.10.4 High school eligibility begins when a student enters ninth grade. To be eligible for the fall semester, a student must be promoted to ninth grade with at least an overall 2.0 or “C” average of **all** eighth grade courses.
- 2.10.5 A student may become eligible for the second semester only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the year-end average the previous year, by achieving at least an overall 2.0 of “C” average at the end of the first semester.
- 2.10.6 A 2.0 or “C” average may be calculated in two ways:
1. Grade point average: A= 4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0.
 2. Numerical average: place all semester or year-end averages in the local grading scale. If the overall average is a “C” or better, the student is eligible.

2.11 JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENT

- 2.11.1 For participation on the junior high/middle school level, a student must be promoted (**if not promoted, they are ineligible for the entire year**) and have passed any four basic courses (any subject that meets the equivalent of at least 250 minutes per week or meets the State Department requirement) with a 2.0 or “C” average the previous semester (computed numerically or by GPA). The year-end average of four basic courses passed will be used to determine eligibility for the fall semester. The same guidelines apply at the end of the first semester for spring participation. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.
- 2.11.2 A student on the junior high/middle school level, who was promoted but is not eligible at the beginning of the school year due to his academic average, may become eligible for the second semester only once during the student’s junior high/middle school career by passing four basic courses with an overall average of 2.0 at the end of the first semester.

2.12 SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE PARTICIPATION ON THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

- 2.12.1 In order to participate in the fall, a student must be promoted (**if not promoted, they are ineligible for the entire year**) having passed the four core courses (English, math, science and social studies), and the average of those four core courses must be a “C” or above. For spring semester eligibility, the student does not have to be passing all four core courses, but the average of those four core courses must be a “C” or above.
- 2.12.2 Students who are allowed to participate on a high school team in any sport/activity shall not be allowed to participate on a junior high school team in the same sport/activity at the same time or at a later date.
- 2.12.3 Ninth grade participation shall be considered as Junior Varsity participation keeping in mind the number of quarters or innings participating during a school week.

2.13 SPECIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.13.1 Special education students making satisfactory progress according to the committees reviewing their Individual Education Plans (IEP) shall be academically eligible. Special education students must maintain attendance according to district policy, be assigned a date entering ninth grade corresponding to other students of that age, and be subject to all other rules and regulations of the MHSAA.

2.14 FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- 2.14.1 A foreign exchange student participating in an established program accepted by the Council of Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) shall be immediately eligible to participate in MHSAA sanctioned sports/activities in the school district in which the host family is a bona fide resident. Eligibility is granted for one year provided there is no evidence of recruitment of the student by the school or another entity.
- 2.14.2 A student who has established eligibility at a Mississippi school and participates in a Foreign Exchange Program sponsored by a CSIET approved program will be eligible for participation

immediately upon his/her return to the same Mississippi school. The student shall meet all other requirements for eligibility of the MHSAA.

2.15 BOARDING SCHOOL STUDENTS REQUIREMENTS

- 2.15.1 The student must be a bona fide boarding student living outside the school district (20 mile radius) and must be enrolled and boarded the first day of school. Any student having enrolled and boarded after the first day of school shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year.
- 2.15.2 Approval must be given by the principal of the last school attended by the student.
- 2.15.3 The Executive Director must give written approval for the student to participate in MHSAA sanctioned sports/activities.
- 2.15.4 The principal of the boarding school and its head coach/director/sponsor must furnish a written statement that no inducement was offered the student to attend the boarding school, and the student's primary reason for attending the school is for a purpose other than participating in athletics/activities.
- 2.15.5 A boarding school student coming into the United States shall be ineligible for one calendar year. International students entering after the ninth grade will be allowed to play junior varsity the first year and thereafter varsity. If the student is a senior, the Foreign Exchange rule will apply granting the student eligibility for one year only.

2.16 STUDENTS OUT OF SCHOOL FOR ONE OR MORE SEMESTERS

- 2.16.1 An eligible student who drops out of school for one or more semesters and reenrolls is ineligible until he/she achieves an overall average of 2.0 at the end of the semester. A student who is eligible for a given semester cannot drop out of school during the semester or remain out of school for one or more semesters and then be eligible for the next semester he/she attends.

2.17 SUMMER SCHOOL CREDITS

- 2.17.1 Credits/Carnegie units earned by a student in an accredited summer school shall be considered in determining his/her scholastic eligibility. Only one credit per year may be used for eligibility. Course must be completed and recorded in counselors office on or before the first day of the school year.

2.18 CREDIT RECOVERY AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

- 2.18.1 Credit recovery courses and accredited correspondence courses may be accepted in determining eligibility provided the course has been completed and recorded prior to the first day of the following year/semester.

2.19 RETAINED IN SAME GRADE

- 2.19.1 A student who meets promotional requirements at the end of the school year but is retained in the same grade shall be ineligible for one (1) year. Please refer to the Mississippi Department of Education.

2.19.2 If a student participates after being declared ineligible, the school in which he/she is enrolled will be placed on probation by the MHSAA.

2.20 SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVING TWO OR MORE HIGH SCHOOLS PAROCHIAL OR PUBLIC

2.20.1 In a school district or city having two or more high schools, a student who has completed eighth grade shall choose the high school he/she will attend. When a student has chosen a high school and enrolled in and attended that school for one day or longer, the school of his/her choice shall become his/her home school.

2.20.2 In a junior high school situation, the choice of grade nine in a given junior high school becomes the choice of the senior high school designated by the local school board as the feeder school for that high school.

2.20.3 A student who enters grade nine or above in a member public school and transfers to a member private or parochial school shall be ineligible for a period of one year from the date he/she enrolls in the second school.

2.20.4 A student who enters grade nine or above in a member parochial or private school and transfers to a member public school will be ineligible for one year from the date he/she enrolls in the second school.

2.20.5 Those children whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are active members of the United States Armed Forces or Civilian military personnel and reside on a military base, may at the discretion of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s), enroll and attend the school district of their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) choosing, regardless of the residence of the child, provided the school district where the student resides or the adjacent school district and the parent(s) or guardian(s) choice of school district does not violate the provision of subsection (3) of this section prohibiting the transportation of students in excess of 30 miles. Their first choice of schools upon entering the ninth grade shall become their home school.

2.21 COUNTY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

2.21.1 A county high school attendance center becomes the home school for students enrolled. After enrolling in a county high school, a student cannot then enroll in a second county high school and be considered eligible until he/she has spent one year in the second school or the family has established a bona fide residence in the second school attendance area. A change in school bus routes will not affect this regulation. It is the responsibility of the high school administration to inform the student and his/her parents of this rule.

2.21.2 For students in the seventh or eighth grade participating on the high school level in a County Unit high school, that high school will become the students' home school upon entering the ninth grade.

2.22 LINE SCHOOL DISTRICTS

2.22.1 In line school districts where the school attendance area includes parts of two or more counties, students shall be eligible in that school regardless of which county the family resides.

2.23 INTERDISTRICT STUDENT EXCHANGE

2.23.1 Students transported by school bus from the home school district (bona fide residence of parents) to another district must be released by the home district and must not participate in interscholastic sports/activities for one school year in order to be eligible in the district to which students are transported.

2.24 STUDENTS FROM NON-MEMBER MISSISSIPPI PRIVATE SCHOOLS

2.24.1 Students of member schools who attended non-member Mississippi private schools during the preceding school session may return to their home school without loss of residence eligibility.

2.25 SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGES

2.25.1 If school district boundary lines change due to annexation pursuant to the applicable laws of the State of Mississippi, students enrolled in grades 9-12 on the effective date of the change shall be permitted to remain in their home district or transfer to the new district. When a student has chosen a high school and enrolled in and attended that school for one (1) day or longer, the school of his/her choice shall become the home school.

2.26 DISTRICTS WITH NO ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOL

2.26.1 In school districts having no accredited high school, students shall be eligible in the school to which transportation is furnished and tuition paid.

2.27 BONA FIDE RESIDENCE

2.27.1 A student must attend school in the school district in which his/her parents are bona fide residents.

2.27.2 A parent can have no more than one bona fide residence at any given time. A bona fide residence is one where the family actually lives. This means the specific dwelling in which the family cooks, eats, and sleeps on a regular basis and claims as its sole or primary place of residence.

2.27.3 This rule does not prevent a parent from commuting to work nor does it prevent a father/mother from traveling out of state when his/her work requires him/her to do so, provided he/she returns to the home periodically and considers the home as his/her legal, permanent residence.

2.27.4 Marriage, legal guardianship, nor change of schools for academic purposes shall affect this rule.

2.28 BONA FIDE CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

2.28.1 Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residence shall depend upon the facts of each case, but, in order for a change of residence to be considered bona fide, each of the following facts shall exist:

1. The original residence shall be abandoned as a residence. It shall be either sold, in the process of being sold, rented or disposed of as a residence.

2. It shall not be used as a residence by any relative of the student except under certain conditions.
 3. If the original residence is not in the process of being openly advertised for sale or rent, the family shall have the utilities disconnected in this residence.
 4. If all personal belongings, household goods, and furniture, appropriate to the circumstances shall be removed from the residence, unless the original residence is rented furnished and a legal lease agreement shall state exact furniture/items to remain in the residence.
- 2.28.2 A change of residence for the purpose of creating athletic eligibility shall not be considered a bona fide change of residence, unless the move is made 60 days prior to the beginning of school.
- 2.28.3 A student who has spent one school year in a school other than his/her home school (bona fide residence of parents) without participating in interscholastic sports/activities and has been released by the home school is considered to be eligible. Eligibility can be established only during the year immediately preceding participation. All students who do not live with their parents for any reason are considered under this rule.
- 2.28.4 Once a student sits out a year, that school will become their home school. A student is not eligible to return to their former school and become eligible unless they sit out a year or establish a bona fide residence move.
- 2.28.5 Students who live in established church or other state-recognized children's villages shall be eligible immediately when moved by officials to another school district.
- 2.28.6 A student whose parents reside outside the United States or who resides in an area of a state where there is no accredited high school will be considered eligible where his/her guardian lives; however, the student cannot transfer from this school unless the guardian changes residence.

2.29 BONA FIDE MOVE INVESTIGATION

- 2.29.1 The MHSAA shall conduct an investigation of a bona fide move if it appears a bona fide change of residence has not been made. If, in the course of the investigation, it is determined that a bona fide change of residence has not occurred, the student shall be ruled ineligible until he/she has been in attendance at the school for one calendar year.
- 2.29.2 A change of residence shall not be considered a bona fide change of residence if false information is given to the MHSAA.
- 2.29.3 The MHSAA shall not honor a bona fide change of residence for the purpose of immediate eligibility if one or more of the following situations exist:
1. A student's parents are living separate and apart unless one of the student's parents has filed a petition of divorce in a court of law.

2. A student has not left a MHSAA member or non-member school in good standing. This also includes students transferring from out of state. A period of discipline in effect from any previous school must be served prior to the student regaining eligibility.

2.30 SCHOOL TRANSFERS

- 2.30.1 A transfer student is one whose parents or custodian have moved from one school district to another and established a bona fide residence for a purpose other than obtaining athletic or interscholastic eligibility.
- 2.30.2 The school shall secure a transcript of the high school work completed by the student and a Transfer Student Form signed by the principal of the school from which the student transferred. The Transfer Student Form for out-of state transfers shall give the date the student entered the ninth grade and whether he/she passed the coursework the preceding year.
- 2.30.3 In the case of refusal or delay in sending the transcript or Transfer Student Form requested by the receiving school, the Executive Director may upon the presentation of satisfactory proof; authorize the school to allow the student to participate in athletic contests prior to the receipt of the transcript and Transfer Student Form signed by the previous school's principal.
- 2.30.4 A student who transfers from one temporary guardian to another will be ineligible for one year. Temporary guardianship issued by a judge is not valid for eligibility.
- 2.30.5 A student in his/her fourth year of high school whose family moves following the opening of school, after the family has lived in the school district for one year (12 months) or longer immediately preceding the move, shall be considered eligible in the school district from which the family moved for the remainder of the school session.
- 2.30.6 A ninth, tenth, or eleventh grade student, under the same conditions in 2.30.5, shall be considered eligible for the remainder of the semester during which the family moved.
- 2.30.7 A student living with his/her parents or legal custodian who moves after having spent three consecutive years in a school, has completed the tenth grade and continues to live with his/her parents or legal custodian, shall be considered eligible in the school district from which the family moved. If a student established his/her eligibility under this and later enrolls in his/her home school, he/she forfeits eligibility elsewhere.
- 2.30.8 A student shall not represent two schools in the same sport during a season.

2.31 DIVORCE

- 2.31.1 A student whose parents are legally divorced by court order or have never married, which also grants one of the parent's physical custody, shall be eligible where that parent lives. If the student transfers from the parent initially granted physical custody by the court to the other parent living in a different school district, regardless of whether the transfer is the result of a court order giving custody to the other parent, the student must remain out of competition for one year before becoming eligible.
- 2.31.2 A student whose parents are legally divorced by court order which grants joint physical custody shall be eligible in the school district in which the parent who has been awarded physical

custody for a majority of the school year lives. If no such period of physical custody is awarded to either parent, the student is eligible in the school district where the parent with whom he/she first elects to live after the entry of such court order. However, the granting of legal custody or change of legal custody shall not be effective under the Residence and School Transfer Rule until a period of forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of awarding custody has been approved by a judge.

2.31.3 Guardianship does not carry eligibility.

2.32 DEATH OR INCARCERATION OF PARENT/CUSTODIAN

2.32.1 If both parents are deceased, a student will be considered eligible in the school district where the custodian or adoptive parent or parents with whom he/she lives after the death of both. In the event there is a subsequent custodianship or adoption, and the new custodian or adoptive parent or parents' lives in a different school district, the student must remain out of competition for one year before becoming eligible.

2.32.2 If a student transfers residence from his/her parent(s)/custodian or the household in which he/she has been living for at least the past calendar year to the home of another person due to the incarceration of one/both parents or the head of the household, the student shall be eligible at the school the change of residence requires him/her to attend.

1. Should the person(s) incarcerated be released before the student has attended his/her new for one calendar year, the student, upon this release, shall become immediately ineligible at the school until he/she has been in attendance for the entire calendar year.
2. In the event of this early release, the student's eligibility shall revert to the person he/she was living with prior to the incarceration. Once the student has attended the new school for one calendar year, his/her eligibility shall be established, and he/she shall remain eligible at the school as long as the student does not negate his/her chain of attendance at the school.

2.33 ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFERS

2.33.1 Effective August 1, 2013, students whose parent(s) or legal custodian(s) are licensed through the Mississippi State Department of Education, may enroll and attend the school or schools of their parent(s) or legal custodian(s) employment regardless of the residence of the child. If a child transfers to his/her home school, he/she shall be ineligible for one calendar year unless his/her parent(s) or legal custodian(s) are no longer employed by the school system the student attended.

2.34 COMPLETION OF A SPORTS SEASON

2.34.1 No student shall complete a season in a sport and transfer to a member school and represent the second school in that sport during the same year. Exception: A student-athlete, who participates in a sport in a school recognized by the National Federation or by any private school association, will not be allowed to participate again in a new season during the same school year, in the same sport. (If there is justification that a student has made a bona fide move and participated in the fall, the school administration can appeal to the MHSAA).

2.35 FELONY

2.35.1 The MHSAA Executive Committee and Legislative Council strongly recommend that any student indicted for a felony not be allowed to participate in interscholastic sports/activities during the time of indictment and/or conviction.

2.36 SCHOOL CLOSURE

2.36.1 In the event an MHSAA member school closes, discontinues all interscholastic competition, or is suspended from membership in the MHSAA, all students who have been in attendance at the MHSAA member school for the preceding calendar year shall be eligible at another MHSAA member school of which they are a bona fide resident.

2.36.2 When a school is closed and legally merges with another member school, all students who have been in attendance at the school that closes for at least one calendar year shall be immediately eligible at the latter school. If the consolidation of two or more schools occurs after the first year of a two year reclassification period, the new schools will participate, in all sports and activities, as an Independent during the second year of the reclassification period. The newly formed consolidated school will resume the schedule(s) of the highest classified school that was merged.

2.37 NEW MEMBER SCHOOLS AND RESIDENCY

2.37.1 When a school becomes a new MHSAA member, any student residing outside the attendance zone of the new member school, but who attended that school for at least the preceding calendar year prior to the school's admittance in the MHSAA, shall be immediately eligible. Otherwise, the student shall be ineligible until he/she has attended the new member school for one calendar year from the date of enrollment in that school.

2.38 COMPETITION

2.38.1 Interscholastic competition shall be permitted in all MHSAA recognized boys' and girls' sports/activities. Boys and girls shall meet the same eligibility requirements to compete in interscholastic athletic and activity events.

2.39 AMATEUR RULE

2.39.1 A student must be an amateur in order to be eligible to represent his/her high school.
Definition: An amateur is a student who engages in athletics/activities for the physical, mental, social, and educational benefits he/she derives from participation and to whom athletics/activities is an avocation.

2.39.2 For a student to lose his/her amateur standing, he/she must have committed one of the following acts:

1. Entered competition for a monetary guarantee, including gift certificates.
2. Entered completion for a share of the gate receipt.
3. Accepted money.
4. Entered competition for prizes or merchandise of more than \$500.00 in retail value.

5. Sold or pawned a prize.
6. Taught or coached an athletic sport for money.
7. Accepted payment of expense allowances in excess of actual expenses (It shall be permissible for an eligible student accept actual and necessary expenses.)
8. Signed a contract to play professional athletics or played on a professional team in any sport; directly or indirectly received a salary or any form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization.
9. Played with or against college or professional teams or against an individual college or professional player.
10. Competed under a false name.

2.39.3 A student may engage in the following:

1. Play summer ball as an amateur on any team not under the jurisdiction of a professional organization, provided he/she does not receive pay for participation.
2. Accept meals, travel and lodging expenses.
3. Give Red Cross swimming and life saving instruction and receive pay for the service.
4. Serve as a life guard at swimming pools and receive reasonable pay.
5. Officiate or serve as an instructor in recreational sports as part of regular recreation program and receive financial remuneration of these services.
6. Accept the usual athletic jackets, letters, medal, ribbons, and trophies from the school and MHSAA, as well as trophies given by outside parties with the approval of the school.
7. Participate in bowling activities under the same conditions that govern other outside or summer athletic participation.

2.40 UNDUE HARDSHIP CASES

- 2.40.1 **AUTHORITY:** The Executive Committee shall have authority to set aside any eligibility rule, **except the age limit**, when, in its opinion, the rule causes an undue hardship upon that student.
- 2.40.2 The condition(s) causing a student not to meet the eligibility requirement(s) shall have been involuntary, unforeseeable, uncorrectable, and create a unique situation concerning the student's educational, emotional, or physical status. This condition must be beyond the control of the school, the school system, the student, and/or his parent(s) or guardian(s). Serious injury or prolonged illness must be supported by a doctor's records.
- 2.40.3 Inability to participate due to illness, injury, or other medical reasons shall not be considered hardship conditions except in those cases where ineligibility exists because the student was unable to attend or was prohibited from attending school for a prolonged length of time due to medical treatment.
- 2.40.4 A student, who fails to pass the required number of courses, withdraws from school, is retained, or repeats a grade is not sufficient grounds for a favorable decision for an undue hardship ruling.

2.40.5 Lack of knowledge of any eligibility rule on the part of the school, the student, and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall not be considered sufficient cause for setting aside this rule.

2.41 UNDUE HARDSHIP PROCEDURE:

2.41.1 The appropriate time for hardship application is when the hardship is discovered, not after the student has completed four consecutive years.

2.41.2 The Executive Committee shall meet several times a year to consider requests to have the rules set aside for the benefit of individual students and shall consider such requests at meetings held for that purpose.

1. The Executive Director shall rule on cases of eligibility prior to submitting the undue hardship case to the Executive Committee.
2. Each application must be made in writing by the school principal, prior to the meeting and should contain all facts pertaining to the case, including sufficient data to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation.
3. The principal of the school shall be present at the hardship hearing to present the case. Other school personnel shall also be allowed to appear before the committee. It is strongly recommended that the parent(s)/custodian(s) be present at the hearing.
4. Persons representing appeals shall be professional in their presentations and shall refrain from socializing with members of the Executive Committee.
5. As advisory officer to the Executive Committee, the Executive Director shall be afforded an opportunity to explain his/her ruling and provide the Committee with information relative to the case.
6. Each school will be given 15 minutes to present any verbal information concerning their case.
7. In cases involving medical issues, the request for exception shall be accompanied by statements of qualified medical experts and medical documentation.
8. In cases involving the Residence and School Transfer Rule, the sending school shall be notified of the appeal, allowed to attend the hearing, and given opportunity to respond and provide information that may be taken into consideration in the Committee's decision. The principal of the sending school may write a letter in support of the request, and the principal of the receiving school shall write a letter explaining the transfer and citing other important information that may be taken into consideration by the Executive Director and/or Executive Committee; there shall be no evidence of recruiting for athletic purposes.
9. In cases involving the four consecutive years rule, a copy of the student's cumulative folder showing all scholastic and attendance data since the first entry into the ninth grade shall be attached to the written appeal.
10. The committee shall hear and consider each case on an individual basis and shall render a decision based on the merits of each case.
11. The decision of the Executive Committee to set aside the rule in each case shall be by majority vote.

12. The President of the Executive Committee shall notify the school in writing of the decision.
13. The decision of the Committee shall be final, and there shall be no appeal.

SECTION 3: RECRUITING

NOTE: This section attempts to provide a thorough explanation of the recruiting rule. While there are many scenarios, this rule cannot cover every conceivable example of recruiting. Schools are expected to educate all employees, athletic department staff members, and representatives of the school's athletic interests about acts that are prohibited by this policy. Schools must report immediately such impermissible acts when they are discovered to have occurred to the MHSAA.

3.1 ILLEGAL RECRUITING

- 3.1.1 Recruitment of students or attempted recruiting of students for athletic purposes, regardless of their residence, is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of these By-Laws and is expressly prohibited.
- 3.1.2 "Athletic recruiting" is defined as the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone connected directly or indirectly with a MHSAA school in an attempt to encourage, induce, pressure, urge or entice a prospective student of any age to transfer to or retain a student at a school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- 3.1.3 Recruiting for athletic purposes is not only a violation by the student who has been recruited, but is also a violation by the school and/or the school personnel who recruited the student. It is a violation to recruit for athletic purposes regardless of a student's age or grade level. If proof is established that a school has secured an athlete under any of the conditions set forth in this section, the principal shall be required to appear before the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to answer the allegations against his/her school. The student(s) is automatically ineligible to participate in athletics/activities for at least one calendar year and may be ruled ineligible not to exceed four calendar years.
- 3.1.4 It is a violation of this rule for a student to receive or be offered remuneration or special inducement of any kind that is not made available to all applicants who apply to or enroll in the school.
- 3.1.5 A student transferring from one member school to another shall be ruled ineligible for one calendar year from the date of enrollment because of "undue influence" if any of the following situations exist:
1. It is determined that a coach, including non-faculty, of the receiving school coached an out-of-school team on which the athlete played.
 2. It is determined that a coach, including non-faculty, at the receiving school acted as a private athletic instructor for the transferring athlete, regardless of whether the coach was paid for his/her services and/or expertise.
 3. It is determined the transferring student played on an out-of-school team made up of a simple majority of students from the receiving school.
 4. A student transfers to a new school within one calendar year of the relocation of his/her coach, including non-faculty, to that school.
- 3.1.6 Article 3.1.5 (1-4) shall be enforced even in the event the student made a bona-fide move into the receiving school's attendance zone.

3.1.7 Penalties for a school in violation of illegal recruiting of students include the following:

1. The school may be placed on probation and ruled ineligible for championship honors in the sport(s)/activity in which the violation occurred.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$2,500 and billed for the cost of any investigation related to the violation.
3. The school shall be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation.
4. A student found to be recruited in violation of this rule shall be ineligible to participate in athletics/activities at that school.

3.2 GUIDELINES

3.2.1 Evidence of undue influence or special inducement of a student or the parents or guardians of a student by anyone connected directly or indirectly with a MHSAA school includes, but is not limited to offering or accepting any of the following:

1. Money or other valuable considerations such as free or reduced tuition during the regular school year and/or summer school.
2. Room, board, clothing, or financial allotment for clothing.
3. Work that is not performed or is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
4. Employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid for the parents/guardian in order to entice the parents/guardian to move to a certain community.
5. A residence.
6. Free or reduced rent for parents' or student's housing, vehicles or other items.
7. Cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates or coupons.
8. Clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items.
9. Loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind.
10. Free transportation by any school connected person.
11. A privilege(s) not afforded to other students.
12. Payment for moving expenses of parent(s) or assisting parent(s) with a move.
13. Help in securing a college athletic scholarship.
14. Free admission to MHSAA interscholastic athletic events in which the school is participating where an admission is being charged.
15. Payment of fees to take the ACT and/or SAT examinations.
16. Payment of fees to attend and participate in sports camps as individual participants.
17. Any other privileges or consideration made to induce or influence the student to transfer from one school to another because of his/her athletic ability.

3.2.2 Other inducements or attempts to encourage a prospective student to attend a school for the purpose of participating in athletics, even when special remuneration/inducement is not given, shall be a violation. It shall be a violation for a school to offer and/or grant special favors, privileges or inducements including payment of fees to a student-athlete(s) not offered and/or granted to a non-student-athlete(s) who attends the school.

3.2.3 **The following individuals shall be considered school-connected:**

1. Employees of the school, including but not limited to the principal, assistant principal(s), athletic director(s), guidance counselor(s), faculty coaches, and teachers.
2. Non-faculty coaches (paid or voluntary) who coach any sport at the school.
3. A student or other student participant in the athletic program/activity, such as a team manager, student trainer, etc., at that school.
4. Parents, guardians, or other relative of a student or other student participant in the athletic program at that school.
5. Relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic/activity department staff at that school.
6. A volunteer worker in that school or that school's athletic program.
7. Members of the school's athletic booster club(s).
8. Members of the school's alumni association.
9. Any independent person, business, or organization acting at the request or direction of the school to include students, parents, junior high coaches, former students, and other such individuals.
10. Any independent person, business, or organization otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic/activities program.
11. Any independent person, business, or organization that is representative of the school's interests when a member of the school's administration or athletic/activities department staff knows or should know that the person, business, or organization is promoting the school's interscholastic athletic/activities program.
12. Any independent person, business, or organization that has made financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic/activities department or to an athletic/activity booster organization of that school.
13. Any independent person, business, or organization that contributes money to a school used to provide legal financial assistance to a student attending the school.

3.2.4 Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic/activity department staff members, and representatives of the school's athletic /activity interests with a student who does not attend that school includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Visiting or entertaining a student or any of his/her relatives in an attempt to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

2. Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of communication to the student or any of his/her relatives, in an attempt to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics/activities.
3. Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee or other representative of the school's athletic/activity interest, or any other person such as an alumnus of the school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic/activity program (e.g., AAU team, club team, travel team, recreational league team, etc.), a coach of or recruiter for a collegiate athletic team, or a scout for a professional team, to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics, or to direct or place the student at the school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
4. Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively the school's athletic program or implies the school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student's athletic career would be better served by attending that school.
5. Responding to an inquiry by a student or any of his/her relatives about athletic participation opportunities at the school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend that school.
6. Providing transportation to the student or any of his/her relatives to visit the school, to take an entrance examination for the school, to participate in an athletic tryout at the school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic/activity department staff member or other representative or the school's athletic/activity interests as part of an effort to pressure, urge to facilitate the student's attendance at that school to participate in interscholastic athletics/activities.
7. Having contact with a student or the student's parents prior to enrollment in the school for the purpose of discussing enrollment.
8. Making statements to prospective students such as, "we would like to have you play for us," "you would look good in our uniform," "you could make a difference for our team," etc.

3.3 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- 3.3.1 Schools that charge tuition may administer school-based financial assistance programs for students who attend those schools. Financial assistance is defined as funds from various sources administered and provided by a school to students to pay or assist in paying costs directly related to their education at the school. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student's athletic/activity interest, potential or performance.
- 3.3.2 School-administered financial assistance provided by a school must be administered by the school; meaning that the school, through an established process that conforms to this policy, makes the final determination of the student who is to receive the assistance and the amount of assistance to be given. No student may accept financial assistance from any other person, business or organization unless it is received from one upon whom the student is naturally or legally dependent.

SECTION 4: PENALTY CODE

4.1 FORMAL COMPLAINT

- 4.1.1 If a principal believes that a school has violated a MHSAA rule and wants the possible infraction investigated, he/she must submit a signed written complaint to the Executive Director stating the name of the school, the rule(s) that he/she believes it has violated, the name(s) of the coach(es) and/or student(s) involved in the alleged violation, and as much relevant, detailed information of which he/she has knowledge. The Executive Director shall have unlimited authority to investigate the case and impose a penalty. A school penalized under this code shall have the privilege to appeal to the Executive Committee.
- 4.1.2 The Executive Director shall have the authority to investigate any unreported violation(s) he/she deems necessary.
- 4.1.3 Upon request from the Executive Director, the principal shall be required to provide the MHSAA with the following official records:
1. Student's legal proof of birth
 2. Copy of student's current physical examination
 3. Copy of student's current class schedule
 4. Copy of student's report card(s)
 5. Copy of student's official school transcript
 6. Scorebook(s)
 7. Other records/information necessary to determine a student's eligibility status
 8. Contracts of contests between schools
 9. School enrollment records for classification purposes
 10. Parental Consent Form
 11. Tuition and fees
 12. Records relating to financial assistance
- 4.1.4 Upon request from the Executive Director, the principal shall be required to provide the MHSAA with the following reports/ information:
1. Information on sportsmanship matters
 2. Information on using an ineligible player
 3. Information on alleged violations
 4. Information that may be relevant to MHSAA business
- 4.1.5 A school failing to furnish necessary reports and/or information or failing to comply with other rules of the association, after due notice, shall be penalized to a degree in keeping with the

situation, including suspension from the MHSAA, until such time as it complies with the rule(s) and pays any fines imposed.

4.2 STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

- 4.2.1 With the exception of the illegal recruiting rule, the time limit for complaints or action(s) on rules violations shall be one year from the date of the infraction. Any school, student, or person guilty of illegally recruiting students may be subject to penalty for the duration of that student-athlete's enrollment in that school. *Example: If an investigation verifies that a student in his junior year attended the school in his freshman year as a result of undue influence, the school and student are subject to a penalty in keeping with the seriousness of the violation.*

4.3 APPEALING AN ELIGIBILITY RULING

- 4.3.1 If a school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, is dissatisfied with an eligibility ruling made by the Executive Director, the school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, may appeal the eligibility ruling to the Executive Committee. If the school and student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, seek an appeal, the Executive Committee has the discretion to consolidate the appeals into one appeal. The request for appeal must be submitted in writing addressed to the President of the Executive Committee at the MHSAA home office within 5 calendar days from the date the school received notice of the eligibility ruling. This request shall also include a summary of the basis for appeal and any supporting documentation. Untimely appeals will not be considered.
- 4.3.2 While the Executive Director's ruling of ineligibility on a student is appealed to the Executive Committee, the student on whose eligibility on appeal is pending shall not participate in any athletic contests until his/her case is ruled on by the Executive Committee. In the interest of fairness to the competing schools, penalties for playing an ineligible player may include one or more of the following:
1. Individual or team records and performance achieved during participation by the ineligible student shall be vacated or stricken.
 2. Team victories shall be forfeited to the opponent.
 3. Team or individual awards earned by the ineligible student shall be returned to the Association.
 4. The school shall be assessed a fine not to exceed \$5000.00.
 5. Other penalties allowed under these MHSAA Constitutional Rules and By-laws may be imposed on the school and/or individuals(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.4 PROCEDURE BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 4.4.1 The Executive Committee shall hear all eligibility appeals at its next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting unless the school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, specifically requests in writing an expedited appeal and submits \$1000.00 to the MHSAA to be held in trust pending the outcome of the appeal before the Executive Committee. The written request for an expedited appeal and the \$1000.00 deposit must be made at the same time as the written request for an appeal is submitted to the President of the Executive Committee.

- 4.4.2 When a request for an expedited appeal before the Executive Committee is made, the date for the expedited appeal will be set as soon as reasonably practicable at the discretion of the Executive Committee. If an expedited appeal cannot be reasonably set for the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting, the \$1000.00 held in trust will be returned to the school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, that requested the expedited appeal. If the Executive Committee overturns or modifies the Executive Director's eligibility ruling after an expedited appeal, the \$1000.00 held in trust will be returned to the school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, that appealed. If the Executive Committee upholds the Executive Director's eligibility ruling after an expedited appeal, the \$1000.00 will be retained by the MHSAA to defray the costs of the expedited appeal before the Executive Committee.
- 4.4.3 The Executive Committee has the discretion to conduct the appeal hearing in the manner it deems necessary to gather the necessary information and render a decision. At a minimum, the appealing party and the Executive Director shall have the opportunity to present their respective positions to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may, in its discretion, sustain, modify, or overturn the Executive Director's decision or take such other action as it finds appropriate. The President of the Executive Committee shall provide a written explanation of the Executive Committee's decision to the appealing party and the Executive Director.
- 4.4.4 The Executive Committee's ruling is final unless the school or student, through his, or her parent or legal guardian, submits a written request to the President of the Executive Committee for third party arbitration within 5 calendar days the appellant receives notice of the Executive Committee's ruling. When a school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, request third party arbitration, the Executive's Committee's decision will remain in effect until such time as the arbitrator's decision is rendered.

4.5 NEUTRAL ARBITRATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S DECISION

- 4.5.1 The arbitration procedure shall be as follows:
1. The arbitration shall generally comply with the spirit of the rules and procedures of the American Arbitration Association.
 2. The arbitrator shall be approved by agreement of the parties. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, the parties shall each select their preferred arbitrator, and the two preferred arbitrators shall select a different arbitrator to hear the matter.
 3. Arbitration shall be implemented only after all MHSAA remedies have been exhausted, including appeals to the Executive Committee.
 4. The issue that the arbitrator shall decide is whether the Executive Committee's decision was arbitrary, capricious, and lacked substantial evidence based on the information before the Executive Committee at the time of the decision. As a result, the arbitrator shall not consider information that was not before the Executive Committee at the time of the decision.
 5. The parties are limited to a 5 page written submission to the arbitrator explaining their respective position regarding the decision.

6. Unless otherwise directed by the arbitrator, the arbitrator shall make a decision based on the written submission and other information before the Executive Committee. No arbitration hearing is required.
7. Each party shall bear the cost of its own representation and other costs for presenting its case to the arbitrator.
8. A school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, seeking arbitration shall be required to deposit \$5000.00 with the MHSAA to be held in trust pending the arbitrator's ruling.
9. If the arbitrator overturns the Executive Committee's decision in total, the \$5000.00 held in trust shall be refunded to the school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian.
10. If the arbitrator affirms the Executive Committee's decision in total, the \$5000.00 shall be used to defray the costs of arbitration.
11. If the arbitrator modifies the Executive Committee's decision in any way, the arbitrator shall determine whether the \$5000.00 or any portion thereof should be refunded to the school or student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, or whether the \$5000.00 or any portion thereof should be kept by the MHSAA.

4.5.2 The arbitrator's decision will be final and not appealable or challenged in any court by any party.

4.6 LITIGATION AGAINST THE MHSAA

4.6.1 The venue for any legal action brought against the Association shall be the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi.

4.6.2 Any member school, including an administrator, athletic director, and/or coach, who is party to a suit against the Association, shall be held liable for all legal fees, attorney's expenses, and court costs if the final decision of the case is ruled in favor of the MHSAA.

4.6.3 If a member school shall permit participation by a player whom the Association has declared to be ineligible and litigation has been instituted to seek the Association ruling set aside, the school shall be penalized for playing an ineligible player if the courts rule that the player was ineligible. The sport or activity shall be placed on restrictive probation for a period not to exceed two seasons. Any one or more of the following actions shall be taken against such school in the interest of restitution and fairness to the competing schools:

1. Individual or team records and performance achieved during participation by the ineligible student shall be vacated or stricken.
2. Team victories shall be forfeited to the opponent.
3. Team or individual awards earned by the ineligible student shall be returned to the Association.
4. The school shall be assessed a fine not to exceed \$5000.00.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individuals(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.7 PROBATION:

Types of probation that may be imposed on a school in violation of an association rule(s) are:

- 4.7.1 Disciplinary probation – the school shall be fined and disciplined in some other manner short of being denied the right to participate in home games in a certain sport or being denied the right to compete for championship honors in a sport(s) not to exceed one calendar year.
- 4.7.2 Restrictive probation – the school shall be fined and restricted in some manner during one calendar year, including being ruled ineligible to compete for championship honors in a sport(s).
- 4.7.3 Any school which is placed on probation will not be allowed to participate in bowl games, conference playoffs, tournaments, or meets, invitational tournaments or meets, city and /or county playoffs, tournaments, or meets and any playoffs, tournaments or meets leading to a state championship during the period of probation. This does not prohibit a school from playing regular scheduled games.

4.8 SUSPENSION

- 4.8.1 For violation of rules of the Association, the offending school may be fined and suspended by the Executive Director or Executive Committee for one calendar year, and no other member school shall engage in any athletic contest or activity with the suspended school during the suspension period. A school playing a suspended school shall also be suspended for one calendar year.
- 4.8.2 No student who was a member of a suspended team shall be eligible to participate in athletics in any other school while the first school is suspended.

4.9 FORFEITURE

- 4.9.1 A contest in which an ineligible player is allowed to participate shall be forfeited to the opposing school and any team and individual events/honors won shall also be forfeited.
- 4.9.2 If a team is required to forfeit a contest(s) in the state playoffs/state tournament, only the team awarded the forfeit in the most advanced round of play in the state playoffs/tournament shall be reinstated in the state playoffs/tournament. A team reinstated after the finals shall be declared the state champion, and there shall be no runners-up in that sport.
- 4.9.3 A team having to forfeit a contest(s) in the state playoffs for allowing an ineligible player and/or coach to participate shall be required to return the revenue received from gate receipts for participating in the forfeited contest(s) to the MHSAA. The statute of limitations for return of revenue shall be one calendar year from the date of the last contest forfeited.

4.10 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES:

The following penalties shall be imposed by the Executive Director or the Executive Committee for violation(s) of MHSAA Constitutional rules and By-laws:

- 4.10.1 **Participation of an ineligible student as the result of a falsified eligibility document(s) by school officials, the student, and/or the student's parents:**

1. The school may be placed on disciplinary or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be fined \$100.00 per student/per contest/per sport if it self-reports the violation (*not to exceed \$500.00*).
3. The school shall be fined \$500.00 per student/per contest/per sport if the violation is reported by a source outside of the school or discovered by the MHSAA staff (*not to exceed \$2,000.00*).
4. Any contest(s) in which the student participated shall be forfeited.
5. The student shall be suspended from the team/activity for a specific period.
6. In cases of conflicting, blemished, or illegible records, school officials shall be responsible for determining the validity of the records and, if necessary, producing the correct information.
7. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.2 Participation of ineligible student who is allowed to participate: (A school shall not continue to allow a student who has been declared ineligible to participate in any interscholastic contest.)

1. The school shall be placed on restrictive probation and declared ineligible for championship honors in the sport in which the violation occurred.
2. A school may be suspended from the association depending upon the severity of the violation.
3. The school shall be fined \$500.00 per student/per contest/per sport (*not to exceed \$3,000.00*).
4. Any contest(s) in which the student participated shall be forfeited.
5. The player shall be ruled ineligible for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.3 Participation of ineligible student due to negligence of school officials to adequately check rules, regulations, and records:

1. The school shall be placed on disciplinary probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be fined \$100.00 per student.
4. Any contest(s) in which the student participated shall be forfeited.
5. The player shall be ruled ineligible for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.4 Student participation in violation of transfer rule:

1. Upon becoming eligible, a student shall not be allowed to participate in the same number of contests/playing dates in the same sport in which he/she participated as an ineligible participant.
2. The remainder of the penalty is the same as for the use of an ineligible participant as outlined in 4.10.3.

4.10.5 Student participation in violation of the scholastic rule:

1. When the student becomes eligible, he/she shall remain ineligible in the same sport for the same number of contests/playing dates that he/she participated as an ineligible participant.
2. The remainder of the penalty is the same as for the use of an ineligible player as outlined in 4.10.3.

4.10.6 Student uses and/or participates under an assumed or fictitious name in a MHSAA contest:

1. The school shall be placed on disciplinary or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$500.00.
3. The school shall be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated.
4. The student shall be suspended from all MHSAA sports for at least one calendar year.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.7 Participant ejected from a contest in a sport for unsportsmanlike conduct:

1. Any student ejected for fighting or "flagrant" unsportsmanlike conduct (Example, but not limited to cursing an official, fan, etc.; spitting, obscene gestures) shall be ineligible for a minimum of the equivalent of next football game (4 quarters plus the fraction of a quarter that the player was ejected) or next track meet or the equivalent of two contests plus the fraction of the period that the participant was ejected in any other sport (8 quarters in basketball (2 games); 14 innings in softball and baseball (2 games); next 4 halves in soccer (2 games)).
2. Ejected participants must complete the Star Sportsmanship remedial program.
3. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates.
4. If the ejection occurs during playoffs, the suspension will be one game.
5. It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced.
6. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, the school could be fined or forfeit the contest.
7. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and post season play.

4.10.8 Student in violation of misconduct prior to, during, or immediately following an athletic contest:

1. The school may be placed on disciplinary or restrictive probation.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500.00.
3. The student shall receive an official reprimand through the school.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.9 Coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct or violation of the standards for good sportsmanship established by the MHSAA by:

1. Making degrading/critical remarks about officials during or after a contest, either on the field of play, from the bench, or through any public news media.
2. Arguing with officials or going through motions indicating dislike/disdain for a decision.
3. Detaining the official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official.
4. The school shall notify the MHSAA no later than the end of the work day following the ejection.
5. The school shall be assessed a minimum of \$300.00 for the first ejection.
6. The coach shall complete the Star Sportsmanship remedial course.
7. The school shall be fined \$600.00 for the second ejection.
8. It is recommended that the school district suspend the coach following the second ejection.
9. The school will be fined \$500.00 for failure to report a coach's ejection.
10. An official who fails to report an ejection shall be suspended.
11. If a coach is banned from the contest, a responsible school official (certified school employee) shall direct and supervise the team for the remainder of the game. If no responsible school official is available, the contest shall be forfeited.
12. There shall be no appeal by coaches concerning judgment calls. Only rule violations can be appealed.

4.10.10 Spectator in violation of misconduct prior to, during, or immediately following an athletic contest:

1. The school may be placed on probation.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500.00.

3. The school may be prohibited from playing in a home and/or an away contest(s) with the spectator in attendance not to exceed one calendar year.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.11 School involved in infractions inconsistent with wholesome competition or a wholesome athletic program, including sportsmanship violations:

1. The school may be placed on disciplinary or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$1,500.00. The offender may be reprimanded.
3. The offender may be placed on probation.
4. The school may be prohibited from playing home contests in a sport(s) not to exceed one calendar year.
5. The school may be suspended from participating in a sport(s) not to exceed one calendar year.
6. The school may be required to schedule a contest(s) without the presence of all spectators.
7. The school may be prohibited from playing in a home and/or away contest(s) with a certain spectator(s) in attendance for up to one year.
8. The school may be required to pay for the cost of any hearing and/or investigation connected with the violation.
9. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.12 School failing to report all mandatory information, forms and/or reports as required by the deadline date:

1. The school shall be fined \$100.00 per sport for delinquent forms.
2. The school shall be fined \$25.00 per student/per contest/per sport for omitting an eligible player's name on its online eligibility list if the violation is self-reported (*not to exceed \$100*) and \$50.00 per student/per contest/per sport if the violation is reported by a source outside of the school (*not to exceed \$200.00*).
3. The school shall be fined an amount equal to 10 percent of its dues if its dues payment is delinquent.
4. The school shall be fined \$100.00 for failure to timely file its official MHSAA Enrollment Classification Report.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.13 School failing to furnish the MHSAA with a required or requested report(s) or record(s) or submitting a falsified record(s) to the MHSAA:

1. The school shall be suspended from the association until the Executive Committee can assess the alleged violation.
2. The school shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00 not to exceed \$5,000.00.
3. The student(s) in question may be withheld from competition until the report(s) and/or record(s) is presented to the Executive Director.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.14 School in violation of jamboree or tournament requirements:

1. For failing to secure MHSAA approval, the school shall be assessed a penalty.
2. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.15 School(s) responsible for a sportsmanship violation(s):

1. The school may be placed on disciplinary or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$200.00 for a single violation.
3. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500.00 for multiple violations.
4. The school may be charged with the cost of any investigation connected with the violation.
5. The school may be charged with the cost of conducting an investigation that is held in connection with the violation.
6. The school may be ordered to conduct a home and/or an away contest(s) in the sport without a player(s), coach(es), and/or a spectator(s) in attendance not to exceed one calendar year.
7. The school may be prohibited from playing home contests in the sport not to exceed one calendar year.
8. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.16 School in violation of contest limitations:

1. The school shall be placed on, restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be removed from playoffs.
3. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500.00.

4. Member schools having contests with a member school known by them to be under a penalty or suspension, while such suspension is effective, shall be liable to a similar or lesser penalty.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation including a reduction in the number of contests in which it may participate during the following year.

4.10.17 School in violation of fighting:

1. A school involved in a fight, before or after a contest, (from the time it arrives until it departs) shall be fined \$500.00.
2. If a player(s) leaves the bench and comes onto the field or court and is ejected according to NFHS rules, (ejected from the contest and sent to the dressing room) they will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season games. (Ex.: 2 games in football, 4 games in basketball and soccer, etc.) The team will be placed on probation and fined \$500.00.
3. Ejected players will be required to take the Star Sportsmanship remedial course.
4. If the ejections or violations occur during the playoffs or last contest of the year, the team will be placed on probation for the next sport regular season and a monetary fine will be assessed on the school not to exceed \$1500.00.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.10.18 School in violation of fracas:

1. Only the head coaches will go on the playing field or court to stop the fracas. All assistant coaches are to keep the substitutes off the playing area.
2. Officials are instructed to stop a fracas from starting, but not to be involved once it gets underway.
3. Cameramen must be instructed to keep the camera running and film the entire fracas – this is vital to the MHSAA investigation.

4.10.19 School in violation of removal of a team:

1. Any school whose coach removes a team from the playing floor or field in protest of the officials' decisions or for any other reason shall be subject to automatic probation.
2. The school shall be fined \$500.00.
3. A coach who refuses to leave the playing area after expulsion, resulting in the forfeiture of the contest, shall likewise be subject to automatic probation. This is considered to be a gross

act of unsportsmanlike conduct.

4. When the misconduct of a coach warrants being banished from the court or playing field during a responsible adult school official, (superintendent, principal, assistant principal athletic director, assistant coach, or other full-time certified employee) must be available to director and supervise the team for the remainder of the game. If no responsible school official is available, the game shall be forfeited.
5. Should an emergency arise, which makes it advisable to discontinue a contest, it should be done by mutual consent.

4.10.20 School in violation of illegal equipment:

1. It is the coach's responsibility at all times to be aware of approved and non-approved equipment. Refer to the MHSAA Handbook, MHSAA Sports Information Manual and NFHS Rules Books by sport.
2. If a coach allows illegal equipment to be used during a game, the school will be subject to a fine and/or placement on probation.

4.10.21 School in violation of third party videos:

1. A school, school representative, or third party videos at an athletic contest for scouting purposes without permission of both participating schools, the school using the video will be cited by the MHSAA as being in violation of unethical and flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Fines or penalties may be issued by the MHSAA.

4.10.22 Payment of fines

Schools in violation of MHSAA rules are expected to pay any fines that may be levied in a timely manner, which is typically 30 days from the date of the ruling. Schools failing to pay any outstanding financial balance owed to the MHSAA from the previous year by June 30, after due notice, shall be placed on disciplinary probation for the upcoming school year and shall not be considered for championship honors in all sports until the outstanding balance and a ten percent penalty are paid.

4.11 SCHOOL'S NON-COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RULINGS

- 4.11.1 If any school fails to comply with rulings of the Executive Director or Executive Committee, the school and/or individual involved in the noncompliance is subject to being penalized as follows:
 1. The school may be placed on restrictive probation and declared ineligible for championship honors in the sport in which the violation occurred for the season in which the infraction occurred, if applicable, or for the next season depending on the severity of the violation.
 2. The school may be suspended from the association not to exceed one calendar year.

3. Depending on the severity of the violation, the school may be prohibited from fielding a team at any level in the sport in which the violation occurred for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
4. The school shall be fined \$1,000.00 per student/per contest/per sport (*not to exceed \$5,000.00*).
5. The school may be required to pay for the cost of all investigations and/or hearings connected with the violation.
6. Any contest(s) in which the student participated shall be forfeited.
7. The student(s) shall be ruled ineligible for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
8. The coach shall be penalized. The school may be required to play the entire sports season without the head coach serving in any capacity in the contest(s) in the sport in which the violation occurred.
9. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

4.12 LACK OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL

4.12.1 A school is subject to be cited with Lack of Administrative Control if:

1. During a school year, the school commits flagrant rule violations considered inconsistent with wholesome competition or a wholesome athletic program including sportsmanship violations.

4.12.2 Penalties for a school cited with Lack of Administrative Control

1. The principal shall be required to appear before the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to answer the allegations against his/her school.
2. The school may be placed on disciplinary or restrictive probation for a maximum of one calendar year.
3. If the school commits the same violation(s) for three consecutive school years, MHSAA membership may be suspended for a maximum of one calendar year.
4. The school may be prohibited from participating in the sport in question for a maximum of one calendar year.
5. The school may be fined a maximum of \$5,000.
6. The school's administrator may be reprimanded.
7. The principal may be required to provide the MHSAA with a written report detailing the measures he/she will take in a bona fide attempt to prevent a recurrence of the same of similar violation(s) in his/her school's activities program. This report is subject to review and approval by the sub-committee.

8. The principal, athletic director, and/or head coach may be required to participate in the MHSAA/NFHS Online Fundamentals of Coaching course.
9. The school may receive additional penalties in keeping with the seriousness of the situation.

4.13 APPEAL PROCESS FOR PENALTIES AGAINST A MEMBER SCHOOL

- 4.13.1 The same appeal procedure, process and rules used for eligibility decisions shall be used if a member school wishes to appeal any penalty decision rendered by the Executive Director pursuant to the MHSAA Constitutional Rules and By-laws. A student, through his or her parent or legal guardian, does not have the right to appeal penalty decisions rendered by the Executive Director.

SECTION 5: ADMINISTRATION/SPORTSMANSHIP/COACHING/SUPERVISION

5.1 ADMINISTRATION/SPORTSMANSHIP

- 5.1.1 Principals, coaches, other faculty members, students, and spectators are expected to exemplify the highest principles of sportsmanship and ethics of competition in all interscholastic athletic relationships.
- 5.1.2 The principal and his/her designee of each school involved in an athletic contest/event shall be responsible for:
1. The conduct of school officials representing his/her school.
 2. The conduct of his/her team personnel competing.
 3. Supervising the conduct of the spectators connected with his/her school attending an athletic contest/event.
 4. The sports medicine aspects of competition as it relates to his/her team.
- 5.1.3 During playoff games in high school sports, each school provides an administrator or designee at the official's meeting prior to each game in the following sports: football, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer.
- 5.1.4 The principal and his/her designee of the home/sponsoring school shall be responsible for the management and administration of each athletic contest/event, including:
1. Preparing facilities for play, taking safety precautions and providing security.
 2. Supervising the conduct of his/her coaches, players, support groups, spectators, and school's representatives at the contest.
 3. The security and well-being of the contest/event officials from the time they arrive at the contest/event until they have departed
- 5.1.5 The principal or his/her designee of the visiting team is responsible for the supervision of the conduct of his/her coaches, participants, support groups, spectators, and the school's representatives.
- 5.1.6 Member schools are required to have an on-site administrator and/or athletic director present at home events.
- 5.1.7 No alcoholic beverages shall be sold or consumed at any MHSAA event.
- 5.1.8 Artificial noisemakers shall be allowed at MHSAA outdoor events (air horns, bull horns with sirens, and vuvuzela horns are not allowed at outdoor MHSAA events). **No artificial noisemakers will be allowed at any MHSAA indoor event.**

5.2 SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS

- 5.2.1 When an unsportsmanlike incident occurs prior to, during, or after an event, the school principal and head coach of both or all schools involved shall be responsible for filing a written report to the MHSAA describing the problems or misconduct that occurred in connection with the event, including acts of a coach/sponsor and/or participant within 48 school working hours after the event. Contest officials involved shall be charged with the same responsibility.
- 5.2.2 Sportsmanship violations shall be reported to the Executive Director.

- 5.2.3 If the principal of the school charged with the violation and the alleged offender(s) are willing to accept responsibility for the allegations, and the other schools and/or parties involved concur, the Executive Director will render a summary sportsmanship ruling. An involved school and/or party who disagree with the Executive Director's ruling may request that the alleged violation be referred to the Executive Committee.
- 5.2.4 After hearing and evaluating the reports of schools and/or involved parties, the Executive Director shall have the power to take such actions as he/she deems necessary, including suspension of the offending school(s) from membership in the association for one calendar year. Schools involved shall have the right to appeal this ruling to the Executive Committee.
- 5.2.5 In sportsmanship incidents involving spectator criminal misconduct, such as assaults on a school official(s) and/or a contest official, the offended school and/or contest official(s) are advised to consider pressing charges in a court of law against the offender. If charges are not filed by the school, the school(s) shall be responsible for effectively addressing the unsportsmanlike incident.
- 5.2.6 Schools and/or individuals judged to be responsible for sportsmanship violations may be penalized. The Executive Director is authorized to warn, place on probation, suspend from competition or participation, for a period of time, a player or coach disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 5.2.7 Possession, with or without a permit or other authority, of firearms or other dangerous weapons including, but not limited to, rifles, shotguns, pistols, revolvers, knives, nightsticks, or black-jacks or other such weapons are prohibited at athletic contests in which an MHSAA member school is a participant. Violation of this rule by a contest participant, coach, assistant coach, fan, or other person affiliated with one of the participating schools shall subject the person and the school to disciplinary actions and penalties. If contest or other school officials discover the violation of this rule, they may suspend the start or the continuation of the contest until the person who is in violation of the rule has removed the firearm or other dangerous weapon from the contest arena. Authorized law enforcement officers attending any athletic contest are exempt from these provisions, provided the uniformed law enforcement officer(s) are not coaches or otherwise participating in the contest.

5.3 FACULTY COACHES

- 5.3.1 A faculty coach of an athletic team shall be employed by the school district's school board and shall be assigned coaching duties by the board or the school principal. The individual shall hold the position of **teacher, administrator, athletic director, or a combination of these responsibilities on a full-time basis by the school system**. In all cases, the individual shall be required to be physically present and work at his/her school(s) during the entire school day during the school's normal hours of operation. The normal hours of operation shall be considered the time the school begins classes for the school day until the actual end of the school day for the majority of regularly enrolled students.
- 5.3.2 A coach shall be allowed to participate in coaching spring football practice if he is employed by the school board for the next football season.

5.3.3 All coaches must successfully complete a first aid course. In addition, **all** coaches must become CPR certified by the beginning of the school year and must remain certified in CPR.

1. All **new** coaches (middle school and high school) must have successfully completed a first aid course by August 31, 2014.
2. All **current** coaches (head coach, assistant, or para-professional) must be certified in first aid by August 1, 2015.
3. All coaches (head coach, assistant, or para-professional) must recertify every five years from the completion of last certification date. (Maintain certificates of completion).
4. Approved first aid courses may be found online at www.nfhs.learn (American Red Cross First Aid Course) endorsed by the National Federation of State High Schools.
5. National Center for Sports Safety (NCSS), www.sportssafety.org, provides PREPARE Level 1 and 2 online courses – cost of NCSS Prepare Course will be discounted for Mississippi coaches beginning June, 2014.
6. An approved Red Cross First Aid Course may be conducted by authorized personnel at member school locations for coach certification and re-certification.

5.4 PARA-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM

5.4.1 No school is permitted to use a coach unless he/she is a full-time certified employee of the school system. EXCEPTIONS:

5.4.2 A school may employ a person who retired as a certified teacher from the Mississippi Public Employees Retirement System to coach. The job description and compensation of this position will be determined by the local school system. For a retired teacher to be hired as a head coach, the local school system must document to the MHSAA that a thorough search has been made to hire a full time certified employee. NOTE: Compensation for retired teachers must conform to the rules of the Mississippi Public Employees Retirement System.

5.4.3 Student teachers serving as an intern in a practicum for credit in a state college or university shall be allowed to serve as an assistant coach.

The student shall not be allowed to serve as a head coach at any level of play in any sport, and he/she shall always be under the direct supervision of a faculty coach.

The student shall meet with the school principal to receive his/her approved coaching assignment(s).

5.4.4 An off-site coach or non-certified district personnel (para-professional) can be the head coach in tennis, golf, soccer, volleyball, cross-country, track, powerlifting, archery, bowling, cheer/dance and swimming, or an assistant coach in any sport.

5.4.5 The school using an off-site or non-certified district employee as a coach is responsible for submitting the name(s) to the MHSAA upon employment.

5.4.6 Steps in preparing the para-professional for their coaching position:

1. Acquire permission from the MHSAA to use the individual. The principal or athletic director must submit in writing to the Executive Director the name(s) of the individual and the sport in which he/she will be assisting.
2. The para-professional must take the Fundamentals of Coaching and the American Red Cross Safety course by going online to www.nfhslearn.com. The Fundamentals of Coaching course is \$75.00 and the Red Cross Safety course is \$50.00. Payment for these courses is made to the National Federation of High Schools. No money is sent to the MHSAA. In lieu of the American Red Cross Safety course, the para-professional may choose to take the NCSS Prepare Safety course. For more information on the NCSS Prepare Safety course, you may visit, www.sportssafety.org. Also, please refer to item 5.3.3 regarding coach first aid certification.
3. An online test on each of the above courses must be taken and passed.
4. After completion of the test, the certificate of completion can be printed directly from the website. **A copy of the certificate must be sent to the MHSAA.** This certificate will be kept in the school file.
5. A recent college transcript indicating successful completion of a safety/first aid course and/or a coaching fundamentals course will be considered in lieu of the above mentioned online courses.
6. Once approved, para-professional coaches must take and complete CPR training and remain certified in CPR and first aid, complete the free online Concussion in Sports course and the online STAR Sportsmanship program. Proof of completion should be kept on file in the district.
7. Additionally, all cheer coaches must be AACCA safety certified. Cheer coaches have one semester to complete this course after their hire date. The AACCA certification is good for four years. The cost of the AACCA Spirit Safety Course is \$75.00 (online or through Kim Higgins, UCA). Online registration is through the NFHS website, www.nfhslearn.com or by contacting Kim Higgins at khiggins@varsityspirit.com. See the *MHSAA Spirit Handbook*, which is considered Part II of the *MHSAA Handbook*, for more details.

5.5 PENALTY CODE

5.5.1 **The penalties for a school in violation of the coaches' and/or school supervision rule during the playing of a contest(s):**

1. The school may be placed on disciplinary probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$2,500.00 for the violation of allowing one illegal individual to serve as a coach and an additional \$1,000.00 for allowing two or more illegal individuals to serve as coaches in a sport.
3. For subsequent violations during a school year, the school shall be fined not to exceed \$5,000.

4. For a violation of the school supervision rule in a sport the school shall be fined not to exceed \$2,500.00 and for subsequent violations during a school year, the school shall be fined not to exceed \$5,000.00.
5. The coach(es) in violation shall be prohibited from performing coaching duties at all levels in all MHSAA sports at all MHSAA schools for one calendar year from the date the penalty ruling is issued.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.6 RULES CLINIC

The head coach of a school's sport must attend a MHSAA administered rules clinic in that sport during the Mississippi Association of Coaches All Sports Clinic or take the rules clinic in that sport online. The online rules clinic will be on the MHSAA website prior to each sport season. Coaches attending the MAC All Sports clinic shall be required to complete an attendance card at the conclusion of the clinic. A head coach failing to attend the rules clinic or completing the online rules clinic shall not be allowed to coach an interscholastic contest until he/she completes the required clinic and shall be assessed a \$50.00 late charge.

5.7 SCHOOL SUPERVISION

- 5.7.1 No team or individual shall be permitted to participate in a contest without the presence of a faculty coach, or a certified para-professional coach from the school he/she represents.
- 5.7.2 If the faculty coach or para-professional coach, serving as head coach, is ejected from a contest and there are no other faculty or para-professional coaches at the contest, a faculty member from the school shall be allowed to represent the school in the contest if he/she has written permission from the school principal. This written permission shall be shown to the head contest official before the faculty member can represent the school and coach the team.

5.8 MHSAA PASSES

- 5.8.1. Refer to the *MHSAA Sports Information Manual*, which is considered Part II of the *MHSAA Handbook*.
- 5.8.2 **The MHSAA PASS is non-transferable;** anyone who allows his/her card to be used illegally shall be denied use of his/her card for one calendar year from the date of misuse.

SECTION 6: SPORTS SEASONS

6.1 GENERAL

- 6.1.1 Designating sport seasons' length is an attempt to provide balance to the athletic calendar and to afford students an opportunity to compete in a variety of sports throughout the school year. It is designed to prevent conflicts that may exist between in-season sports and out-of-season sports. The school principal shall be responsible for assuring that coaches under his/her charge are in strict compliance with the provisions of the sports season rule.
- 6.1.2 The MHSAA sports season for a school team is defined as that period beginning with the opening date of practice as called by each coach within the official starting dates and extending through the school team's last game of the season to include playoff games and the state championships, if applicable, in a particular sport. The actual sports seasons for an individual sport can be found on the MHSAA Sports Calendar of Events.
- 6.1.3 Subject to the approval of the school principal, a coach may have out-of-season organizational meetings with his/her players or potential players. Other than these organizational meetings, a coach shall not organize, supervise, administer, coach, or direct out-of-season practices, games, meetings, or gatherings of student-athletes enrolled in the school. This includes: tryouts and informal workouts for a particular sport. Restrictions do not include strength and conditioning programs; these programs shall be allowed under this rule (subject to the approval of the MHSAA). Refer to the MHSAA Sports Information Manual, which is considered Part II of the MHSAA Handbook for appropriate forms.
- 6.1.4 Subject to the approval of the school principal, "Open gym/field activities" are permitted if they are voluntary and not part of the team selection process and adhere to these principles:
1. Diversity of students – must be open to all;
 2. Student conducted – students choose from offered activities and any coach of a sport under MHSAA jurisdiction shall not coach, instruct, critique, direct or participate in a sport(s) he/she coaches;
 3. Recreational emphasis – the program is not an organized program of instruction and/or competition and there shall not be any organized drills, practice structure and no instruction regarding offensive or defensive schemes by any person, including team members and parents.
- 6.1.5 The penalties for a school in violation of the sports seasons rule shall be as follows:**
1. The school may be placed on disciplinary or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
 2. The school may be suspended from the association until the violation is assessed by the Executive Committee.

3. The school may be suspended from participating in that sport not to exceed one calendar year.
4. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$500.00.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

6.2 INDEPENDENT TEAMS

- 6.2.1 During the school's sports seasons an independent team (i.e.: club team, recreational team, select team, elite team, all-star team) can be made up of no more than 60% of the number that make up the starting number of players for that sport from any one school. (Ex.: 5 players from one school may participate on a baseball or fast pitch softball team, 3 basketball players, 7 soccer or slow pitch softball players).
- 6.2.2 An independent team is a sports team not directly sponsored or supported by a high school through the use of any of the following and may participate in summer league post-season play until the school year begins:
 1. School uniforms
 2. School equipment
 3. Funding in any manner from the school's athletic account or funding from the school's athletic boosters' club
 4. Faculty or para-professional coaches of that school during the school year.
- 6.2.3 A student who is a member of a MHSAA school team shall not participate in any manner in any event in a meet or a contest as an unattached contestant against a high school team, a junior high school team, a collegiate team, a club team or other unattached individuals in that same sport. One individual shall constitute a team in indoor and outdoor track and field.
- 6.2.4 Other legal participation includes the following situations:
 1. Participation at a professional baseball tryout camp provided the student has written permission from his principal. If a tryout camp is conducted during the high school sports season, the student shall be limited to participating in individual drills and restricted from participating in any type of team play.
 2. Participation in a sports clinic/camp, during the high school sports season, provided the student is limited to participating in individual drills and refrains from participating in any type of team play.
 3. Participation in a road run as an individual and not as a school representative during the indoor and/or outdoor track season.
 4. Participation in sports not recognized as MHSAA sports such as rodeo or bicycling during a MHSAA sports season. Any subdivision or variation of a sport such as 3-on-3 basketball, or beach volleyball is considered to be a MHSAA sponsored sport.

5. Participation on an independent team in another sport that is different from the MHSAA sport during a MHSAA sports season (applies to grades 9-12). Example: Participating on an independent basketball team while the student is a member of the school baseball team.
6. Participation in two showcases.

6.3 OUT OF SEASON – DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

- 6.3.1 Schools shall not require or sponsor activities in the name of the school team outside the school season of the sport involved. A school sponsored team or group of any number of students sponsored by the school, which resembles the school's team, is not permitted to practice or compete outside the MHSAA defined season for that sport. No competition between groups that resemble school teams (grades 9-12) may occur in that sport at any school facility and/or any other location with any of that school or school district personnel present. Exception: School personnel (including non-faculty coaches) may coach independent teams outside of the sport season in the following sports: archery, bowling, cross-country, swimming, tennis, track or volleyball. The student participation 60% rule applies to these sports. Any coach that coaches a student from another member school renders the student ineligible at the coach's school for the next school year.

6.4 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- 6.4.1 Summer activities shall extend from the last day of school for students until August 1st. Summer activities in all MHSAA sports at the school's facilities, use of school equipment and sport specific apparatus are subject to the approval of the school principal.
- 6.4.2 During the defined summer period, any number of students from the same school may play on an independent team without affecting his/her eligibility regardless of who coaches the independent team.
- 6.4.3 MHSAA players participating in passing leagues during the summer months when school is not in session in the sport of football may engage in the following:
1. Be coached by their high school coach(es)
 2. Wear helmets
 3. Play under the sponsorship of a non-MHSAA organization
 4. Play on the high school grounds with the written permission of the principal
 5. Cannot wear shoulder pads, hip pads, and/or thigh pads
- 6.4.4 During the designated "Dead Weeks" there shall be no athletics or activities (including weightlifting)
- 6.4.5 Summer activities regulations:
1. Football – 7 playing dates for 7 on 7
 2. Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch Softball – 12 dates for games
 3. Basketball – 12 dates for games
 4. Baseball – 12 dates for games
 5. Volleyball – 12 dates for games
 6. Soccer – 12 dates for games

7. All sports may participate in two approved team camps, which will not account against the 12 dates

6.5 PRACTICE AND OFF-SEASON STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING WORKOUT SESSIONS

- 6.5.1 For students who do not have an athletic period in a particular sport and receive permission to have workouts after school, will be limited to conditioning and weightlifting only for a 50-minute period – no balls, bats, or equipment other than weights will be allowed.
- 6.5.3 Students who do not meet the requirements of the bona fide student rule shall not be allowed to engage in practice and/or strength and conditioning workout sessions at a MHSAA school during the summer months unless the student is officially registered for enrollment in the school for the next school year.
- 6.5.4 Schools that share the same attendance zone with another MHSAA school shall not allow any of its coaches to conduct practice and/or strength or conditioning sessions with any junior high school student(s) attending any junior high school located inside or outside the school's attendance zone during the school year.

6.6 CAMPS, CLINICS, & PRIVATE LESSONS

- 6.6.1 The MHSAA shall not sanction, endorse, ratify, confirm, or approve any camps, clinics, or private lessons.
- 6.6.2 Bona fide sport camps/clinics are those sponsored by institutions or business enterprises including: colleges, individual schools or school districts, community school programs, etc. For a member school and/or coaches to sponsor a sports camp/clinic for students in grades 7-12, the camp/clinic must be promoted and advertised in public media and be opened to students from more than one school. Sports camps/clinics sponsored by member schools and/or coaches shall be allowed only during the summer period. The camp/clinic shall be from one to five days in length and all days must be consecutive.
- 6.6.3 Member schools and/or coaches shall not pay fees, meals, lodging, or other expenses on behalf of student-athletes. Free sports camp/clinics are permissible provided the camp/clinic is free to everyone.
- 6.6.4 Student athletes in grades 7-12 may attend as many individual or team camps/clinics of their choosing during the out-of-season and summer periods on an unattached basis provided they do so at their own expense. Student-athletes shall NOT attend any type of camp/clinic in a sport once that sport season has started and the athlete has officially reported for membership on the school team.
- 6.6.5 Students may take private lessons at any time provided they do so at their own expense.
- 6.6.6 Coaches may coach their son or daughter at any time on an individual basis. This does not give a coach the authority to coach an entire team on which their son/daughter may be participating.

SECTION 7: ATHLETIC CONTESTS

7.1 GENERAL COMPETITION

- 7.1.1 A member school shall be prohibited from participating in any interscholastic athletic event that is not sanctioned by the MHSAA.
- 7.1.2 Two or more member schools shall not unite to compete in an interscholastic athletic event.
- 7.1.3 MHSAA member schools shall not compete against the following teams:
1. High schools that do not meet the stipulations cited in 7.2.1 and 7.3.1.
 2. Independent teams
 3. Recreation teams
 4. Club teams
 5. Junior college or community college teams
 6. Four-year college or university teams
 7. Individuals that compete "unattached" in high school events
 8. Professional or semi-professional teams
 9. Home schooled teams or individual students
- 7.1.4 MHSAA schools shall not compete against high schools from foreign countries unless the event is approved by the Executive Committee.
- 7.1.5 Member schools shall not host or participate in an interscholastic athletic event at a facility that practices discrimination in the event.
- 7.1.6 Once a contest has started, it shall be played to completion, under the applicable playing rules of the sport and be considered an official contest and the results shall be final. If a school believes that an MHSAA rule has been violated, the school should notify the referee in charge of the contest at the point the violation is discovered and report the possible violation. The Executive Director shall investigate the alleged violation and shall rule whether the contest is official or shall be replayed. If the contest is replayed, the game should be picked up where it was left off as the result of the rules infraction. If schools play an athletic contest on a court, field, track, track infield, or other facility that is not regulation, legally marked, or is in poor playing condition, the result of the contest shall stand.
- 7.1.7 Athletic Contracts: The MHSAA office and Executive Committee recommends that all schools have a contract in all sports. If no written contract is available, the schedule submitted to the MHSAA will serve as a basic contract. The school that is responsible for canceling a contest will pay the other school \$100.00 if cancelled prior to 24 hours before the contest or \$200.00 if cancelled less than 24 hours before the contest. Games scheduled between two member schools in good standing may be cancelled by one of the following methods.
1. By mutual consent of the two schools
 2. By authority of the State Executive Committee
 3. By the payment of the cancellation sum set up in the contract

7.2 FORFEITURE OF GAME(S):

7.2.1 If a school voluntarily forfeits two or more scheduled games in one sport, the school shall be fined and will be unable to participate in playoffs for the next season.

1. The school responsible for forfeiting a contest shall pay the other school \$100.00 if cancelled prior to 24 hours prior to the contest.
2. If the contest is cancelled with less than 24 hours notice, the school responsible for cancelling shall pay the other school \$200.00.

7.3 IN-STATE COMPETITION

7.3.1 MHSAA schools shall be allowed to compete against only the following schools in interscholastic athletic scrimmages, jamborees, invitational tournaments, and/or regular contests:

1. MHSAA member schools
2. Schools that have officially applied for membership in the MHSAA
3. Junior high schools (schools that do not have a 12th grade)
4. NFHS or SACS affiliated schools verified and approved for competition by the MHSAA Executive Director.

7.3.2 All interscholastic contests played by member schools shall be conducted in accordance with MHSAA constitutional provisions, by-laws, and playing rules.

7.4 OUT-OF-STATE COMPETITION

7.4.1 MHSAA schools shall be permitted to engage in interscholastic athletic competition against high schools from outside of Mississippi with the following stipulations:

1. The school shall be a member in good standing with its state high school association that is a member of the NFHS.
2. The school is not a member of the state high school association but is permitted to compete against member schools of the association.
3. The school is not a member of the state high school association but is recognized and considered to be in good standing with an approved association.
4. The school is classified as a junior high school in that state.

7.4.2 When MHSAA schools compete against schools in another state, the contest shall be played using the playing rules that have been adopted by the out-of-state school's state association.

7.4.3 When MHSAA schools compete against schools in other states, MHSAA schools shall comply with all MHSAA constitutional rules and bylaws, excluding playing rules.

7.5 SANCTIONING FOR OUT-OF-STATE COMPETITION

- 7.5.1 Submission of appropriate form and sanctioning is required by the MHSAA for competition against schools in bordering states, regardless of the number of competing schools. Refer to the MHSAA Sports Information Manual for appropriate form(s).
- 7.5.2 Each high school association that is a member of the NFHS shall sanction the following contests through the NFHS:
1. Non-bordering events if five or more states are involved.
 2. Non-bordering events if more than eight schools are involved.
 3. Any event involving two or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country.
 4. Any interstate event involving two or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community.

7.6 POLICY ON SPORT RECOGNITION AND MHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORSHIP

- 7.6.1 The following sports shall be recognized for boys only: boys' basketball, boys' football, boys' baseball, boys' golf, boys' cross country, boys' track, boys' tennis, boys' soccer, boys' swimming, boys' wrestling, boys' bowling, and boys' powerlifting.
- 7.6.2 The following sports shall be recognized for girls only: girls' basketball, girls' golf, girls' cross country, girls' track, girls' volleyball, girls' softball (fast pitch and slow pitch), girls' tennis, girls' soccer, girls' swimming, girls' bowling, and girls' powerlifting. When a state championship is offered for girls, they may not play on a boys team in that sport.
- 7.6.3 The Executive Committee shall have the authority to add or eliminate a sport. The Executive Committee may consider adding a new sport to the list of recognized sports at such time as 50 percent of the membership indicates an interest in the sport. Any new sport that meets these requirements must successfully complete a two-year probationary period as a pilot program before final adoption as a recognized sport. The Executive Committee may consider dropping a sport from the list of recognized sports at such time that the number of schools participating in the sport drops below 50 percent. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to make an exception to this rule as necessary for the satisfactory sponsorship of a sport.

7.7 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDING A SPORT

- 7.7.1 The principal shall submit, in writing, on school letterhead, a request to field a team. In the request, the following information shall be included:
1. School name
 2. Sport being added
 3. If it is a boys' team and/or a girls' team being added
 4. The school year the sport is proposed to be added
 5. Varsity and/or junior varsity level
 6. Placed in a region or playing Independent
 7. Any other information deemed necessary

7.7.2 The principal shall contact the district chairperson and notify him/her of his/her school's intent to participate in that sport and request to be included in the district scheduling.

7.8 REQUIREMENTS FOR DROPPING A SPORT

7.8.1 The principal shall submit, in writing, on school letterhead, a notice that his/her school is dropping a sports team. In the notice, the following information shall be included:

1. School name
2. Sport being dropped
3. If it is a boys' team and/or a girls' team
4. The school year the sport is proposed to be dropped
5. Reason for dropping the sport

7.8.2 The principal shall contact the MHSAA with his/her school's decision to drop the sport. If the sport is dropped after schedules have been made, the school shall notify each opponent that it will not field a team.

7.9 SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.9.1 The MHSAA requires all schools to purchase lightning detectors for all athletic events that require participants to be outside.

7.9.2 The MHSAA recommends all school systems have AED's (heart defibrillator) in a location that all coaches and trainers are aware of.

7.9.3 All facilities shall provide a safe environment for players and fans. Non-certified facilities shall not be used for interschool competition.

8.0 PLAYING RULES FOR ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS

8.1 Unless otherwise adopted, the rules governing the various high school sports, as published by the NFHS and known as the National Alliance Rules, shall be the rules governing high school athletics in Mississippi.

8.2 The following contest rules have been adopted by the membership for activity/sports competition in the MHSAA:

SPORT

Archery
Band
Baseball
Basketball (Boys & Girls)
Bowling (Boys & Girls)
Cheer/Dance/Drill Team
Choral
Cross Country (Boys & Girls)
Football

CONTEST RULES

National Archery in the Schools Program
MS Band Manual-Part II of MHSAA Handbook
NFHS Baseball Rules
NFHS Basketball Rules
United States Bowling Congress Rules
MHSAA Cheer Manual-Part II of MHSAA Handbook
MHSAA Choral Manual-Part II of MHSAA Handbook
NFHS Cross Country Rules
NFHS Football Rules

Golf (Boys & Girls)	United States Golf Association (USGA)
Powerlifting	NFHS Powerlifting Rules
Soccer (Boys & Girls)	NFHS Soccer Rules
Softball (Girls)	NFHS Softball Rules
Speech/Debate	MHSAA Speech/Debate Manual-Part II MHSAA Handbook
Swimming (Boys & Girls)	NFHS Swimming Rules
Tennis (Boys & Girls)	United States Tennis Association
Track & Field (Boys & Girls) (Indoor & Outdoor)	NFHS Track & Field Rules
Volleyball (Girls)	NFHS Volleyball Rules
Wrestling	NFHS Wrestling Rules

8.3 WAIVER OF RULES

- 8.3.1 School representatives shall not, even by mutual agreement, waive or modify any part of the contest rules specified in this article or any applicable MHSAA rules.
- 8.3.2 Contest officials shall not waive or modify any part of the contest rules adopted by the MHSAA nor any MHSAA constitutional rules or by-laws.

9.0 CONTEST REGULATIONS

- 9.0.1 A school may play as an independent in a sport for no more than two consecutive years. If a school desires to play as an independent in the sport for a longer period of time, the school must play as an independent in all sports.
- 9.0.2 In the event a school enters a region activity and later withdraws from region play leading to a state championship or festival for any reason other than a providential hindrance, the school may be placed on probation for the remainder of the school year and fined \$250.00.
- 9.0.3 Region contests are similar to and a part of the state program and are subject to the same regulations as state contests.
- 9.0.4 No region shall reduce the number of recognized state contests.
- 9.0.5 Member schools may allow their eligible students to take part in festivals or special events sponsored by other agencies. If such an event involves four or more schools, it must be approved by the Executive Director.

9.1 STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR STATE COMPETITION

- 9.1.1 Winners of first and second places in region individual contests and winners of first and second place division team contests.
- 9.1.2 Teams that are placed in regions for competition will advance the top four teams.
- 9.1.3 Winners of first, second, third and fourth places in Division Track Meets, Region Meets and North/South Meets are eligible to participate in the State Meet.

- 9.1.4 The first and second place team winners with at least a qualifying score of 375 in the Division Golf Tournament shall be certified to play in the State Golf Tournament.
- 9.1.5 The first and second place individual winners from each region are eligible to play in the State Golf Tournament.
- 9.1.6 Team winners that place first, second, third and fourth place with at least a qualifying score of 365 in Regions 6A and 5A Golf Tournaments shall be certified to play in the 6A and 5A Golf State Tournament.
- 9.1.7 Alternates may be submitted in both literary and athletic events, provided they are certified by the division officials. This means that alternates must be certified in the order that they place in division contests.
- 9.1.8 In team events, after qualifying for an event in a division meet or tournament, a school may substitute a team member between meets or tournaments leading to a state championship, but no school will be permitted to substitute a complete team between meets or tournaments. Any team member, before being substituted for, must be disabled for further participation because of illness or accident. In tennis (individual doubles event), a school may substitute one member of a doubles team between the division and state tournament if the participant is injured or sick. The substitute must be a player who did not participate in the division tournament.
- 9.1.9 In swimming, the fastest eight, in each event in (each classification) from the North/South meets, plus the next fastest eight from either meet will advance to the state meet, as long as they have met the state qualifying times.
- 9.1.10 In bowling, the top two teams in each region and class, plus the next two top scoring teams within each class, will advance to the state tournament.

10.0 NUMBER OF CONTESTS AND CONTESTANTS

- 10.0.1 Each school is entitled to one representative in individual contests except platform contests and individual track and field events.
- 10.0.2 Each school is entitled to one team in group contests in division and state meets or tournaments.
- 10.0.3 A basketball team shall be composed of a maximum of 20 team members in participation.
- 10.0.4 The same team that represents a school in division meets or tournaments must continue to represent the school in the state playoffs.
- 10.0.5 No school shall be permitted to use a "B" or second team against opponents in the same classification or in division and state playoffs.
- 10.0.6 An athlete may enter as many as four individual events during a track and field meet.

- 10.0.7 A platform contestant may enter two platform events in each flight.
- 10.0.8 A school may participate in two games during the school week (Monday-end of school day Friday), if one game is a tournament.
- 10.0.9 An athlete may enter a maximum of four events in swimming, no more than two of which may be individual events.
- 10.0.10 A bowling team shall be composed of eight members, five of whom bowl in a match.

10.1 HOLDING DIVISION AND STATE CONTESTS

- 10.1.1 All division meets or tournaments shall be held at least one week prior to state meets or tournaments. All conference championships shall be determined prior to the North/South playoff.
- 10.1.2 The full names of all division winners shall be sent to the MHSAA and the appropriate North, South, or State contest managers immediately following the division meet or tournament. In track, the schools qualifying for the North/South or State meet in one or more events shall on the day following the division, North or South track meet send to the manager of the North/South or State meet the following information:
1. The name of each event in which the school placed
 2. The qualifying position of each team or individual
 3. The name of each team member or individual
 4. The qualifying school in the division track meets shall send the manager of the North or South track meet specified fees for each team member and each individual who qualifies for the meet.
- 10.1.3 The State Basketball finals shall be held not later than March 15.
- 10.1.4 The State Track and Field Meet shall not be held earlier than the last Friday of April.

10.2 DRAWINGS

- 10.2.1 In state tournaments, teams must be entered as first and second but on equal footing.
- 10.2.2 In all contests where a team draws a "BYE" in the first series, that team must play one of the winners of the first series in a second contest.
- 10.2.3 Drawings should be made so as not to have the two teams from any one district in the same bracket.
- 10.2.4 The top two basketball teams from each classification (boys and girls) shall advance from the North and South tournaments to the state basketball tournament.

10.3 JUDGES AND GAME OFFICIALS

- 10.3.1 Judges in all literary and music contests shall be competent, disinterested persons selected for the district by the district committee and for state competition by the state chairperson of debate, platform, piano, and choral divisions.
- 10.3.2 Adjudicators for the State Band Festival shall be selected by the Executive Director.
- 10.3.3 Game officials for all State tournaments shall be selected by the Executive Director or his designated representative.
- 10.3.4 All game officials shall be neutral officials, including clock operators.
- 10.3.5 Under no circumstances shall relatives of players serve as officials.

10.4 GAME SITES

- 10.4.1 Game sites for all state tournaments for boys and girls are selected by the Executive Committee.
- 10.4.2 Game sites for the North boys and girls basketball tournaments shall be selected by the district secretaries of districts I, II, III, and IV and executive committee members from north Mississippi.
- 10.4.3 Game sites for South boys and girls basketball tournaments shall be selected by the district secretaries of districts V, VI, VII, and VIII and executive committee members from south Mississippi.

10.5 PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPENSES

- 10.5.1 Contestants expenses in an interschool contest are a matter to be arranged by mutual agreement. Where there is not an agreement, it is understood the visitors will pay their own expenses.
- 10.5.2 Expenses to region or state contests shall be paid by contestants or individual schools.
- 10.5.3 Expenses of judges and officials for interschool contests shall be paid by the host school.
- 10.5.4 Expenses for divisions or state contests shall be paid by the district unit or state association.

10.6 TIE BREAKER

- 10.6.1 In case of identical region records, the following tie breaker method will be used:
 - 1. Head to head competition in the designated region games between the tied teams: for three or more teams this will be combined records of the teams involved in the tie.
 - 2. How the tied teams did against the highest ranked or seeded teams in the designated games.

Example: Kentucky 9-3
Arkansas 9-3

Records:
Kentucky 9-3
Arkansas 9-3
MS State 8-4
Florida 7-5
Alabama 6-6

The tie would be broken by how Kentucky and Arkansas came out against MS State, then Florida, and then Alabama and so on down the ladder.

NOTE: For volleyball only – the number of games won/lost in a match between the tied teams will be used before going on to the next step.

3. Points differential allowed in ONLY the designated region games involving the tied teams.

Maximum Points: Baseball (10), Soccer (3), Other Sports (12)

Example 1:
Clear-cut tie break for first, second and third

Example 2:
Team 1 winner; Teams 2-3 remain tied;
(Revert to Step 1)

Team 1	+3
	+2
	<u>- 1</u>
	+4

Team 1	+3
	+2
	<u>- 1</u>
	+4

Team 2	+2
	+2
	<u>- 1</u>
	+3

Team 2	+2
	+2
	<u>- 1</u>
	+3

Team 3	+2
	+1
	<u>- 3</u>
	0

Team 3	+2
	+2
	<u>- 1</u>
	+3

NOTE: When more than two teams are tied and a team(s) is eliminated from the tiebreaker and two teams remain tied with identical score differences, the tiebreaker will revert back to the first step.

NOTE: Forfeitures will receive the same maximum points as used to determine a tiebreaker. (Ex: Football – 12 points)

4. Point differential allowed in the region games involving the highest ranked or seeded teams.
5. Fewest points allowed in all region games – (No Maximum Points)
6. The two schools flip a coin

11.0 AWARDS

- 11.0.1 Medallions will be given to first place, second place and third place individual winners.
- 11.0.2 In team contests, trophies will be given and medallions to individual participants.
- 11.0.3 Trophies shall be awarded to the first and second place boys and girls track teams in 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A.
- 11.0.4 Medallions shall be awarded to first place, second place and third place individual track winners.
- 11.0.5 Baseball trophies are awarded to the champions in the North and South 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A classifications. Trophies shall be awarded to the first and second place winners in the state tournament.
- 11.0.6 Cross Country medals shall be awarded to the first three boys and girls finishers in each of the six classifications. Trophies shall be awarded to the first and second place winners in the state tournament. Medallions are awarded to the top thirteen finishers (boys and girls) in each classification.
- 11.0.7 Golf medallions shall be awarded to the first three finishers in each classification. Trophies shall be awarded the champions in each classification.
- 11.0.8 In bowling the top five scorers in both Classes (boys and girls) at the state tournament shall be awarded a medallion.

12.0 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The MHSAA Executive Committee adopted the following policy statement:

The Consortium of Educational Leaders supports the participation of students in interscholastic athletics within their own local conferences and at the state level where authorized. The Consortium considers this involvement in athletics and in other student activities as beneficial to the growth and development of secondary school students. It constitutes an important dimension of the total educational experience.

The Consortium, however, opposes vigorously the establishment of any national athletic championship program for students enrolled in secondary schools. This position is held for these reasons:

1. National championships would provide an overemphasis upon athletics at this age level. Inter-district and state championships afford to athletes a high level of competition while not interfering with the sound concept of providing a well-rounded academic, athletic, and cultural experience for students.
2. National championships would require that students miss a significant amount of class time to train for and participate in the scheduled games. Many of the students are not sufficiently proficient in school to afford to miss additional days for national contests. Some in fact, could benefit from

supplemental work in reading, writing, or mathematics to carry them beyond their active athletic years.

3. High School students are at an impressionable age and often are unable to handle adequately the publicity attendant to state-level competition. This problem would be compounded by national championships and would only further distort their perspective and their basic values.
4. An over-involvement with athletics interferes with the operation of schools for the majority of students. It is unfortunate, but true, that when athletics become too important, then classes are cancelled for rallies, special arrangements have to be made for athletes missing their work, a "privileged class" develops in the student body, and the basic values of the school become masked by the momentary glamour of it all.
5. It is quite possible that commercial programs will develop to exploit athletes selected for any national athletic championship program. The Consortium has no objection to the selection of students for recognition by commercial interests, but it would object strongly to an actual sponsorship of national high school athletic contests by commercial firms.

Athletics are an important part of the lives of many students and adults. It is important, however, that a proper perspective be maintained so that promotional endeavors do not harm the many benefits which accrue to persons who participate in athletic activities.

13.0 STAR SPORTSMANSHIP REQUIREMENT

13.0.1 During the 2008-2009 school year, every school that was a member of the Mississippi High School Activities Association was required to go through the Star Sportsmanship program. Below are the requirements that were passed by the MHSAA Executive Committee.

- Coaches, student-athletes, cheerleaders, and dance participants in middle school and high school sports will be required to complete the Star Sportsmanship online program which is endorsed by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi Association of Coaches, and the Mississippi High School Activities Association
- It will be the responsibility of the head coach of each sport to insure that his or her team's student-athletes and assistant coaches complete the Star Sportsmanship program.
 - *Junior high and middle school coaches and students must complete the Star Program before their sports season ends.
 - *High school coaches and students must complete the Star Program before post-season play begins in their sport.
- Star Sportsmanship rosters of high school teams participating in the playoffs will be checked along with the required playoff eligibility rosters turned in by participating schools. STAR SPORTSMANSHIP schools will be notified prior to the first playoff contest of coaches and players who have not completed the program.
 - *The high school head coach will not be allowed to participate in post-season play until all players and assistant coaches have completed the Star Sportsmanship program.
 - * Middle schools will be randomly checked to insure completion of the Star program. A \$500 fine will be assessed middle school teams not completing the program.
- **Any coach or player who is ejected must complete the Star Sportsmanship program (if it has not already been completed) plus the remedial module Take 2 before the ejected coach or player can once again participate.**

Who must complete the STAR Sportsmanship program during the 2015-2016 school year?

- **Any coach or player who has not already gone through the training must complete it. (All new coaches must complete the training.)**
- **Any cheer or dance coach or participant who has not already gone through the training must complete it.**
- **Coaches are encouraged to use the parent module at their team meetings.**

Middle school students who have gone through the middle school version do NOT need to go through the high school version if they are moving to the high school. Their STAR Sportsmanship certification is still effective.

The Executive Board is using a proactive approach to a serious problem—poor sportsmanship. To access the program, simply go to the MHSAA website: www.misshsaa.com. Double-click on [“STAR Sportsmanship School Finder”](#) to get your school’s code. The training may be done at home, at school, at the library, or on any computer. If you have any problems, call **Learning Through Sports** at 866-552-9192.

14.0 HAZING/HARASSMENT POLICY

The MHSAA is committed to encouraging and promoting good sportsmanship/citizenship in all levels of activities and interscholastic competition. We feel a responsibility in promoting a positive atmosphere during every event within the activities association. Some groups and organizations have taken it upon themselves to “initiate” newcomers and sometimes these celebrations can become abusive. Each individual plays an important role in making every event as safe as possible.

Hazing can be defined as any act or ceremony which can create the risk of harm to a student as a form of initiation into a particular club or activity. Hazing includes activities that involve the risk of physical harm, whipping, branding, ingesting vile substances, sleep deprivation, over-exposure to heat or cold, restraint, nudity or kidnapping, i.e.

Hazing or harassment by any name is wrong. Anyone who witnesses or hears about a form of harassment should report it. Allegations of harassment may be the result of words, physical contact, email, or other unwelcome verbal or non-verbal communication.

It is the responsibility of school administration including the athletic staff, sponsors, and teachers to report any form of hazing/harassment and to deal with the problem on the local level. The state association office should only be contacted if an incident takes place during an MHSAA activity. Taking control in schools by establishing an anti-hazing policy that is explained and enforced is recommended. Students need a way to safely report incidents of hazing to the school guidance counselor and/or other administrative personnel.

SECTION 8: MEDIA POLICY

- 6.1** Media rights for MHSAA regular-season events are administered and regulated at the discretion of the host school.
- 6.2** Media rights for MHSAA postseason (playoffs) and state championship events are administered by the Association. For an explanation of MHSAA postseason regulations and broadcast fees, please visit the MHSAA website at www.misshsaa.com. Click “General Info” then” Media “in drop down box under General Info.

SECTION 9: HISTORICAL NOTES

Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., (as previously constituted) and its Predecessor Associations

The Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association was the logical result of the desire of geographical regional groups to have some basis for intergroup contests. The schoolmasters' clubs (now know as regional units) have been in existence for nearly 40 years. They were perhaps originally planned as social and professional associations for school men; with oratorical contests the principal student interest.

Each of the older clubs not only did a worthwhile work in promoting a friendly and professional spirit among schoolmasters and in quickening the interest through contests of high school boys and girls in school life, but each has made valuable contributions to the State Association. In this manner of development from group to State Association – the Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association was perhaps unique among similar state organizations.

Beginning in 1919 at annual meetings of the Mississippi Education Association, attempts were made to coordinate these clubs into a state association. The clubs were jealous of their authority and each was proud of its own peculiar development and traditions, and not until 1922 were all groups found willing to make individual sacrifices in order that a state association might come into existence. The State Association was formed in 1922. It directed and controlled the interschool relations during the school year 1922 – 23, and in the spring of 1923 a literary and field meet was held in Jackson and it was very successful.

The membership of the original State Committee to whom much credit is due was as follows:

J. S. Vandiver, Chairman	L. B. Reid
C. E. Harris, Secretary	N. C. Moncrief
	W. B. Kenna

The organization as originally set up continued to function until 1939. The feeling that there was need for a change in the organization so as to give more continuity of thought in the legislative procedure, the Association began to assert itself in 1938. The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Education Association passed a resolution in 1938 calling upon the Executive Committee to revise its organization so as to give more stability to the legislative branch of the Association. In response to this resolution, a committee was authorized to draft a formal Constitution and By-Laws for the government and direction of the Association; the same to be submitted to the Mississippi Education Association for final approval. This was a joint committee composed of one representative from each of the ten regions elected by the school men of the respective regions, and the State Committee. The following committee was elected:

W. B. Kenna, General Chairman

Regional Representatives

Delta-Supt. F. C. Barnes, Drew
Big Black – Supt. J. B. Edwards, Ackerman
East Central – Supt. J. L. McCaskill, Meridian
Gulf Coast – Supt. G. W. Ditto, Biloxi
Middle Mississippi – Not represented

North Central – Supt. C. C. Holloman, Batesville
North East – Supt. B. D. McCallister, West Point
North West – Supt. J. F. Russum, Hernando
South East – Supt. Herbert Ferrell, Taylorsville
South West – Supt. D. C. Leach, Monticello

State Committee

Supt. E. S. Bowlus – Brookhaven
Supt. R. S. Weems – Morton
Coach E. W. Young – Ellisville
Supt. W. B. Kenna - Lexington

This committee met in February, 1939, and drafted a proposed constitution, which was submitted to and adopted by the Mississippi Education Association in its regular meeting in March of the same year. The constitution was put into effect immediately after its adoption.

The Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association did a worthwhile and constructive work in its efforts to elevate the standards of sportsmanship, to develop a higher standard of scholarship, and to encourage pride in scholastic achievement. Much credit for these accomplishments is due to men who have given unselfishly of their time and effort in behalf of the program. Members of the state committees, state councils, regional committees and all other special committees, superintendents, principals, coaches, teachers, and students have shown a wonderful spirit of cooperation and good will. This has contributed much to the success of the Association.

However, the expansion of the program of the State Association, and the development of parallel programs by other groups brought about many conflicts and much overlapping. The work had grown to such proportions that it was impossible for “part time men” to do the work necessary for the administration of the program. It seemed to be the consensus of opinion that a reorganization of the Association was necessary so as to coordinate and integrate all interschool activities in such a way that the whole program could be administered through one office. It was also the definite conviction of all concerned that a full time office with at least two full time workers would be necessary to successfully administer the new program.

Studies were made by various committees and recommendations formulated. All agreed that reorganization was necessary and that a full time office should be set up. The principal question was whether or not the new Association should be a subsidiary and a part of the Mississippi Education Association or an independent organization. After exhaustive studies had been made of prevailing practices in other states and of conditions in our state, it was finally agreed that it would be better to set up an independent association. It was pointed out that absolute harmony would always exist between the two associations, since those interested in one would also be interested in the other.

A Constitution Committee headed by C. S. McGivaren was appointed. This committee spent much time on the project and finally drafted a constitution that was acceptable to all groups. This constitution was submitted to the various district meetings in the fall of 1948 and was overwhelmingly approved by representatives of member schools. It was also approved by the Delegate Assembly of the Mississippi Education Association in the spring of 1949. On May 7, 1949, the Legislative Body of the Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association held its last meeting. At this meeting the new organization with its Constitution was finally approved and the “Old Organization” ordered liquidated as of July 1,

1949. Thus the Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association ceased to exist and the Mississippi High School Association came into being as its successor. On June 29, 1949, the governing body of the new Association approved the Constitution and By-Laws and set up the machinery for the new organization, which started July 1.

The State Council had at a previous meeting elected the following as the first State Committee of the new Association:

C. L. Milling – Ruleville
L. W. Tanner- Moss Point
W. P. Daniel – New Albany
W. B. Dribben – Benoit
S. M. Crain – Clinton

The State Executive Committee elected W. B. Kenna, Lexington, as the Director of Activities of the Mississippi High School Association. This completed the reorganization plans and all committees were finally discharged.

On January 6, 1950, Article I of the Constitution of the Mississippi High School Association was amended to read as follows: The name of the organization is the Mississippi High School Activities Association. This organization was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi on December 19, 1956.

MAGNOLIA STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

In the mid 1950's high school educators from throughout the state realized a need for an organization to give guidance to the schools' extra-curricular programs.

The first attempt to perfect an organization was presented to the delegate assembly of the Mississippi Teachers Association (MTA). A committee was appointed to study Constitutions and By-Laws of other Activities Associations and to draw up a proposed constitution.

A proposed Constitution was presented to the next delegate assembly of MTA. The delegates voted to authorize the Principals' Association to organize an Activities Association.

In 1960, the Principals' Association appointed E. S. Bishop as Coordinator. Study Chairmen of the eight educational districts were appointed to serve as the legislative body until the districts could elect this body. This body elected an Executive Committee, approved a Constitution and By-Laws and caused plans to be implemented for the operation of the Association.

D. M. Smith served as president of the Association from May, 1966 through May, 1968, and W. L. Slaughter served as president from June, 1968 through February 7, 1971. H. T. Drake served as Director of Activities from July 1, 1966 through February 7, 1971.

On February 8, 1971, the Magnolia State High School Activities Association and the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. were merged to form the new Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated.

MERGER OF FORMER ASSOCIATIONS TO FORM THE EXISTING ASSOCIATION

On September 10, 1969, the Magnolia State High School Activities Association filed suit in United States District Court seeking a merger with the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., and on August 13, 1970, the two Associations were ordered to merge. The merger was effectuated on February 8, 1971.

By order entered on February 3, 1971, the Court approved and adopted a Merger Plan which, by the terms of the order, became effective on February 8, 1971. The Merger Plan contained certain new matter dealing with the transition of the two separate Associations into a new Merged Association, and also contained certain new Constitution and By-Law provisions, but it provided that the Constitution and By-Laws of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated (as previously constituted), as they appeared in that Association's 1969 – 1970 Handbook, should remain in full force and effect as the Constitution and By-Laws of the Merged Association, except where they were in conflict with the Merger Plan.

Therefore, for the sake of brevity and clarity in this Handbook, rather than setting out here in the verbatim Merger Plan which makes numerous references to the 1969 – 1970 Handbook of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated (as previously constituted), only the pertinent transitional provisions of the Merger Plan (Articles I-VI) are set forth verbatim herein, with the other new provisions of the Merger Plan being simply incorporated in the Constitution, By-Laws and general information which follow.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES AND DIRECTORS OF ACTIVITIES

W. B. "Bill" Kenna, Superintendent of Lexington Schools, was elected as the first full-time secretary on July 1, 1949. He served in this capacity until June 30, 1958. On January 6, 1950, the name of the organization became Mississippi High School Activities Association. The organization was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi on December 19, 1956.

W. D. "Webb" Allen, Superintendent of Schools at Tupelo, was elected as the replacement and began work on July 1, 1958, retiring on June 30, 1968. The organization continued to get stronger, and the Officials' Association became a part of the Association with a full-time Supervisor of Officials.

M. P. "Dick" Smith, Superintendent of Picayune, began serving the organization on July 1, 1968. Having previously served as state president of the Association for five years, he brought unique experience to the growth of the Association. He guided the Association through the Federal Court cases and implemented the court ordered merger plan. He is credited with effectively creating a smooth transition which led to continued growth of the new Association. He retired on June 1, 1979.

H. T. Drake, Principal of the Rosa Scott High School at Madison, was elected full time Director of the Magnolia Association on July 1, 1966. He served in this capacity until February 8, 1971, when he was elected Assistant Director of Activities of the new Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated. He was instrumental in the merging of the two Associations and in helping the new organization to grow strong.

Woodrow L. Marsh, Superintendent of Schools at Cleveland, began his term in office on July 1, 1979. He had previously served on the Legislative Council for nine years. During his tenure, state championships

in football, girl's softball, and soccer were organized. The schools' classification was changed from four to five classes. Divisions were developed in all sports and the number one and number two team advances in the state playoffs. Seeing a real need for additional office space, he led in the purchase of land, planning, financing and supervising the construction of the new office building at 1201 Clinton-Raymond Road in Clinton. He retired June 30, 1991, after serving forty-three years in the field of education in Mississippi.

Ennis H. Proctor, Ed.D., Principal of Forest Hill High School, began his term of office on July 1, 1991 and retired June 30, 2011. Under Dr. Proctor's leadership the MHSAA greatly expanded opportunities for secondary students to be actively involved in their schools. He established a corporate sponsorship program that helped the Association to become financially stable. Dr. Proctor also formed the scholar athlete scholarship program to encourage students academically, and he paid off the existing structure and expanded the headquarter building.

Don Hinton began his term of office on July 1, 2011 and currently serves as the sixth executive Director of the MHSAA. Mr. Hinton served seven years on the MHSAA executive committee prior to becoming executive director elect in July 2010. Mr. Hinton also helped implement and coordinate the Star Sportsmanship program for two years. He has 30 years in education that include serving as a teacher, principal, assistant principal, athletic director, head and assistant coach.

**MERGER PLAN OF
MAGNOLIA STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
AND
MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Magnolia State High School Activities (hereinafter referred to as the "Magnolia Association") and its member schools, shall be merged in accordance with this Plan into one high school activities association, so that upon such merger taking effect there shall be only one high school activities association in the State of Mississippi, to be known as Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Merged Association").

**I.
ORGANIZATION**

The Mississippi Association exists and is operating as a nonprofit corporation, it having been incorporated under the nonprofit corporation laws of the State of Mississippi. The Magnolia Association is an unincorporated association. Upon the merger being effectuated, the Magnolia Association and the Mississippi Association shall cease to exist. However, the Merged Association, although a wholly new association, shall exist and operate under the same Articles of Incorporation under which the Mississippi Association is now operating.

**II.
MEMBERSHIP**

All schools which are currently members in good standing of either the Mississippi Association or the Magnolia Association and which are eligible for membership under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Merged Association as hereinafter set forth shall automatically become members of the Merged Association.

**III.
MERGER OF ASSETS**

All assets of the Mississippi Association and the Magnolia Association including all funds, bank accounts, records, books, office furniture, equipment, automobiles and all other property, real and personal, shall be transferred and delivered to the Executive Director of the Merged Association and shall become property of the Merged Association.

**IV.
AMINISTRATORS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES**

- A. The Merged Association shall retain the services of M. P. Smith (the present Executive Director of the Mississippi Association) as its Executive Director, and the services of H. T. Drake (the present Executive Director of the Magnolia Association) as its Assistant Executive Director, for the balance of their respective contracts, and their respective salaries shall be fixed commensurate to the salaries which they were receiving on May 7, 1970; provided, however, that their salaries thus fixed shall not be lower than the salaries which they were receiving on the aforesaid date. The administrative staff and other employees shall be employed free from racial discrimination.
- B. For a period of at least three years the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director shall not be of the same race.
- C. The Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director shall be given discretion in the hiring of their secretaries.
- D. Alphonse Marks shall be employed to serve as Assistant Supervisor of Officials for the 1970 – 71 school year, and he shall be compensated as follows: a minimum of \$15.00 per assignment and 10¢ per mile for travel per assignment.

**V.
INITIAL ELECTIONS OF
STATE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PRESIDENT,
ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT OFFICERS**

As soon as practicable after the merger has become effective, all members of the State Council, all members of the Executive Committee, the President of the Merged Association, all members of the Advisory Committees and all of the District Officers and Committeemen shall be elected as provided in the Constitution of the Merged Association. The first year of the term of offices of each person so elected shall end on June 30, 1971.

For the initial election of members of the State Council of the Merged Association, the Executive Directors of the two merging associations using current school enrollments and the map appearing on page seven (7) of the Mississippi Association's 1969-70 Handbook, shall determine the number and classification of schools eligible for membership in the new association in each of the eight districts of the state.

VI.
ATHLETIC OFFICIALS

- A. Each of the six Officials Districts and each local officials group shall elect a secretary and an assistant secretary, one of whom shall be white and the other black, and the secretary and assistant secretary shall work together in making game assignments.
- B. Athletic officials presently certified by either the Magnolia Association or the Mississippi Association shall be certified by the Merged Association.

2015-2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Anthony Jenkins, President (2016)
DeSoto County School District
Five East South Street
Hernando, MS 38632-2216
Phone: 662-429-5271, Fax: 662-429-4198

Scott Cantrell, Superintendent (2017)
Monroe County School District
P. O. Box 209
Amory, MS 38821
Phone: 662-257-2176, Fax: 662-257-2181

Paul Henry, Principal (2018)
Pontotoc High School
123 Education Drive
Pontotoc, MS 38863
Phone: 662-4-89-1275, Fax: 662-489-5255

Brian Harvey, Superintendent (2017)
Oxford School District
224 Bramlett Boulevard
Oxford, MS 38655
Phone: 662-234-3541, Fax: 662-232-2862

Michael Ray, Athletic Director (2018)
Western Line School District
P. O. Box 50
Avon, MS 38723
Phone: 662-335-7186, Fax: 662-378-2285

Adam Dillinger, Athletic Director (2017)
Choctaw County High School
393 East Main Street
Ackerman, MS 39735
Phone: 662-285-4101, Fax: 662-285-4149

Jim Wood, Principal (2019)
Ethel High School
P. O. Box 340
Ethel, MS 39067
Phone: 662-674-5673, Fax: 662-674-5817

North At-Large
Lisa Hull, Superintendent (2018)
Philadelphia Public School District
248 Byrd Avenue
Philadelphia, MS 39350
Phone: 602-656-2955, Fax: 601-656-3141

Mark Herrington, Assistant Superintendent (2019)
Jones County School District
5204 Highway 11 North
Ellisville, MS 39437
Phone: 601-649-5201, Fax: 601-469-1613

TBD (2019)

Dr. Ray Morgigno, Superintendent (2018)
Pearl Public School District
P. O. Box 5750
Pearl, MS 39208
Phone: 601-932-7921, Fax: 601-932-7929

Jason Case, Principal (2016)
West Lincoln High School
948 Jackson Liberty Drive SW
Brookhaven, MS 39601-9250
Phone: 601-833-4000, Fax: 601-833-9909

Tracy Cook, Superintendent (2016)
Jefferson County School District
P. O. Box 157
Fayette, MS 39069
Phone: 601-786-3721, Fax: 601-786-8441

Greg Freeman, Athletic Director (2016)
Pascagoula Athletic Department
P. O. Box 250
Pascagoula, MS 39568-0250
Phone: 228-938-6568, Fax: 228-938-65690

South At-Large
Dr. Delesicia Martin, Superintendent (2018)
Hinds County School District
13192 Highway 18
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: 601-857-5222, Fax: 601-857-8548

**2015-2016
LEGISLATIVE BODY**

District I	Mike Ray, Principal, Calhoun City	1A/2A	2017
	TBA	3A	2019
	Shane Sanderson, A.D., New Albany	4A	2016
	TBA	At-Large	2019
	*Greg Tucker, Coach, Baldwin		
District II	Chris Basil, Asst. Principal, East Union	1A/2A	2016
	Donald Deans, Coach, Holly Springs	3A	2017
	Gary Drewrey, A.D., Lafayette	4A	2017
	TBA	5A/6A	2016
	*Jimmy Murphrey, Coach, Lafayette		
District III	John Banks, Coach, St. Joseph	1A/2A	2019
	Glenda Jackson, Administration, Western Line	3A	2019
	Kelly Causey, Coach, Cleveland	4A	2018
	Clinton Gatewood, Coach, Greenwood	At-Large	2016
	*Willie Goins, A.D., Greenville		
District IV	Tate Hanna, A.D., Nanih Waiya	1A/2A	2016
	Teddy Dyess, Coach, Philadelphia	3A	2018
	Jerrelyn Jackson, Asst. Supt., Kosciusko	4A	2016
	Greg Carter, Coach, Starkville	5A/6A	2016
	*Heath Dudley, Coach, J. Z. George		
District V	Brad Breland, A.D., Union	1A/2A	2017
	Ryan Earnest, A.D., Collins	3A	2017
	Steve Hampton, A. D., Quitman	4A	2019
	Todd Mangum, Coach, Wayne County	5A/6A	2019
	*Matt Caldwell, Asst. Principal, Taylorsville		
District VI	Bill Ward, A.D., Pelahatchie	1A/2A	2016
	DeWayne Cupples, A.D. St. Andrew's	3A	2018
	Clinton Johnson, A.D. Jackson Public Schools	4A	2018
	Lum Wright, A.D., Vicksburg-Warren Schools	5A/6A	2018
	*Scott Rimes, Principal, McLaurin		
District VII	Gareth Sartin, Coach, Bogue Chitto	1A	2017
	Robin Case, Principal, Loyd Star	2A	2017
	Ronald Greer, A.D., Wesson	3A	2017
	TBA	4A/5A	2019
	*Tommy Clopton, A.D., Brookhaven		
District VIII	Lance Mancuso, A.D., Bassfield	1A/2A	2016
	Tim McNair, A.D., Prentiss	3A	2018
	Brad Hankins, Coach, Purvis	4 A	2017
	Bryan Caldwell, A.D., Gulfport	5A/6A	2018
	*Kevin Britt, Principal, New Augusta		
	Fine Arts Member: Bryan Jefferson, Band Director, Murrah * Junior High/Middle School Representative		2019

**2015-2016
DISTRICT SECRETARIES**

DISTRICT I

Larry Williams
849 Jones Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801
662-841-2188 or 662-231-3703

DISTRICT II

Johnny Hill, AD
7 Howell Loop
Oxford, MS 38655
662-816-5472

DISTRICT III

James Nicholson
P. O. Box 87
Glen Allan, MS 38744
662-822-6590

DISTRICT IV

Joey Blount
12870 Highway 21 North
Philadelphia, MS 39350
601-575-8953

DISTRICT V

Tommy Parker, Superintendent
Jones County School District
5204 Highway 11 North
Ellisville, MS 39437
601-649-5201

DISTRICT VI

Jerry Huskey
P. O. Box 721075
Byram, MS 39272
601-668-2026

DISTRICT VII

Mike Goff
105 Cater Lane NE
McCall Creek, MS 39647
601-384-6748

DISTRICT VIII

Carl Shepherd
4921 Highway 29
Petal, MS 39465
601-583-9201



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of Mississippi

It's good to be Blue.



Lynn Fitch
STATE TREASURER
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