

BYLAWS

Revised by Referendum — October, 2004

BYLAW 1 — COVERAGE

Section 1. Application of Bylaws and Sports Regulations

- 1-1-1 The bylaws and sports regulations apply to all participants in interscholastic athletic contests involving students in grades seven through twelve and include matters of eligibility, contracts, qualifications, responsibility and behavior of various personnel.
- 1-1-2 Students enrolled below the seventh grade are ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics. Students enrolled in grades 7 or 8 are ineligible for interscholastic competition on the same squad with students in grade 9 or higher. Exception — A student who attains the age of 15 prior to August 1 is eligible for interscholastic athletics only at the high school level not to exceed eight semesters.
- 1-1-3 These bylaws cannot be waived, modified or amended by mutual consent between or among contesting schools.

Section 2. Sponsorship

- 1-2-1 All practices, games, previews and other interscholastic athletic contests must be under the direct control, sponsorship and supervision of schools involved and be the financial responsibility of such schools except that high school contests sponsored by colleges and universities are exempt from this bylaw.
- 1-2-2 This Bylaw applies to all sports recognized by the OHSAA.

Section 3. Penalties

- 1-3-1 Penalties for violations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Sports Regulations shall be assessed in accordance with Bylaw 12 unless a specific penalty is provided in the Constitution, Bylaws and Sports Regulations. In such cases the specific penalty shall apply.

Section 4. Interscholastic Competition

- 1-4-1 Interscholastic competition is sports competition in which students from two or more schools compete. This includes scheduled contests, sports day, electronic contests, invitational contests, alumni games and interschool scrimmages.
- 1-4-2 Instructional clinics and demonstrations designed for the teaching of fundamental skills and conducted for learning theory, techniques, rules, game procedure and strategy shall not be counted as a scheduled contest.
- 1-4-3 Interscholastic competition shall be conducted using contest rules adopted by the Board of Control. Modifications or changes in sport rules are not permitted except those provided in the rule book and approved by the Board of Control.

Section 5. Recognized Sports

- 1-5-1 A recognized sport is one adopted by the Board of Control. (NOTE: boys baseball, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls cross country, girls field hockey, boys football, boys and girls golf, boys and girls gymnastics, boys ice hockey, boys and girls soccer, girls softball (fast pitch), boys and girls swimming and diving, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls track and field, girls volleyball, boys wrestling are recognized sports this year.)

Section 6. Non-Recognized Sports

- 1-6-1 Schools sponsoring sports not recognized by the Association shall adhere to the Ohio High School Athletic Association bylaws and applicable sports regulations.

Section 7. Team Membership

- 1-7-1 Girls may play on a boys team if there is no girls team or if the overall opportunities for interscholastic competition are less for girls.
- 1-7-2 A girl that is a member of a boys team shall follow all contests rules and regulations regarding the sport as specified for the boys.
- 1-7-3 Boys may not play on girls teams unless the overall opportunities for interscholastic competition for boys are less than for girls and the competing schools mutually agree.

Section 8. Team Competition Between Sexes

- 1-8-1 Teams of the opposite sex shall not compete against each other in any interscholastic athletic contests.

BYLAW 2 — CLASSIFICATION AND ORGANIZATION

Section 1 — Classification of Schools

- 2-1-1 Classification and representation to tournaments will be calculated every other school year. The classification will be calculated in a school year beginning with an even numbered year for use in the next two school years. Boys classification shall be determined by the total number of boys enrolled in grades 9-10-11. Girls classification shall be determined by the total number of girls enrolled in grades 9-10-11. In those school districts where the ninth grade is not part of the high school, the ninth grade total will be determined by using the number of those ninth graders who will be assigned to the high school the following year.
- 2-1-2 One-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) or as near to one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) as possible of the member schools will be assigned to each classification.

Class A	—	Lower third of total
Class AA	—	Middle third of total
Class AAA	—	Upper third of total

- 2-1-3 School teams or individuals may compete in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments only in the tournaments to which assigned.
- 2-1-4 Enrollment information used for classification shall be provided by the State Department of Education's *Education Management Information System* (EMIS) to the OHSAA. All boys and girls in grades 9, 10 and 11 included in this EMIS report shall be counted for enrollment purposes.
- 2-1-5 High schools that consolidate during the school year will be classified on the basis of school enrollment of boys or girls in grades 9-10-11 at the legal date of consolidation. In the event of the opening of a new high school or transfer of territory under Section 3311.38 of the Ohio Revised Code, member school classification assignments will be based upon actual number of boys or girls enrolled in grades 10, 11 and 12 as of September 10 of the current year.
- 2-1-6 There shall be no classification of schools below the 9th grade for athletic purposes.

Section 2. Organization of Schools

- 2-2-1 Four year high schools may elect to have all students in grades 9-12 eligible to participate in varsity, jr. varsity, reserve and class teams.
- 2-2-2 Ninth grade students in all schools are high school students and shall compete in athletics in accordance with high school bylaws and regulations.
- 2-2-3 Ninth grade students are not permitted to compete in interscholastic competition on the same team or squad with students below ninth grade.

BYLAW 3 — ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Section 1. Ultimate Responsibility

- 3-1-1** The principal of the school shall be held primarily responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics involving the school. The principal or the principal's designee has the responsibility to educate the member school's students, coaches, school personnel, boosters and other appropriate persons involved in interscholastic athletics regarding OHSAA bylaws and sport regulations that could affect them. Further, the principal or the principal's designee shall monitor the school's compliance with OHSAA bylaws and sports regulations and conduct an appropriate inquiry if information arises concerning a possible violation of OHSAA bylaws and/or sports regulations.
- 3-1-2** All school administrative and athletic personnel have a duty to immediately report violations that may affect the status of an athlete, team or contest.
- 3-1-3** The principal of each member school shall annually designate the individual at the school who is responsible for all matters pertaining to the conduct of interscholastic athletics.
- 3-1-4** The individual so designated shall sign petitions and/or referendums and/or registration cards and/or any other matters requiring a signature. The Association office shall send all such correspondence to the designated individual.
- 3-1-5** If a member school principal fails to make the designation during the month of August, the building principal shall automatically be the designated individual for the current year.

Section 2. School Representative Must Accompany Team

- 3-2-1** The principal or representative(s) authorized by the principal, in addition to the coaches, shall be present throughout all varsity football and varsity basketball games. In all other sports, the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education shall be present throughout the contest.
- 3-2-2** When a male coach is assigned to a girls team, an adult female (non-high school student) should be present at the contest. When a female coach is assigned to a boys team, an adult male (non-high school student) should be present at the contest.

Section 3. Courtesy to Officials and Visiting Schools

- 3-3-1** Recognized law enforcement officials should be given specific instruction by the school administrator as to duties before, during and after the contest. This will include keeping spectators from the field or floor during the contest, supervision of parking and safe conduct of contest officials and visiting team from the contest area. Failure to protect the contest, the teams or the officials constitutes a violation of the Bylaws.

Section 4. Student Participation and Physical Examination Forms

- 3-4-1** Athletic participation forms for participants in any of the grades 7-12 shall be signed by a medical examiner (Physician [M.D., D.O., or D.C.], Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant), the participant and by a parent or guardian. These forms must be on file with the principal or designee before any candidate for a team may participate in a practice. These forms shall require the medical examiner to certify the individual's physical fitness no less than once each calendar year.

Exception: If the preparticipation athletic evaluation is conducted between May 1 and June 1, the preparticipation evaluation, signed by the medical examiner, is valid for one calendar year plus the remainder of the next school year.

- 3-4-2** If a student athlete transfers to another school, the physical examination forms shall be transferred to the new school.
- 3-4-3** Section 3313.73 of the Ohio Revised Code reads in part as follows: "This section does not require any school child to receive a medical examination or receive medical treatment whose parent or guardian objects thereto." A form certifying this objection shall be signed by the parent or guardian and attached to the Parental Approval Form.

Section 5. Eligibility Certificates

- 3-5-1** At the beginning of each sport season the principal or the official designee of each school shall prepare an eligibility certificate listing only those students eligible under OHSAA rules to represent the school in each sport. Said eligibility certificates shall be prepared separately for each sport in which that school participates and filed in the office of the principal or official designee and available for inspection upon request.
- 3-5-2** Corrections, additions and deletions may be made as the sport season progresses and filed in the appropriate school office.

Section 6. Duties Regarding Appeals

- 3-6-1** All school administrative and athletic personnel, including interscholastic coaches, and student-athletes themselves, have a responsibility to cooperate fully with the Commissioner, the Commissioner's staff and members of the Board of Control in all matters which are the subject of any investigation, hearing or appeal.
- 3-6-2** When requested by a member of the Board of Control, or the Commissioner, the principal shall attend any and all hearings or appeals conducted on behalf of the OHSAA.

BYLAW 4 — STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Eligibility

- 4-1-1** Each student shall meet all requirements in this bylaw to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition.
- 4-1-2** If a student participates in an athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information (includes but is not limited to: name, address, transcripts, birth certificate, etc.), the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed.

Section 2. Age Limitation

- 4-2-1** If a student enrolled in high school attains the age of 19 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

EXCEPTION: If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner if, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student's participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- d) the student's participation does not displace another student-athlete; and
- e) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

- 4-2-2** If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7-8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

EXCEPTION: If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner if, in the Commissioner's sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and

- c) the student’s participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- d) the student’s participation does not displace another student-athlete; and
- e) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

4-2-3 A student shall become eligible for high school athletics when the student attains the fifteenth birthday before August 1, or when the student attains ninth grade standing. The student is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth grade level.

4-2-4 In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in the school records shall be considered as final, except that when birth records, filed within six years after date of birth, are available in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or a comparable governmental agency, it shall be used. If this information is not available and if the school records do not agree, the earliest date of birth shall be considered the valid date of birth.

4-2-5 Family Bibles, physician’s statements, parents’ affidavits, baptismal certificates etc., will not be accepted in lieu of birth certificates. Amendments to birth certificates filed after six years from date of birth will not be considered.

Section 3. Enrollment and Attendance

4-3-1 All students on a school athletic squad (grades 7-12) shall be enrolled and attending the school which sponsors the squad in accordance with duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies.

EXCEPTION 1: Students enrolled in the ninth grade separate from the high school (grade 10-12) are eligible to participate with the school squad of the high school they will be assigned to attend.

EXCEPTION 2: Students enrolled in a joint vocational school are eligible at the high school where the students’ records are maintained.

4-3-2 Enrollment and attendance in a member school shall be deemed continuous until such date when a student has been officially withdrawn from the school in accordance with that school’s policies.

4-3-3 Unless excused, a student not attending the first day of a credit grading period shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic contests until the 15th school day of attendance. Transfers from other states as well as Ohio schools must comply with this bylaw.

4-3-4 After a student completes the eighth grade, or is otherwise eligible for high school athletics pursuant to Bylaw 4-2-3, the student shall be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not. A student in grade 7 or 8 who attains the age of 15 before August 1 shall be eligible only at the high school level for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

EXCEPTION 1: The Commissioner or the Board of Control may permit a student who completes the eighth semester of eligibility during the season of a sport to complete the sports season of the sport in which the student is participating provided the student is enrolled in school. If such extension is granted, the student is ineligible for further interscholastic participation when the sports season, regular and tournament, has ended.

EXCEPTION 2: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder, and the student’s specific disability has contributed significantly to the student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner if, in the Commissioner’s sole discretion, the Commissioner determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student’s participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- d) the student’s participation does not displace another student-athlete; and
- e) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

- 4-3-5** A student who is enrolled 15 or more school days in any semester, or who participates in an interscholastic contest prior to or in a semester, shall have that semester count as one semester of eligibility.
- 4-3-6** A student is considered a graduate when the student has completed the work required for graduation and is declared a graduate by the Board of Education. Such student is no longer eligible for interscholastic sports except for participation in the remaining contests of that semester.
- 4-3-7** Member schools containing grades 7 and 8 may combine students from two or more schools within the school district to form one interscholastic team in a sport. Requests for permission to combine students from two or more schools in the same non-public or public school system must be submitted annually to the OHSAA in writing by the superintendent of the non-public or public school system.
- The written request must contain the following:
- 1 — Names of schools involved.
 - 2 — Total number of students from each school involved in the sport.
 - 3 — Total number of boys or girls in each grade of each school in the combination.
 - 4 — The name of the Principal, name of the School and the complete address of the Administrator responsible for the conduct and operation of the combined team or teams.

Section 4. Scholarship

- 4-4-1** In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation.
- 4-4-2** The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. **EXCEPTION:** Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season. For the purposes of this Bylaw, “school day” includes faculty in-service days, calamity days and regular school attendance days but not holidays or school breaks.
- 4-4-3** A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.
- 4-4-4** A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in 75% of those subjects in which the student received grades.
- 4-4-5** The primary responsibility for verifying eligibility rests with the receiving school. Eligibility shall be verified by reviewing school records or written verification from the sending school.
- 4-4-6** Summer school and other educational options may not be used to substitute for failure to meet the academic standards specified in Bylaw 4 during the last grading period of the school year.

- 4-4-7 Tutoring or examinations to complete the preceding grading period requirements is permissible provided the inability to complete the required work on time is due to illness or accident verified by a physician and the procedure applies to all students in the school.
- 4-4-8 The Commissioner may waive the requirement of preceding grading period enrollment if a student has been withdrawn or removed from school because of circumstances due to personal accident, illness or family hardship. **The principal or the official designee of the school shall appeal in writing to the Commissioner.** The appeal shall contain documents with school and medical supporting evidence. The decision of the Commissioner may be appealed to the Board of Control.

Section 5. Conduct, Character, Discipline

- 4-5-1 In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics.
- 4-5-2 In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletics are involved, the principal or the official designee of the involved schools or game officials may file a report and the Association shall have jurisdiction to determine the penalties involved and whether or not the student may participate in athletics.
- 4-5-3 Physical attacks on any official shall be reported to the Association office immediately by the officials involved. The Commissioner shall conduct an investigation and determine the penalties involved.
- 4-5-4 Any students who are ejected from an athletic contest in any sport for unsporting conduct shall be immediately placed under the direct supervision of a school official.

Section 6. Residence

- 4-6-1 The districts for all public schools are established by the State Board of Education and defined for athletic purposes. In determining one’s residence for purposes of these Bylaws, the following criteria shall apply: (a) where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time, (b) where the mail is received, (c) where the meals are prepared and eaten, (d) where the parents are registered to vote, and (e) where important family activities take place during significant parts of each day.
- 4-6-2 A student enrolled in a Special Education program at a school outside of the district of residence of parents is eligible at the school where the student attends classes or the school located in the district of residence of the parents, **PROVIDED** each of the following is met: (a) the student’s parents reside in Ohio; (b) the school district in which the parents reside does not provide the required programs to meet the student’s special education needs; and (c) there is a contractual agreement specifying the responsibility for educating special education students between the respective school boards or between the parents and the school the special education student will attend.

Definition of Special Education Program:

- 1) special education curricula as described in PL 94-142 as amended; 2) gifted and talented programs; and 3) alternative education programs as conducted by member schools of the OHSAA.

- 4-6-3 A student whose parents live outside the state of Ohio will be ineligible for athletics in an Ohio member school.

EXCEPTION 1 — A student who has attended a minimum of 15 days in the eleventh grade when the parents move outside the state of Ohio may be declared eligible for the twelfth grade provided the student maintains continuous enrollment in the Ohio school.

EXCEPTION 2 — A student who enrolls at first grade level in a school consisting of grades 1-12 and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 in that school regardless of place or state of residence of parents.

EXCEPTION 3 — A student who resides within the boundaries of a parochial school system consisting of grades 1-12 that has multiple sites organized into elementary schools (1-8) and secondary schools (9-12), and who has enrolled by fourth grade level of an elementary school in that system and has maintained continuous enrollment in that school system through grade 8, shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 9-12 providing the secondary school attended by the student is the school designated by the school system for the continuance of the student's educational program.

EXCEPTION 4 — A student who resides within the boundaries of a public school district in a neighboring state; and who attends an Ohio public school system under an arrangement through which the entire grade of the out-of-state student attends the Ohio public school system; and for whom the tuition or cost of education for said out-of-state student is paid by the neighboring state's school district of residence; and who will be eligible to receive a high school diploma from an Ohio public school system shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 at the schools designated by the Ohio school system for attendance by the students from the neighboring state.

- 4-6-4** The Commissioner shall have discretionary power to waive the Residence requirements in only those cases of students whose parents live outside the school district at the start of the school year and whose contracted domicile within the district is not available for their habitation. These students are ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

Section 7. Transfers

- 4-7-1** The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12. These bylaws apply to all schools, both public and non-public.

- 4-7-2** If a student transfers after the first day of the student's ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, pre-view or regular season/tournament contest), the student will be ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred. A student is considered to have transferred whenever the student changes from that school in which the student was enrolled as a ninth grader to any other school regardless of whether the school from which the student transferred or to which the student transfers is public or non-public, member or non-member or whether the high schools are within the same school district.

EXCEPTION 1 — If the parents or legal guardian have made a bona-fide legal change of residence from one public school district to another public school district, the student may enroll in either the public school within the boundaries of that public school district that includes the new residence of the parents or legal guardian or any non-public school, and be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned. Note: See the definition of a bona fide residence in Bylaw 4-6-1.

EXCEPTION 2 — If the student is the ward of a court-appointed guardian, and there is a subsequent change in that guardian, the student shall be eligible in the district of residence of the new guardian or at any non-public school provided the student lives with the guardian. Likewise, if the student is the child of parents who were never married or have had their marriage terminated and there is a court ordered change of custody, the student shall be eligible in the district of residence of the new custodial parent or at any non-public school provided the student lives with the new custodial parent. For purposes of this exception, the term "parent" means the biological or adoptive parents of the student or, as the case may be, the person to whom parenting rights and responsibilities have been allocated pursuant to court order. In the event a student has been temporarily or permanently removed from the home, "parent" means the person or government agency with legal or permanent custody.

When a change of residential parent or legal custodian results in a change of school district, the student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

EXCEPTION 3 — If, and only if, either one of the parents in a Shared Parenting Plan, notwithstanding any provisions therein to the contrary, makes a bona-fide legal change of residence from one public school district into another public school district, the student shall be immediately eligible insofar as transfer is concerned in the public school located in the residential district of either parent or any nonpublic school.

EXCEPTION 4 — The school closes or the residence in which a student and the student’s parents reside is annexed to a school district, the student may be ruled eligible upon transfer to the school in the annexed district subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Commissioner can rule the student eligible.

EXCEPTION 5 — Subject to the provisions of exception 6 below, a student may transfer to a different school and be eligible provided the superintendents of both districts enter into a written agreement that consents to the attendance and specifies that the purpose of such attendance is to protect the student’s physical or mental well-being. Only one such exemption shall be permitted in any four school years. The student shall not be eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the exemption form.

EXCEPTION 6 — A student shall be entitled to one transfer into a public high school located in the public school district within which the student’s parent residence is located regardless of from where the student is transferring. However, if the student utilizes this exception, the student will no longer be able to utilize the superintendent’s agreement exception set forth in **Exception 5** above.

EXCEPTION 7 — A student who does not live in the same school district as parents or legal guardian and who is financially self-supporting may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Commissioner at a school in the district where the student resides. The Commissioner is empowered to establish requirements for the student to be determined to be self-supporting. These requirements shall be established for each school year by May 15th of the preceding year. Self-support documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner.

EXCEPTION 8 — A student transferred to the State School for the Blind or State School for the Deaf shall be eligible upon enrollment.

- 4-7-3** The superintendent or person delegated by the superintendent of either a non-public or public school system may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility. Such transfers are eligible only after approval by the Commissioner.
- 4-7-4** Whenever a new high school has been established in a school district in which the student’s parents reside, all students whose parents reside in that school district, and who enroll in the new high school, are eligible for interscholastic athletics insofar as the transfer bylaw is concerned. This applies to students from both public and non-public schools whose parents reside in the new school district defined by the local Board of Education. This rule applies only at the beginning of the school year when the new school first opens. After the first year of operation, the eligibility of any future transfers from one school to another will be determined in accordance with applicable paragraphs of this section.
- 4-7-5** In order for a transfer student to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition at a school, the student’s name must be listed on the eligibility certificate submitted at the first tournament level in the sport.

Section 8. Students From Foreign Countries and Exchange Students

- 4-8-1** Students from countries and provinces outside the United States are ineligible for interscholastic athletics.

EXCEPTION 1: A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible if the student's parents move into and are legal residents of the school district in which the student is enrolled and attending. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner.

EXCEPTION 2: A student in an approved foreign exchange program contained in the Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs published by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) may be eligible for interscholastic athletics. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the exchange student form. The following restriction applies:

a. Students are eligible for a maximum of one school year.

EXCEPTION 3: A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics upon the submission of a court approved document certifying the student's adoption by a legal resident of the school district in which the student is attending. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the appropriate court documents.

EXCEPTION 4: A student from a country or province outside the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics when the student's parents are citizens of the United States who reside outside the United States. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner upon submission of the appropriate court documents.

- 4-8-2** An Ohio student returning from a domestic or foreign exchange program may resume interscholastic competition in an Ohio member school at the point of interruption provided the student did not receive credits toward graduation while participating in the exchange program and provided the student meets all requirements relative to age, semesters of eligibility as well as preceding grading period scholastic requirements in the exchange program. Such a student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner or Board of Control.

Section 9. Recruiting

- 4-9-1** A student is considered a prospective athlete after enrolling in the seventh grade, or the grade corresponding to the seventh grade for a student from a foreign country. Any attempt to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes shall be strictly prohibited.
- 4-9-2** For purposes of this Bylaw Section 9, the term "recruit" shall mean the use of influence by any person connected or not connected with the school to secure the transfer of a prospective student-athlete.
- EXCEPTION: Mass marketing of a school directed to a general population of students does not constitute prohibited recruiting.
- 4-9-3** Prior to enrollment, a student-athlete may visit a public or non-public school in contemplation of transfer, as long as that contemplated transfer is consistent with Board of Education or similar governing board policy formally adopted by that school district and arrangements for the visit are made through the principal and/or school administrator designated by the Board of Education or similar governing board.
- 4-9-4** Any violation of the recruiting prohibitions as set forth in this Bylaw shall cause the recruited student-athlete to be ineligible upon transfer. Furthermore, the school to which the recruited student-athlete transfers or the school the recruiting attempts were intended to benefit shall be subject to sanctions as set forth in Bylaw 12.

Section 10. Amateur

4-10-1 A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who participates in the activities of his/her sport for the purpose of deriving the physical, mental and social benefits organized sports competition has to offer and not for any present or future pecuniary or commercial gains. Since the student is considered an integral member of the student body, a clear line of distinction between educationally based athletics and professional sports must exist and be maintained at all times. It shall be the shared responsibility of school personnel, the athletes and their parents to maintain this clear line of distinction.

4-10-2 An athlete forfeits amateur status, and thus interscholastic athletic eligibility, if any of the following standards of amateurism are violated:

- a) Competing for money or other remuneration. Allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted provided that these expenses are not conditioned on the individual's or team's place finish or performance or given on an incentive basis. In addition, receipt of expenses in excess of the same reasonable amount for permissible expenses given to all individuals or team members involved in the competition is not permitted;
- b) Capitalizing on the athlete's fame by receiving money, merchandise or services of value. An athlete "capitalizes" on his/her "athletic fame" by accepting money, merchandise or services of value based in whole or in part upon the notoriety the athlete received through his/her athletic skills and achievements. This includes using the athlete's skill, directly or indirectly, for pay in any form in that sport. "Pay" includes, but is not limited to, any direct or indirect remuneration, gratuity or other economic benefit in either the present or future, or any division or split of surplus (bonuses, games' receipts, etc.). Scholarships to institutions of higher education are specifically exempted;
- c) Receiving, from a sponsor, actual and necessary expenses or any form of compensation to participate in athletics practice or competition while not representing a member school. A "sponsor" is a person or entity that undertakes certain responsibilities (such as underwriting, promoting, endorsing or financing) in connection with an athlete or event and who/which is neither (1) a nonprofessional organization or governing body of an amateur sport which is sponsoring the tournament or event, (2) a member school or organization connected with the member school through duly recognized action of the member school's Board of Education (or similar governing body) or (3) any person who is not a "legal stranger" to the athlete. A "legal stranger" is a person who is neither the biological parent nor is the legal guardian or custodian of the athlete nor one who has no legal obligation to support the athlete.

Any practice for which reasonable and necessary expenses are received must be conducted in a continuous time period preceding the competition except for a practice session conducted by a national team, under the auspices of a United States (USA) National Governing Body, which may be interrupted for specific periods of time preceding the competition;

- d) Signing a contract or making a commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any payment received. This prohibits signing a contract during the interscholastic athletics season that is dated after the completion of the athlete's interscholastic athletic eligibility;
- e) Receiving, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses, merchandise or services or any other form of financial assistance or benefits from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skills or participation. Exception: An athlete may receive reimbursement of expenses as per item (a) for a professional tryout provided the provisions of 4-10-5 are observed;

- f) Competing with any professional athletics team, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received; or
- g) Entering into an agreement with a sports or marketing agent (O.R.C. §§4771.01 et seq.).

4-10-3 The following activities do not jeopardize amateur status:

- a) Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activities;
- b) Receiving school-sponsored membership or participation fees in youth serving agencies, athletic clubs, community recreation centers, instructional programs or camps, etc. provided such fees are paid directly to the agency;
- c) Receiving an award, playing equipment or prize of monetary value which does not exceed the awards amount authorized by the Association;
- d) Receiving all non-monetary benefits and awards provided to members of an Olympic team beyond actual and necessary expenses, including entertainment, equipment, clothing, long distance telephone service, Internet access, and any other item or service for which it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is available to all members of the nation's Olympic team or the specific sport Olympic team in question;
- e) Accepting funds that are administered by the United States Olympic Committee pursuant to its Operation Gold Program; or
- f) Participating in member school, charitable or educational promotions or fund-raising activities that involve the use of athletic ability by student-athletes to obtain funds (e.g., swim-a-thons, lift-a-thons, shoot-a-thons) from donors, provided the student-athletes receive no compensation or prizes for their participation.

4-10-4 A high school student who loses amateur status/athletic eligibility may apply to the Association for reinstatement in the interscholastic program. Such appeals shall be handled by the Commissioner in accordance with the Bylaws. If a student-athlete in one sport violates a provision of the amateur bylaw as detailed above, the student-athlete may represent the member school in a different sport.

BYLAW 5 — AWARDS

Section 1. Awards — Approved

- 5-1-1** Awards directly resulting from participation in interscholastic athletics may be accepted by a student from any source provided the award does not exceed in value \$200 per award.
- 5-1-2** College scholarships may be accepted provided the amount of the scholarship is paid for college expenses.

Section 2. — Awards — Violations

- 5-2-1** The penalty for violation for any member of a school squad, except a senior, shall be ineligibility in that sport for the ensuing season.
- 5-2-2** The penalty for violation for a senior shall be ineligibility for all interscholastic athletics the remainder of the school year.
- 5-2-3** The school itself shall be held accountable to the Association for any violation of this bylaw, by individuals or groups before, at, or after graduation.

BYLAW 6 — COACHES

Section 1. Requirements for Coaching

- 6-1-1** All coaches, paid and volunteer, shall meet the criteria established by the State Board of Education. For more information, visit the Coaches Corner on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

- 6-1-2 All coaches shall be approved by the Board of Education or similar governing body in non-public schools.
- 6-1-3 College and university student teachers assigned to a school may assist with coaching duties during their periods of assignment.

Section 2. Salary of Coaches

- 6-2-1 The entire compensation of the coach shall be paid by the Board of Education or similar governing board of a non-public school.

BYLAW 7 — CONTRACTS

Section 1. Contracts for Athletic Contests

- 7-1-1 The Association’s individual contest contract or similar forms shall be used for all non-league interscholastic contests and shall be signed by the principals or official designees of the schools involved. Disputes arising from verbal contracts will not be considered by the Association.
- 7-1-2 Interscholastic contests scheduled among members of a league are binding. Formal action by league members to adopt a league schedule may be used in lieu of the OHSAA individual contest contract form by using the OHSAA league contract form. All OHSAA contest contract forms must be signed by the principals or the official designees of the schools involved.
- 7-1-3 The voiding of a contract must be done by mutual agreement of the schools involved. The decision of a school to change league affiliation does not void a previously signed contest contract.
- 7-1-4 The suspension or termination of a school’s membership in the Association renders all contracts null and void.
- 7-1-5 Contests shall be indicated by inserting specific dates.
- 7-1-6 The school originating a contract offer may insert a date for return after which the offer would be considered void at the discretion of the originator. Date of return shall be considered the postmark date on the envelope bearing the contract.
- 7-1-7 Contracts between schools for girls contests shall specify, Girls Only.
- 7-1-8 When a new school district is created under Sections 3311.26 and 3311.37 of the Ohio Revised Code, all contracts for contests and officials made by the former school districts are declared null and void and new contracts for contests and officials should be negotiated by the new school district.
- 7-1-9 If contractual obligations cannot be fulfilled, schools should:
 - (a) Void the contract by mutual consent of the parties involved, or
 - (b) Reschedule the contest at another date mutually agreeable to all parties, or
 - (c) Schools using the damage clause in game contracts would use the amount stated in the contract for financial settlement.
 - (d) If Steps a, b or c cannot be accomplished, determine the financial loss to the offended school and make a financial settlement. If the settlement cannot be agreed upon, the OHSAA will examine past records of games previously played and arrive at a settlement.

Section 2. Contracts with Officials

- 7-2-1** The contract between the school and the contest official shall be executed on an OHSAA Contract for Officials or similar form and signed for specific dates by the official and the home school administrator or a certified OHSAA officials assigner authorized by the home school.
- 7-2-2** The official's contract may be voided or terminated by mutual agreement of the official and the home school administrator or the certified OHSAA officials assigner authorized by the home school provided such voiding or terminating is executed in writing.

BYLAW 8 — OFFICIALS

Section 1. Officials Required

- 8-1-1** OHSAA officials shall be used in certain sports played in Ohio. The list of sports and officiating requirements will be found in the Handbook for Officials and in the specific sports regulations found in this handbook.
- 8-1-2** Schools that violate the provisions of this section shall be fined a maximum of \$100.00 payable to the OHSAA for each offense and will not be accepted as a member school the following year unless the fine is paid.

Section 2. Selection of Officials for Regular Season Contests

- 8-2-1** The principal of the school, the official designee or a certified assignor shall attend personally to the selection of officials. Great care should be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and shall be mutually agreed upon by the schools involved.
- 8-2-2** When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials.

Section 3. Decisions by Officials

- 8-3-1** Protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials during the contest will not be considered. The Commissioner does not have the authority to order contests replayed. The decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials are final.
- 8-3-2** The record of the official scorekeeper at the conclusion of the contest is final unless an error is discovered. Such error shall be corrected as covered by specific contest rules.
- 8-3-3** Any team leaving the contest area before the conclusion of the contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating will render the school liable to disciplinary action by the Association.

Section 4. Handbook for Officials and Directory

- 8-4-1** A Handbook for Officials and a Directory of the Registered Officials shall be published and distributed annually to schools and officials by the Commissioner's office.

Section 5. Rules Examination

- 8-5-1** The dates for applications and examinations on the rules of the various sports to become an official will be determined and published by the Commissioner's office.

Section 6. Rules Meeting Requirements

- 8-6-1** Officials are required to attend local rules discussion meetings and state rules interpretation meetings as scheduled. Specific requirements for each sport are listed in the Handbook for Officials. Officials who have allowed their OHSAA permit to lapse and those not attending the designated meetings may be reinstated as outlined in the Handbook for Officials.

Section 7. Officials Uniforms

- 8-7-1** The official uniform for officials in interscholastic sports shall be as specified in the officials manual in that sport or as adopted by the Board of Control in that sport and specified in the Handbook for Officials.

BYLAW 9 — CONTESTS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

Section 1. Contests with Non-Member Schools and Non-Interscholastic Teams

- 9-1-1** Members of the Association shall observe all Ohio eligibility and contest rules in contests with non-member and non-interscholastic teams.

Section 2. Contests with Out-Of-State Schools

- 9-2-1** Schools may travel out of state to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time.

- 9-2-2** School-sponsored teams and individuals may not travel out of state for practice purposes.

- 9-2-3** Schools must secure sanction through the National Federation of State High School Associations of competition by a member school in any of the following contests:

- (a) Any interstate tournament or meet in which four or more schools participate;
- (b) Any interstate competition which involves schools from three or more state high school associations.

In (a) and (b) above, no sanction is required from the National Federation if all competing schools are from states which border the host state. However, schools must secure from each state association sanction for such events.

- 9-2-4** The OHSAA must receive approval of competition from the National Federation of State High School Associations for a member school in an activity under the OHSAA jurisdiction to compete against a school from a foreign country, except for two-school and three-school competition with a school or schools from Canada which necessitates a round trip of less than 600 miles.

- 9-2-5** In all interstate contests each participating school shall follow the contest rules of the host state.

BYLAW 10 — NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAMS

Section 1. Member of a Squad

- 10-1-1** A student is a member of a squad when the student participates in an interscholastic contest. An athletic contest involving participants from another school or any non-interscholastic or any organized adult team is either a game, meet, match, preview or scrimmage.

Section 2. Definition of Non-Interscholastic Team

- 10-2-1** A non-interscholastic team is an organization composed of players in or out of school which participates in a contest, no matter whether admissions, collections of expenses are involved, or whether a coach is present or not, and regardless of whether instruction is given. Examples of non-interscholastic teams include—but are not limited to—Sunday School, Church, Intramural, Y.M.C.A., Shop, Hi-Y, C.Y.O., F.F.A., City Recreation, All-Star, A.A.U., Club, any non-interscholastic team, or any combination of players involved in team play.

Section 3. Playing on Non-Interscholastic Teams

- 10-3-1** A member of an interscholastic squad sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a contest on a non-interscholastic team, or as an individual, in the same sport during the school's season.
- 10-3-2** A member of an interscholastic squad sponsored by the Board of Education who is dropped or quits may participate on a non-interscholastic team or, as an individual, in the same sport but is ineligible for further interscholastic competition in that sport for the remainder of the school season.
- 10-3-3** A member of an interscholastic squad sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic competition, prior to, and after, the school season under the following conditions:

- a) The number of players from the same school on the squad is limited to a maximum of 50% of the members of a team as defined in the playing rules of the sport. From June 1 through July 31 this restriction is not in effect. The 50% limitation is defined as follows for all OHSAA recognized team sports.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>50% Limitation on number of squad members</u>
Baseball	4
Basketball	2
Field Hockey	5
Football	5
Ice Hockey	3
Soccer	5
Softball	4
Volleyball	3

- b) A player may continue participation with a non-interscholastic team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated from the national qualifying tournament but no later than Labor Day.

- 10-3-4** After a student becomes a member of a football squad, the student may not participate in a non-interscholastic contest in football during the school year. From June 1 through July 31, members of a football squad may play in non-contact football contests and attend non-contact team football camps.
- 10-3-5** In non-interscholastic competition in team sports...members of the school coaching staff may coach athletes from the school district where employed for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 to July 31. The 10-day limitation applies to the entire coaching staff. Each individual coach is not entitled to 10 different days for coaching.

EXCEPTION 1 — The paid or unpaid coach employed by a Board of Education may coach athletes from the school district where the coach is employed as coach without limitation from June 1 through July 31 if the 50% limitation is observed. The 50% limitation is defined as a maximum of 50% of the members of a team as defined in the playing rules of the sport. The following chart indicates those limitations for OHSAA recognized team sports.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>50% Limitation on number of squad members</u>
Baseball	4
Basketball	2
Field Hockey	5
Football	5
Ice Hockey	3
Soccer	5
Softball	4
Volleyball	3

EXCEPTION 2 — If the 50% limitation is observed, a coach may continue participation with a non-interscholastic team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated from the national qualifying tournament but no later than Labor Day.

Section 4. Penalty

- 10-4-1** The maximum penalty for violation of this bylaw for any member of a school squad, excepting a senior, shall be ineligibility in that sport for the remainder of the season or the ensuing season. If a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for all interscholastic athletics the remainder of the school year.
- 10-4-2** The penalty for a coach for a violation of this bylaw may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

BYLAW 11 — PROTESTS AND FORFEITURES

Section 1. Protests Relative to Eligibility

- 11-1-1** Concerns relative to the eligibility of a player on a competing team shall be presented, when discovered, to the principal for investigation. A written request for investigation of eligibility may be filed with the Commissioner in any sport, but no requests will be considered which are filed more than 42 days following the last day of the state championship in that sport.

Section 2. Forfeitures

- 11-2-1** All athletic contests in which ineligible players have participated shall be forfeited. EXCEPTION: If a student participates in an athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information, the student shall be declared ineligible (see Bylaw 4-1-2), but forfeiture of the contest shall not be required. All forfeitures shall be reported immediately in writing to the OHSAA and all opponents.
- 11-2-2** Forfeitures of contests cannot be waived by mutual agreement.
- 11-2-3** If an ineligible student participates in an OHSAA-sponsored tournament in a team sport (soccer, field hockey, football, ice hockey, volleyball, basketball, baseball or fast pitch softball), the team shall be disqualified from the tournament and the last team defeated, or the next highest ranking team, may take its place in the tournament.
- 11-2-4** A member of an eliminated team may participate in OHSAA individual tournament competition, if qualified.
- 11-2-5** If an ineligible student participates in a regular season or an OHSAA-sponsored tournament contest in an individual sport (golf, cross country, gymnastics, tennis, swimming and diving, track and field or wrestling) the contest is forfeited and all points, records, awards and qualifying positions won by the ineligible student shall be forfeited. However, all eligible participants shall keep their points, records, awards and qualifying positions.

Section 3. Additional Penalties

- 11-3-1** Additional penalties may be assessed to the offending player, coach and/or school by the Commissioner.

BYLAW 12 — PENALTIES

- 12-1-1** Penalties for violation of the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations shall be imposed by the Commissioner in accordance with the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws or Regulations. The Commissioner's decision may be appealed to the Board of Control, whose decision shall be final.

- 12-1-2** Penalties include: suspension, forfeiture of games, forfeiture of championship rights, probation, public censure, denial of participation or fines not to exceed \$1000 per occurrence, or such other penalties as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.
- 12-1-3** If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement.
- 12-1-4** If a lawsuit is commenced against the OHSAA seeking to enjoin the OHSAA from enforcing any or all of its Constitution, bylaws, sports regulations, decisions of the OHSAA, and an Order from a Court of proper jurisdiction is subsequently either voluntarily vacated, or stayed, or reversed or otherwise determined by the Courts that the equitable relief sought is not or was not justified, the Commissioner may impose any one or more of the following in the interest of restitution and fairness to other member school's athletes:
- (a) Require that individual or team records and performances achieved during such participation be vacated or stricken.
 - (b) Require that team victories be forfeited to opponent.
 - (c) Require that team or individual awards earned during such participation be returned to the association.
 - (d) Require the return of any financial receipts realized from tournament participation.
 - (e) Impose a monetary penalty commensurate with the expense to the OHSAA for the litigation.
- 12-1-5** The type and duration of all penalties shall be determined in accordance with the nature of the offense.

BYLAW 13 — SUSPENDED SCHOOLS

- 13-1-1** When a school has been suspended as a member of the Association for violation of the Constitution, bylaws or regulations of the Association, all contracts with other member schools are null and void.
- 13-1-2** Member schools of the Association shall not compete with schools which are under suspension by the Association.

BYLAW 14 — PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

- 14-1-1** Robert's Rules of Order shall govern procedures in each situation not covered by the Constitution and bylaws.