



AAA OFFICIAL HANDBOOK 2026-27

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

PURPOSE

Interscholastic activities are designed to be an integral educational component, fostering sportsmanship, teamwork, and discipline. Their administration focuses on maintaining consistent rules, quality officiating, and fair championship events.

www.ahsaa.org

3920 Richards Rd
N. Little Rock, AR 72117

@ArkActAssn

Building Citizenship Through Activities Participation

FORWARD

The AAA is a private, voluntary, non-profit association of middle, junior and senior high schools in which the member schools propose, amend and/or adopt the rules and regulations they desire to adhere to by a vote. Each member school has one vote and equal opportunity to propose, amend or adopt new rules. The member schools make the rules.

The official handbook of the Arkansas Activities Association, hereafter referred to as the AAA, is compiled and distributed to all member schools of the state. It is for the specific use of all persons connected with the administration and supervision of the various activity programs in the member schools and for general use of parents, pupils, and fans who feel a need to understand the rules and regulations of the AAA. Handbooks may be downloaded from the web site or purchased upon request.

It is the desire of the AAA Board of Directors that this handbook containing the constitution and bylaws of the association and eligibility rules for the various activities be designed to clarify and interpret the numerous requirements and regulations pertaining to the administration of all interscholastic events.

In the rules that follow, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular as the context requires or permits. Where appropriate, pronouns refer to either gender.

If there is a question concerning any part of this handbook, the executive director should be contacted for an explanation. If there is a question concerning the eligibility of a participant in any interscholastic activity, the executive director should be contacted in writing for an official interpretation of the rule in question.

NOTE: *The only official interpretations are written responses to written requests.*

The members of the Governing Body, the officers of the association, the executive director, and staff desire to promote educational and cultural standards of sportsmanship and effective citizenship among all participants in interscholastic activities. School activities programs should provide opportunities for all students to participate and compete in a variety of sports and activities at their own level of ability and interest.

Need to find a topic?

Once you download the AAA Handbook, you can use the **CTRL + F** function or **Find on Page** function to search for a keyword in the AAA Handbook. If the keyword is detected, the search will take you right to the page(s) that include the detected keyword.

Table of Contents

ACTIVITY DISTRICTS	4
SUMMARY OF NEW PROPOSALS ADOPTED BY THE AAA GOVERNING BODY	5
BOARD OF DIRECTORS CODE OF ETHICS	6
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	7
CONSTITUTION	9
ARTICLE I NAME	9
ARTICLE II MISSION & PURPOSE.....	9
ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP	9
ARTICLE IV MEETINGS	10
ARTICLE V GOVERNING BODY	10
ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....	11
ARTICLE VII OFFICERS	12
ARTICLE VIII ACTIVITY DISTRICT ORGANIZATION	13
ARTICLE IX ADVISORY COMMITTEES (NON-ATHLETICS)	14
ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS	14
ARTICLE XI CHANGING ATHLETIC SEASONS.....	16
ARTICLE XII CHANGING CLASSIFICATION/CONFERENCE.....	16
ARTICLE XIII CATASTROPHE INSURANCE FUND	16
BYLAWS	18
ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP FEES.....	18
ARTICLE II ADMINISTRATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS	19
ARTICLE III ELIGIBILITY	35
ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION OF SPORTS.....	51
ARTICLE V SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL	82
SPORTS MEDICINE	87
DEFINITIONS	92

SEASONS AND EVENT LIMITATIONS 94

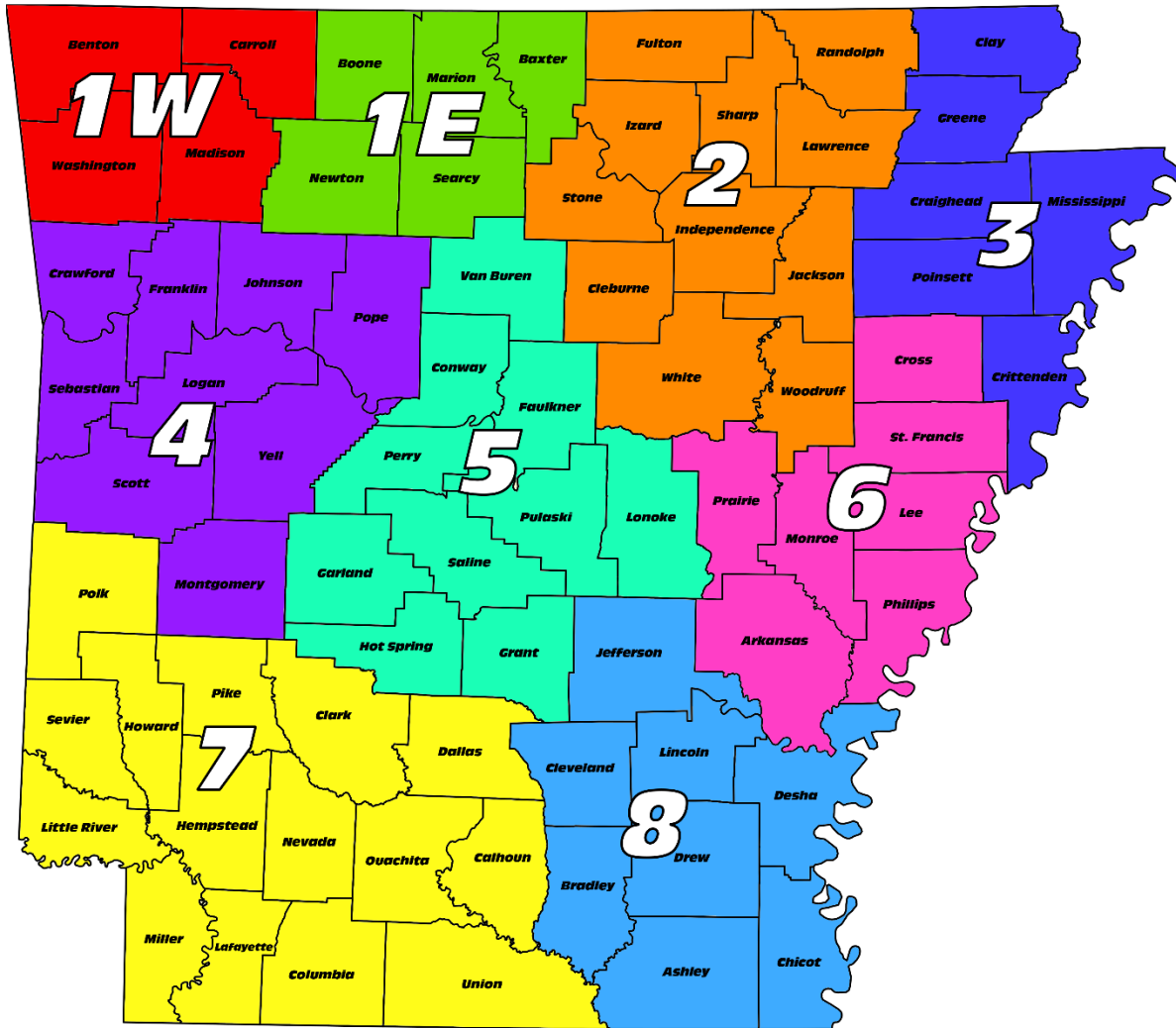
AAA STAFF EMAILS..... 97

AAA STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES..... 98

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (AAA) & ARKANSAS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
(AOA)..... 99

AAA FORMS 100

ACTIVITY DISTRICTS



1 West: Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington

1 East: Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton, Searcy

2: Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Randolph, Sharp, Stone, White, Woodruff

3: Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Greene, Mississippi, Poinsett

4: Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Montgomery, Pope, Scott, Sebastian, Yell

5: Conway, Faulkner, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, Saline, Van Buren

6: Arkansas, Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, St. Francis

7: Calhoun, Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, Union

8: Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lincoln

SUMMARY OF NEW PROPOSALS ADOPTED BY THE AAA GOVERNING BODY

Proposal #1- Intradistrict Participation- Allows districts or systems with multiple middle schools to combine students for a single team under certain conditions. Effective 2026-2027 school year.

Proposal #2 – Years of Eligibility- This change eliminates the interpretation of participation, opportunity for participation, whether the semester counts toward junior high or senior high, whether the student was eligible or not, etc. It's simply a defined time period during which a student may be eligible. 1 year upon initial enrollment in 7th grade, 1 year upon initial enrollment in 8th grade, and 4 years upon initial enrollment in 9th grade. Effective 2026-2027 school year.

Proposal #3 – Dead Weeks- Clarify the intent of the dead week periods. Effective 2026-2027 school year.

Proposal #4 – JV Volleyball- Increases the number of JV volleyball matches from 18 to 20. Increases opportunities for player development and non-conference scheduling. Effective 2026-2027 school year.

Proposal #5 – Volleyball Season Limitations- Allows volleyball benefit games during week #6 through week #16 instead of week #7 through week #16. Effective 2027-2028 school year.

Proposal #6 – Handbook Rewrite and Cleanup/Bylaws- The purpose of modernizing the handbook is to: align with current laws/rules; clean up outdated language; protect against litigation; capture original intent; simplify; clarify; provide consistency; reflect actual practice; make the handbook more user-friendly; and allow for more precise referencing and structure. Effective 2026-2027 school year.

Proposal #7 – Handbook Rewrite and Cleanup/Constitution- The purpose of modernizing the handbook is to: align with current laws/rules; clean up outdated language; protect against litigation; capture original intent; simplify; clarify; provide consistency; reflect actual practice; make the handbook more user-friendly; and allow for more precise referencing and structure. Effective 2026-2027 school year.

Proposal #8 – Ejections/Fighting Penalty- Increases the penalty for fighting. Effective 2026-2027 school year.

Proposal #9 – Ejections/Seniors- Seniors who are ejected for fighting in their last event of a sport will serve their ejection penalty in the next sport participated in during the school year. Effective 2026-2027 school year.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS CODE OF ETHICS

“I hereby affirm that I, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Activities Association, agree to uphold the rules and regulations of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Arkansas Activities Association.

“I also state that I believe that this organization should serve the interests of the students of the state as a whole and these interests should have precedence over the interest of students in a particular school or district. If the school of which I am an employee is involved in a dispute or an infraction of the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association, I will refrain from participation in the deliberations of the Board of Directors relative to the evaluation and actions pertaining to the accusation or dispute.

“Furthermore, I realize that my authority as a Board of Directors member is in effect only at those times the board is actually in session, and to divulge information pertaining to the actions of the board or its individual members is unethical; therefore, I will refrain from giving such information or giving interpretations of rules, regulations, and precedents and will refer all such questions to the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association for proper answers.”

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

		FB		Term	Consecutive
		Class	Dist.	Expires	Term Number
President.....	Kelvin Hudson, Superintendent, Flippin	3A.....	1E	2028	3
1st Vice President.....	Billy Adams*, Superintendent, Lakeside, Lake Village	3A.....	8	2027	3
2nd Vice President	Jared Cleveland, Superintendent, Springdale	7A.....	1W	2029	2
Secretary	Shawn Halbrook, Superintendent, Morrilton.....	5A.....	5	2029	2
Treasurer	Kevin Hesslen, Superintendent, Alma.....	5A.....	4	2028	3
Parliamentarian	Jeremy Mangrum, Superintendent, Elkins.....	4A.....	1W	2027	2

Other Executive Committee Members

Freddie Bowen	Superintendent, Piggot	3A.....	3	2029	1
Jason Carson*	Superintendent, Conway Christian	2A.....	5	2028	1
Trent Goff	Superintendent, Booneville	3A.....	4	2029	1
Bobby Hart.....	Superintendent, Searcy	6A.....	2	2029	1
Tim Massey.....	Superintendent, Melbourne	3A.....	2	2027	1
Nathan Morris	Superintendent, Cross County	2A.....	6	2028	1
Jeremy Owoh*	Superintendent, Jacksonville North Pulaski	6A.....	5	2029	1
Robert Poole.....	Superintendent, Ashdown.....	3A.....	7	2028	2
Jeff Priest	Superintendent, Riverside.....	2A.....	3	2028	2
Jason Sanders.....	Superintendent, De Queen.....	5A.....	7	2027	1
Gary Williams.....	Superintendent, White Hall	5A.....	8	2027	2
Logan Williams.....	Superintendent, Nemo Vista.....	1A.....	5	2027	1
Heidi Wilson*	Superintendent, Bigelow	1A.....	5	2028	1
Karen Walters	Superintendent, Bryant	7A.....	5	2028	1

*AT-LARGE

3920 Richards Road North Little Rock, AR 72117 501-955-2500 Visit us at www.ahsaa.org Like us on Facebook Follow us on X & Instagram	Office Hours August - May Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June - July Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday Closed
--	--

Administrative Staff

Lance W. Taylor.....	Executive Director
Eric Saunders.....	Associate Executive Director
Nick Lasker	Associate Executive Director
Dax Hill.....	Associate Executive Director
Steve Roberts.....	Associate Executive Director
Bobby Swofford	Assistant Executive Director
Amber Balboa	Assistant Executive Director
Christyal Parker.....	Assistant Executive Director

Support Staff

Leah Spafford.....	Administrative Assistant to Nick Lasker and Eric Saunders/AHSCA and AHSAAA Secretary
Nicole Cunningham.....	Administrative Assistant to Bobby Swofford/Media Secretary
Michelle Langley.....	Receptionist
Jennifer Mays	Administrative Assistant to Amber Balboa/Accounting Secretary
Kristy Clark	Administrative Assistant to Dax Hill and Steve Roberts/AOA Secretary

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors



Kelvin Hudson
Superintendent
Flippin President



Billy Adams
Superintendent
Lakeside, LV 1st
Vice President



Jared Cleveland
Superintendent
Springdale
2nd Vice President



Shawn Halbrook
Superintendent
Morriton
Secretary



Kevin Hesslen
Asst. Supt.
Greenwood
Treasurer



Jeremy Mangrum
Superintendent
Elkins



Freddie Bowen
Superintendent
Piggot



Jason Carson
Superintendent
Conway Christian



Trent Goff
Superintendent
Booneville



Bobby Hart
Superintendent
Searcy



Tim Massey
Superintendent
Melbourne



Nathan Morris
Superintendent
Cross County



Jeremy Owoh
Superintendent
Jacksonville North Pulaski



Robert Poole
Superintendent
Ashdown



Jeff Priest
Superintendent
Riverside



Jason Sanders
Superintendent
De Queen



Karen Walters
Superintendent
Bryant



Gary Williams
Superintendent
White Hall



Logan Williams
Superintendent
Nemo Vista



Heidi Wilson
Superintendent
Bigelow

The members of the Governing Body and staff of the association desire to promote educational and cultural values among its 502 member schools. These schools are junior and senior high, both public and private. A positive attitude and appreciation for higher standards of sportsmanship and effective citizenship among all participants is a goal. Encouraging activity programs that will provide additional opportunities for all students to participate and compete in a variety of sports and activities is a mission.

Since 1912 when the AAA was organized as an athletic association, and since 1969 when the scope was broadened to include all activities, the association has expressed its commitment to promoting and encouraging other school activities beneficial to the development of students in addition to athletics. The AAA now conducts 108 state championships in twenty-three sports as well as providing cooperative assistance with the state events for numerous student activity organizations.

The AAA administers the eligibility records for over 100,000 students annually, helps organize and train over 3,000 game officials and serves as the administrative office for the Arkansas Officials Association, Arkansas High School Coaches Association, and the Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association. In addition, the association's special services include coordination and administration of a nationally-based coaches education program, the annual coaching clinic and All-Star games, the Sportsmanship Award selection process, and the Academic Champions program.

The AAA is dedicated to promoting school activities as a valuable part of a student's total educational program.

Administrative Staff



Lance W. Taylor
Executive
Director



Eric Saunders
Assoc. Executive
Director



Dax Hill
Assoc. Executive
Director



Nick Lasker
Assoc. Executive
Director



Steve Roberts
Assoc. Executive
Director



Bobby Swofford
Asst. Executive
Director



Amber L. Balboa
Asst. Executive
Director



Christyal Parker
Asst. Executive
Director



**Supporting Good Sportsmanship for
Tomorrow's Leaders.**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Arkansas Activities Association.

ARTICLE II

MISSION & PURPOSE

SECTION 1 - MISSION

The mission of the Arkansas Activities Association is to promote the value of participation in interscholastic activities in the AAA member schools and to provide services to the schools in a fair and impartial manner while assisting and supporting their efforts to develop thinking, productive, and prepared individuals as they become positive, contributing citizens modeling the democratic principles of our state and nation.

SECTION 2 - PURPOSE

More specifically the main purposes of the association shall be to:

- A. Promote the educational values inherent in interscholastic activities that contribute to the accepted aims of education while avoiding interference with the educational goals of the school.
- B. Ensure that interscholastic activities shall remain an integral part of the educational program as they provide opportunities for youth to acquire worthwhile knowledge, skills, and attitudes.
- C. Promote an understanding that participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege accorded to those who meet the adopted criteria.
- D. Foster a cooperative spirit of good sportsmanship on the part of the school representatives, school patrons, and students.
- E. Support opportunities for students to experience the benefits that are derived from teamwork, developing a sense of fair play and accomplishment. Promote an understanding and appreciation that rules, consistently applied, create order and discipline.
- F. Provide standard and consistent interpretations of the rules of the association as adopted by the member schools or authorized by the Arkansas Activities Association Board of Directors (AAA Board).
- G. Conduct championship events by the procedures adopted by the schools in a thorough and impartial manner.
- H. Prevent exploitation of youth by special interest groups.
- I. Develop standards of officiating and adjudicating to ensure greater statewide consistency and quality.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any middle, junior, or senior high school accredited by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (ANSAA) may join with AAA Board approval.
- B. The superintendent (on behalf of their board) must agree to AAA rules.
- C. AAA governs interscholastic activities grades 7–12.

SECTION 2 - MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

The superintendent is the voting representative and may designate an assistant/deputy superintendent or a principal/assistant principal as the school's voting representative.

SECTION 3 - INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Prohibited opponents: Non-AAA Arkansas schools; out-of-state schools not in an NFHS-affiliated association; schools not approved by NFHS state associations; AAA, or similar, suspended/expelled schools.
- B. No competition (including scrimmages) with non-school groups.
- C. Exceptions: May be granted by the AAA Board for schools with all-handicapped enrollments and Arkansas Special Olympics.
- D. Home school teams ([Act 562 of 2015](#)):
 - 1. Allowed if they follow all AAA athlete (age, semesters, scholarship, physicals, foreign students, amateurism) and coach certification rules.
 - 2. Not eligible for AAA conferences, conference or district tournaments, state events, or championships.
 - 3. May play: basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball.

SECTION 4 - FISCAL YEAR & VOTING

Fiscal year ends June 30. Membership fees are due Oct 1. Only member schools with approved membership applications may vote at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - ANNUAL

- A. Held at a time and place set by the AAA Board.
- B. Quorum: 100 members.
- C. Authorized representatives shall represent only one school.

SECTION 2 - SPECIAL

Called by the president when necessary. Quorum: 100.

ARTICLE V GOVERNING BODY

SECTION 1 - COMPOSITION

The Governing Body consists of one voting representative per member school (superintendent/assistant, principal/assistant).

SECTION 2 - AUTHORITY

The Governing Body has full legislative power over covered activities. It also shall adopt a constitution and bylaws.

SECTION 3 - NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS

Notice of each meeting of the Governing Body shall be sent to each member school at least fifteen days before the time of the meeting.

SECTION 4 - VOTING

All motions and voting shall be limited to authorized voting representatives. Directors of various activities are invited to attend and may be called upon for information or advice.

SECTION 5 - PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised governs all parliamentary matters.

ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1 - REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

- A. The number of AAA Board members elected by each district shall be based upon the number of school memberships in an activity district as compared to the total school memberships of the entire association. The total number of board members elected shall not exceed 16. Each activity district shall elect at least one member. The board members shall assume office July 1 following election. In the event a district qualifies for additional board members, they shall be elected from schools of different classifications. The number of additional board members a district shall elect will be determined by dividing the number of district memberships by the number of state memberships, multiplying the result by 16, then subtracting one.
- B. Minor fractions shall not qualify a district for additional board members. Major fractions shall qualify districts for additional board members except when the total exceeds 16, in which event the smallest major fraction(s) shall be disallowed to the extent necessary to reduce such additional members to a total of 16.
- C. The number of board members elected by activity districts shall be computed each nine years
- D. At Large Members:
 - 1. Four at-large seats representing female gender, ethnic minorities, and one nonpublic school.
 - 2. Appointed for 3-year terms; max three consecutive terms.
 - 3. Activity districts nominate two full-time administrators (preferably one female, one minority).
 - 4. AAA Board appoints the At-Large Members from the Activity District nominees considering geography, classification, ethnicity, and gender.
 - 5. Vacancies filled the same way.

SECTION 2 - MEETINGS

- A. At least quarterly; last meeting before July 1 is the organizational meeting. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.
- B. Special meetings shall be called when necessary by the President or a majority of the AAA Board or Governing Body.

SECTION 3 - ELECTION

- A. Board members are elected before May 1 in a year in which the representative term in their respective activity district expires by member-school representatives present at a regularly scheduled activity district meeting. One representative per school limit.
- B. Board members may serve up to three consecutive 3-year terms and must be an authorized voting representative of a member school.
- C. Candidates must notify AAA Executive Director and district president at least 2 weeks before the election meeting.

SECTION 4 - VACANCIES

All vacancies on the Board of Directors are filled by the Activity District Executive Committee until the next spring activity district meeting.

SECTION 5 - AUTHORITY

- A. Governing Body is supreme when in session; otherwise, the AAA Board acts, without altering Governing Body approved rules except in extraordinary cases.
- B. AAA Board sets policy, oversees operations of the AAA, audits all accounts of AAA, serves as a working board when provisions do not exist, and follows Governing Body rules.
- C. AAA Board may amend rules invalidated by court or law.

SECTION 6 - APPEALS

- A. Governing Body may review and alter AAA Board decisions that violate the constitution/bylaws.
- B. When an appeal is made to the Governing Body, a statement of the case giving the reason for the action of the AAA Board must be sent to the members of the Governing Body along with the appeal seeking to overrule the action taken by the AAA Board.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

SECTION 1 - OFFICERS

Offices of the AAA Board of Directors shall include President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.

SECTION 2 - ELECTION

- A. The AAA Board elects all officers except the Parliamentarian annually at the organizational meeting; terms begin immediately.
- B. President appoints the parliamentarian (Does not have to be a Board member).
- C. Majority vote of quorum required for each officer.

SECTION 3 - VOTING

All AAA Board members, including officers, may vote on all matters before the AAA Board.

SECTION 4 - PRESIDENT

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings, call special meetings (Governing Body or AAA Board when requested by a majority of either group), and appoint committees not otherwise provided for.
- B. In case of a dispute between schools that cannot be settled by a conference between the administrative officials of the schools or procedures otherwise specified in the constitution and bylaws, the proper method of procedure shall be to set forth clearly all facts to the president who shall in turn make the decision.
- C. The president shall have the authority to take whatever action is deemed necessary in settling disputes or any other matter not specifically provided for in the handbook.

SECTION 5 - VICE PRESIDENTS

The first vice president shall, in the absence of the president, perform the duties of the president; the second vice president shall, in the absence of both the president and the first vice president, perform the duties of the president.

SECTION 6 - SECRETARY

The Secretary records minutes and official acts of the Governing Body and AAA Board. If minutes are taken by a staff member, the Secretary approves staff-prepared minutes before distribution to the AAA Board and entry into official records.

SECTION 7 - TREASURER

Reports finances at the annual Governing Body meeting and on request from the AAA Board.

SECTION 8 - PARLIAMENTARIAN

Advises and assistance with meeting procedures, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised applies unless otherwise specified in the Constitution or Bylaws.

SECTION 9 - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- A. Employed by the AAA Board (max 3-year contract, paid monthly); manages AAA affairs; recommends staff hires to the AAA Board for employment.
- B. Duties include: manage all affairs of the association delegated by the AAA Board, interpret rules for superintendents/principals; custodian of all association property and records including AAA Board and Committee minutes; report, as requested, at respective meetings; enforce rules/investigate; act as executive officer for all interscholastic activities; manage funds (shall be bonded), spend as needed, provide expenditure receipts and records, keep audited accounts.

ARTICLE VIII

ACTIVITY DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP

Member schools shall be assigned geographically to Activity Districts; superintendent (or designated eligible admin in writing from the superintendent) votes in person for one school ([see Constitution, Article III, Section 2](#)) at [Activity District Meetings](#).

SECTION 2 - OFFICERS & TERMS

- A. Each Activity District elects a president, vice president, secretary, and its AAA Board member(s).
- B. The activity District officers serve 1-year terms;
- C. AAA Board members take office July 1.
- D. Election of officers shall be held at a regular meeting of the district.

SECTION 3 - DUTIES

Activity District Officers form the Executive Committee to conduct district business under AAA regulations. It shall be responsible to the AAA Board. An Activity District Executive Committee cannot change AAA rules or decisions.

SECTION 4 - MEETINGS

- A. Regular spring meetings at times/places set by the Activity District Executive Committee.
- B. Voting representatives must be present and may represent only one member school.
- C. Another eligible administrator could be designated in writing if the superintendent is not present to designate in person.

SECTION 5 -ACTIVITY DISTRICTS

The state shall be divided into nine geographical activity districts by county groupings as follows.

- A. **1 West:** Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington
- B. **1 East:** Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton, Searcy
- C. **2:** Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Randolph, Sharp, Stone, White, Woodruff
- D. **3:** Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Greene, Mississippi, Poinsett
- E. **4:** Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Montgomery, Pope, Scott, Sebastian, Yell

- F. **5:** Conway, Faulkner, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, Saline, Van Buren
- G. **6:** Arkansas, Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, St. Francis
- H. **7:** Calhoun, Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, Union
- I. **8:** Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lincoln

ARTICLE IX

ADVISORY COMMITTEES (NON-ATHLETICS)

SECTION 1 - PURPOSE

Non-Athletic Advisory Committees plan and direct student non-athletic activities as well as advise the AAA Board and Executive Director on scheduling and regulations. Each non-athletic organization shall be assigned to one of the following committees:

- A. Fine Arts & Performance,
- B. Vocational,
- C. Honorary & Service,
- D. Curriculum-Oriented.

SECTION 2 - MEMBERS

- A. Each committee shall have one rep from each covered student organization/activity approved by AAA, in addition to one principal, one superintendent, one DESE member.
- B. All members representing a student organization or activity shall be the president, executive secretary, or a sponsor of that activity with terms set by that organization.
- C. Principal/superintendent appointed by AAA president (3-year terms). DESE member appointed by DESE.

SECTION 3 - DUTIES

- A. Plan contests and activities in cooperation with the AAA Executive Director.
- B. Recommend rules and regulations for the governing of all contests, festivals, and other activities that come under its jurisdiction. All matters of a technical nature or matters unique to an activity shall be considered by the advisory committee for that activity before recommendations are submitted to the AAA Board.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1 - ORIGIN

Proposed amendments to the constitution or to the bylaws, commonly referred to as proposals, shall originate in one of three ways.

- A. Proposals may be originated by one or more member schools or a conference/district at an Activity District meeting. All proposals for amendments to the constitution or bylaws submitted at the activity district meetings must first be presented in proper written form to the AAA office at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at which it will be presented. Such proposals, if approved by a majority vote at an activity district meeting, shall be placed on the governing body agenda for a vote by member schools.
- B. Proposals may be originated by the AAA-approved state organization of a student activity or other sub organization. The state organization's secretary shall certify the proposal to the Executive Director of the AAA stating the date passed by the organization.

NOTE: *The AAA Board shall have the authority to approve a proposal submitted as originated in B above.*

- C. Proposals may be originated by the AAA Board.

SECTION 2 - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- A. A proposal to amend the constitution shall be sent to the Executive Director no fewer than thirty days before the next regular meeting of the Governing Body. At least fifteen days prior to the meeting a copy of the proposal shall be emailed and/or mailed to each member of the Governing Body, and this proposal shall be presented to the Governing Body for discussion and consideration at the next regular meeting. The preferred submission or distribution method for all documents is electronic.
- B. Adoption requires two-thirds of votes cast.

SECTION 3 - BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

- A. Same process as constitutional amendments;
- B. Adoption by majority of votes cast.

SECTION 4 - EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediate unless a different date is specified in the proposal.

SECTION 5 - VOTING BY MAIL/EMAIL

The AAA Board may order an email/mail vote when in the association's best interest (electronic preferred).

SECTION 6 - TIMING

When mailed/emailed, the method and schedule must be stated. Ballots go to superintendents or designated voters within 45 days of the regular meeting; 10 days allowed to return (electronic preferred).

SECTION 7 - SPECIAL BALLOTS

For proposals received by the Executive Director in the 3 quarters of the year after a regular meeting of the Governing Body, AAA Board may authorize an early email/mail vote with a 20-day return window (electronic preferred).

SECTION 8 - EDITING

The AAA Board may combine germane or identical proposals into one without deleting any subject matter. Identical proposals shall be combined into one.

SECTION 9 - BALLOT REQUIREMENTS

All proposals submitted to member schools for a vote by mail/email shall include:

- A. Sponsor,
- B. Purpose, and
- C. AAA Board recommendation/impact.
- D. The same information shall be sent to all advisory committee members for each student organization or activity.
- E. Only affected schools/classifications may vote unless the AAA Board decides otherwise. (Electronic preferred.)

NOTE: *Preferred submission and distribution format is electronic.*

SECTION 10 - TELLERS

The President shall appoint a committee to count and certify votes; AAA Board may set additional procedures as necessary.

SECTION 11 - TABLED ITEMS

Items that have been tabled in previous meetings of the Governing Body cannot be called up for reconsideration unless the AAA Board has been notified in writing in time to place the item on the agenda and the proposal emailed and/or mailed to each member of the Governing Body. The preferred submission or distribution method for all documents is electronic.

SECTION 12 - AMENDING PROPOSALS AT MEETING

- A. At least 15 days before: AAA Board provides analysis; simple majority to amend; then consider the (amended) proposal per Robert's Rules.
- B. Less than 15 days before: Considered only with two-thirds approval of those present; must be submitted in writing and cleared by the parliamentarian to be in proper form. Submission must include sufficient copies for all voting representatives. A member school may initiate this action.
- C. Proposal amendments shall be voted on at the Governing Body meeting. Mail/email-authorized proposals in the ensuing three quarters are not amendable until the next regular meeting.
- D. Proposals on state championships, classification, conferencing are voted on by senior high member schools only.

ARTICLE XI CHANGING ATHLETIC SEASONS

Proposed changes in athletic seasons (beginning and end) shall conform to the requirements for amending the constitution as outlined in [Article X](#) of the constitution. Requires two-thirds approval.

ARTICLE XII CHANGING CLASSIFICATION/CONFERENCE

SECTION 1 - CLASSIFICATION

Changes regarding student enrolment for classification of schools shall follow [Article X](#). Requires two-thirds to adopt. If a classification drops below 4 schools, the AAA Board may reassign those schools to the nearest enrollment classification.

SECTION 2 - CONFERENCES

- A. Activity Districts or conferences may petition the AAA Board with a detailed realignment plan. If approved, it goes to all schools in that classification for a vote (email/mail or called meeting; electronic preferred).
- B. Adoption requires two-thirds of schools in the classification.
- C. During reclassification, the AAA Board may propose plans that reduce travel for a majority reassigned schools.

ARTICLE XIII CATASTROPHE INSURANCE FUND

SECTION 1 - FUND

The AAA Board may establish/administer the fund. Member schools may play one extra varsity benefit contest per varsity team if proceeds go to the Fund.

SECTION 2 - INSURANCE

The AAA Board may purchase catastrophe insurance using Fund dollars. If short, schools may be billed pro-rata.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP FEES

SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP FEES

Each school pays an annual membership fee based on its football classification. Fees are listed below:

Classification	Senior High	Junior High
7A	\$1,500	\$400
6A	\$1,350	\$350
5A	\$1,200	\$300
4A	\$1,000	\$250
3A	\$700	\$200
2A	\$500	\$150
1A	\$350	\$100

***NOTE:** Membership dues are due on October 1. A school not paying their membership dues on time will be fined \$50 each month payment is late.*

SECTION 2 - RULES FOR MEMBERSHIP

- A. Separate Memberships
 - 1. Junior highs and middle schools must hold their own membership if they are separated administratively from the district's high school.
 - 2. For junior high schools with multiple junior high varsity athletic programs, each junior high varsity athletic program requires its own membership.
- B. Grades Covered
 - 1. Schools with at least two grades in 7–9 pay the full junior high fee.
 - 2. Schools with only one grade in 7–9 pay half the junior high fee.
- C. Only schools with memberships receive privileges, including catastrophe insurance coverage and voting rights.
- D. Single-Gender schools: Schools with enrollment limited to one gender pay half the normal fee for their classification plus \$100 for administrative costs.

SECTION 3 - BASKETBALL REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Each senior high school contributes \$50 of its membership fee to help reimburse state basketball tournament expenses.
- B. The AAA distributes these funds to the final eight teams in each classification (quarterfinals through finals in state tournament).
- C. Reimbursement amounts are based on:
 - 1. \$50 multiplied by the number of senior high memberships, and
 - 2. Prorated one-way mileage from each school to the tournament site for each game played.

ARTICLE II

ADMINISTRATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS

SECTION 1 – SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY

Rule 1: Authority and Responsibilities

The superintendent and/or principal are ultimately responsible for their school's compliance with AAA rules. While they may delegate duties, they remain accountable for any violations. Their responsibilities include:

- A. Rule Enforcement
 - 1. Ensure all AAA rules are followed.
 - 2. Delegate duties when needed but remain responsible for infractions.
- B. Maintain local control over all contests and activities in which the school participates.
- C. Educate students and parents about AAA rules and regulations.
- D. Student Conduct
 - 1. Ensure students, as participants or spectators, represent the school appropriately.
 - 2. Exclude students whose habits or conduct are unbecoming of the school.
- E. Do not allow students with serious illnesses or injuries to compete until they are cleared by a physician or appropriate healthcare provider.
- F. Treatment of Visitors & Officials
 - 1. Provide reasonable protection and respect for all visitors and officials at home contests.
 - 2. Visiting administrators must assist host schools in controlling their fans, students, and players.
 - 3. At neutral sites, both schools share joint responsibility for safety and crowd control.
 - 4. Penalties may apply if either school fails to provide reasonable protection.
- G. Ensure all athletic contest contracts are in writing and signed by the superintendent, principal, or athletic director.
- H. School Representation
 - 1. Authorize a full-time faculty member or credentialed volunteer as the official school representative, unless the administrator serves in this role.
 - 2. For activities that are not team sports, with fewer than six students, a responsible adult may serve as representative if authorized in writing. The representatives may only represent one school.
 - 3. Delegation does not relieve the school or administrators of responsibility to the association.
- I. Assign personnel who meet AAA requirements.
- J. Eligibility Documentation
 - 1. Be responsible for obtaining permission to release all necessary documentation to AAA when requested. Provide necessary documents (transcripts, birth certificates, medical records, court orders, etc.) to the AAA when requested.
 - 2. Failure to provide documentation may result in a declaration of ineligibility.
- K. Eligibility Certification
 - 1. Certify eligibility of all participants in grades 7–12 before competition.
 - 2. Certification must be posted in DragonFly.
- L. Exercise powers necessary for the growth and needs of interscholastic programs, consistent with AAA Constitution and Bylaws.
- M. Emergency Preparedness
 - 1. Develop an Emergency Action Plan for each athletic venue and procedures for hot weather practices (A.C.A. §6-18-708).
 - 2. Review these plans annually with staff and local EMS providers as well as practice them ([Act 352 of 2025](#)).

Rule 2: Sportsmanship

All schools and participants are expected to follow the [AAA Sportsmanship Manual](#).

SECTION 2 – COACHES OF COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Rule 1: Qualifications

- A. All coaches must meet one of the following and meet employment criteria in [Rule 2](#):
 - 1. Be a licensed teacher with an appropriate [Coaching Endorsement](#) on their license; or
 - 2. Be a licensed teacher with an appropriate [Coaching Endorsement](#); or
 - 3. Be a teacher with an approved TLP (Temporary Licensure Plan) through DESE and an appropriate [Coaching Endorsement](#); or
 - 4. Be a credentialed Registered Volunteer (See [Rule 3](#)).
 - B. [Required Training](#) (A.C.A. § 6-18-708): Every 3 years, all coaches must complete training on:
 - 1. Concussion management,
 - 2. Heat illness,
 - 3. Sudden cardiac arrest, and
 - 4. Communicable diseases.(The trainings may also include best practices for educating parents on sports safety.)
- NOTE:** *A coach who does not complete this training is ineligible to coach until requirements are met.*
- C. All coaches shall maintain a Basic Life Support certification in CPR and AED. ([Act 247 of 2025](#))
 - D. Cheerleading Coaches – Must hold a current NFHS Learn Cheer and Dance Safety Certification prior to practice or competition. A certified coach must be present at any practice, game, or performance involving learning, practicing, or performing partner stunts or tumbling.
 - E. Football Coaches – Must complete an approved tackling certification course prior to practice or competition.
 - F. Personnel Consequences for Non-Compliance (District mandated):
 - 1. First Violation – Suspended from coaching an athletic activity until training is completed.
 - 2. Second Violation – Suspended from coaching an athletic activity for the remainder of the season and the next season.
 - 3. Third Violation – Permanently suspended from coaching from coaching an athletic activity.
 - G. School Consequences for Using an Ineligible Coach: If an ineligible coach participates in a contest, the school may face:
 - 1. Forfeiture of the contest.
 - 2. The sport being placed on probation for up to one calendar year.
 - 3. The coach being suspended from further activities (as determined by the Executive Director).
 - 4. A fine up to \$500.

Rule 2: Employment

- A. Must be employed and paid by the local school district.
- B. May be assigned to non-classroom duties but still must hold proper teacher licensure (unless granted a TLP).
- C. Teacher-coaches without a DESE coaching endorsement (or those under a TLP) must complete the AAA's coaching education program prior to practice or competition.
- D. Coaches must hold licensure or TLP that qualifies them to be paid legally from the public school teacher salary fund.

- E. The AAA does not recognize a vocational permit as valid coaching licensure, even if the school can pay that individual from the teacher salary fund.
- F. Coaches may receive pay for:
 - 1. Recreational activities outside regular coaching duties (off-hours or summer).
 - 2. Work funded through federal program funds, if their contract allows payment from teacher salary funds.
- G. Required AAA documents for coaches without a DESE coaching endorsement must be:
 - 1. On file at the school, and
 - 2. Submitted through DragonFly each year.

NOTE: *All requirements must be met prior to any student contact.*

Rule 3: Registered Volunteer Coaches

- A. Meet all criteria as specified in ACA §6-22-105.
- B. May serve as a coach in any capacity except as a head coach in varsity junior high or varsity senior high for the following sports:
 - 1. Football
 - 2. Basketball
 - 3. Track & Field
- C. Must be 22 years of age or older.
- D. Cannot receive any financial compensation for coaching duties.
- E. Cannot be a spouse of a member or be a member of the AAA Board unless approved by the AAA Board (Good for 12 months).
- H. Must complete prior to practice or competition:
 - 1. Background and Child Maltreatment Registry Check – Required upon initial verification and every 5 years thereafter, and
 - 2. AAA Coaches Education Program.
- I. Cheer coaches (competitive & non-competitive) must hold NFHS Learn Cheer and Dance Safety Certification.
- J. Football coaches must complete an approved tackling certification course prior to practice or competition.
- K. Required Documents – Must be kept on file at the school and submitted through DragonFly each year.

NOTE: *All requirements must be met prior to any student contact.*

Rule 4: Nonpublic School Coaches

Coaches at nonpublic schools must meet the same requirements as public school coaches in comparable assignments.

Rule 5: Student Teachers

- A. Interns (student teachers) may assist with coaching only during their internship period at their assigned school.
- B. Interns may not:
 - 1. Serve as head coach, or
 - 2. Receive payment for coaching services.

SECTION 3 – SCHOOL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Rule 1: Declaration for Sports

- A. Admission to Conference: Schools are admitted to a conference/district/region only at the start of a classification cycle except as provided for such as in [CONSTITUTION Article XII, Section 1](#) and [Section 2](#), and before The AAA Board finalizes all alignments for a classification cycle.

- B. Each year, schools must declare which sports they will participate in using DragonFly.
1. Fall/Winter Sports (due June 1):
Basketball, Bowling, Competitive Cheer, Competitive Dance, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Swim & Dive, Tennis, Volleyball, and Wrestling
 2. Spring Sports (due December 1):
Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Track & Field
- C. Amendments:
1. Up to Week #13: Add or drop a sport without penalty.
 2. Weeks #14–16: Add or drop a fall/winter sport with \$25 late fee.
 3. State-only sports (Cross Country, Cheer, Dance, Swim & Dive): May declare up to the state entry deadline.
 4. After Week #22: If the school has not declared in Baseball, Softball, Soccer, or Track, they cannot compete in conference, district, region or state events.
- D. Failure to declare on time: Students cannot participate in conference, district, region, or state events.
- E. Failure to Participate: If a school declares but does not compete (including “no shows”):
1. Students lose participation rights in conference, region, and state events for other sports until a \$25 penalty is paid.
 2. The AAA Executive Director may waive the fee if circumstances were unavoidable (written explanation from administrator is required).
- F. If a school drops a junior or senior high program, they must notify the AAA and their conference schools within ~10 days.

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Schools must meet these reporting and compliance requirements. Penalties are listed.

Requirement	Platform	Deadline	Penalty
Baseball pitch count	MaxPreps	By noon next day	\$50
Declarations (sports participation)	DragonFly	June 1 (Fall-Winter)/ Dec 1 (Spring)	\$25
Graduation date/time entry (High Schools)	DragonFly	Oct 1	\$50
Rules presentations (all sports)	DragonFly	Per sport deadlines	\$50
Schedules (FB, VB, BB, BA, SB, Soccer)	DragonFly	Apr 1, Jun 1, Feb 1	\$50
Scores (FB, VB, BB, BA, SB, Soccer) within 24 hrs.	DragonFly/MaxPreps	Post-contest	\$50
SIP rules presentation	DragonFly	Sept 5, Jan 20	\$50
SIP student entries	DragonFly	Sept 5, Jan 20	\$50
Team rosters (FB, VB, BB, BA, SB, Soccer)	DragonFly	Per deadlines	\$50
Voting Rep Meeting	In Person	Fall	\$50
Annual NFHS Participation Survey	FinalForms	May 15th	\$50

Reporting Dates

Date	Sport/Type	Requirement
April 1	Football/Volleyball	Schedule
June 1	Fall/Winter Sports	Declare
June 1	Basketball	Schedule
August 2	Golf	Rules Presentation
August 16	Cheer/Dance (Competitive/Sideline)	Rules Presentation
August 16	Tennis	Rules Presentation
August 16	Cross Country	Rules Presentation
August 23	Volleyball	Rules Presentation and Roster
August 30	Football	Rules Presentation and Roster
September 5	SIP	Rules Presentation/ Students Entered
October 1	Graduation	Date and Time
October 1	Competitive Dance	Roster
October 18	Basketball (Non FB schools)	Rules Presentation and Roster
October 22	Competitive Cheer	Roster
November 1	Swim & Dive	Rules Presentation
November 8	Basketball (FB schools)	Rules Presentation and Roster
November 15	Wrestling	Rules Presentation and Roster
November 15	Swim & Dive	Roster
December 1	Spring Sports	Declare
January 20	SIP	Students Entered
February 1	Baseball/Softball/Soccer	Schedule
February 21	Track and Field	Rules Presentation
February 28	Baseball/Softball/Soccer	Rules Presentation and Roster
May 15	Annual NFHS Participation Survey	Athletics and Activities Survey

Rule 3: Eligibility Lists

- A. Athletics: Each athlete must be entered in DragonFly before competition.
- B. Non-Athletics: Administrator must sign eligibility statement (attached to entry form or list of participating students) and submit with registration or entry form. **These are not sent to AAA.**
- C. List Exchange: Schools may view opponents' eligibility lists through DragonFly.

Rule 4: Contracts Between Schools

- A. All contests must use [AAA contract forms](#).
- B. Cancellation requires mutual written agreement.

- C. Contracts cannot extend beyond reclassification cycles.

Exception: *An exception to this requirement may be made by the Executive Director when it is determined that a schedule change is necessary for a school to be in compliance with a change of rules and regulations adopted by the Governing Body. Contractual agreements exceeding one year shall be limited to and shall coincide with reclassification cycles.*

- D. If a school cancels a game contract without mutual consent:
 - 1. Forfeits the game.
 - 2. Pays forfeiture fee.
 - 3. Reimburses opponent for reasonable expenses.
 - 4. Cannot schedule another game that week.
 - 5. Must pay fees/reimbursements within 30 days or risk suspension.

Rule 5: Contracts with Officials

- A. Must be made on [AAA-approved forms](#); cancellation only by mutual written consent.

Exception: *An exception to this requirement may be made by the Executive Director when it is determined that a schedule change is necessary for a school to be in compliance with a change of rules and regulations adopted by the Governing Body. Contractual agreements exceeding one year shall be limited to and shall coincide with reclassification cycles.*

- B. Breaking a contract without consent results in paying the stipulated fee.
- C. Registered officials (where required) for regular season events must be chosen by mutual agreement of both schools.
- D. If an official(s) cancels within 48 hours of the event:
 - 1. Host school may assign a replacement of equal or higher classification.
 - 2. If the conference has an approved officials list, host school may use it regardless of the official's classification.

Rule 6: Enforcement of Contracts

- A. Oral contracts are not enforceable.
- B. Breach of contract occurs if a coach orders a team to stop play before an event ends.
- C. The Executive Director may cancel games due to epidemics, accidents, or natural hazards.
- D. Two-year contracts (e.g., football) must align with [AAA calendar week numbers](#), not dates, to avoid confusion. These must also coincide with the classification cycles.

Rule 7: Protests on Games & Officials

- A. Basis for Protest
 - 1. Only allowed for contract violations using [AAA contract forms](#).
 - 2. Must be made in writing:
 - a. One copy to the opposing coach.
 - b. One copy to the AAA office (email preferred).
 - 3. Must also provide verbal notice to the opposing coach and officials before the contest begins.
 - 4. AAA Executive Director investigates and decides.
 - 5. If protest is upheld, the innocent team wins by forfeit.
 - 6. Judgment calls by officials regarding interpretation and application of playing rules cannot be protested.
- B. Review of Game Video
 - 1. AAA may review video to rule on unsportsmanlike behavior by coaches, players, students, fans, or administrators that occur prior to, during, or after an event.
 - 2. Penalties follow AAA Handbook & [Sportsmanship Manual](#).

SECTION 4 – VIOLATIONS, APPEALS, AND PENALTIES

Rule 1: Reporting Violations

Any authorized representative of a member school or involved game official may file a complaint against any school or school representative for a violation of the rules and regulations of this association. Such complaint shall be filed with the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association in writing within five (5) working days after the discovery of the violation. Furthermore, complaints regarding team sports filed after seven (7) days prior to the commencement of post-season conference, regional or state contest may be adjudicated in the same manner as individual sports. Individual participants found to be ineligible may be removed from further contests and games may be forfeited. The team may be allowed to advance in the position determined by the standings or seeding if already assigned. If seeding has not been finalized then the seeding may be adjusted to accommodate for a forfeiture.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the Executive Director shall make an investigation of the charges contained in the complaint within a reasonable time which may include asking for assistance or investigation by the alleged violators. The penalty may be less severe if a school reports itself and/or the violation is found to be unintentional in nature. A more severe penalty may be issued if the violation was intentional.

Rule 2: Notification and Investigation

- A. During the investigation of the complaint, the Executive Director shall notify the school's authorized representative of the alleged charges of violations of the rules and regulations in writing or email in such language that the charged party (school or representative) shall have disclosure of the alleged acts of misconduct or impropriety constituting the alleged violation of the rules and regulations of the association. If during the course of an investigation or hearing, the AAA becomes aware of other potential violations of any AAA rules or regulations, the Executive Director shall notify the school's authorized representative of the alleged charges of violations of the rules and regulations in writing or email in such language that the charged party (school or representative) shall have disclosure of the alleged acts of misconduct or impropriety constituting the alleged violation of the rules and regulations of the association. The Executive Director shall have discretion whether to pursue the other potential violations.
- B. When a written notice is given by the Executive Director, it shall be mailed or emailed to the school of the charged party(ies). Such notice shall contain the time and place set for a hearing of the charges, if charges are denied. The preferred submission or distribution method for all documents is electronic.
- C. The Executive Director shall hear the evidence presented at the hearing and within 10 working days of the conclusion of the hearing issue written findings and a decision.
- D. Any oral or documentary evidence not privileged may be received if it is of a type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs.
- E. The findings and decision of the Executive Director shall be served upon the charged party(ies) in the same manner required for notice of a hearing. Unless the Executive Director receives a written objection and request for appeal within 10 working days of the mailing of said decision, the decision shall be final. If time is of the essence, a written objection and request for appeal may be required in fewer than the allotted 10 working days.
- F. If a school accepts in writing a suggested penalty after receiving the notice of alleged charges of violations, no further hearing shall be necessary.
- G. It is the responsibility of the school to timely notify the parent, or guardian, of the student, when a complaint, or notice of violation, relates to the eligibility or potential ineligibility of

a specific student. Including but not limited to: complaint notice, notice of hearing, and notice of decision.

Rule 3: Procedure for Appeals

Any authorized representative of a member school or student/parent may appeal a decision or opinion given by the Executive Director, either oral or written. Such appeal shall be made in writing.

An appeal on behalf of a student by the parents shall be filed through the school's authorized representative. After receiving the written appeal, the Executive Director shall:

- A. Notify the president of the AAA of said appeal.
- B. And,
 1. If time is of the essence, the president shall within a reasonable time appoint a hearing subcommittee of the Board of Directors of not fewer than five (5) members which shall convene for the purpose of conducting a hearing of the appeal with reasonable notice to the party(ies) involved.
 2. If time is not of the essence, the Board of Directors shall hear the appeal at a regular meeting. The procedure for notice of such hearing shall be the same as for a subcommittee hearing.
- C. Notice of the time and place of such a hearing shall be served upon the appealing party(ies) by mail or email. The preferred submission or distribution method for all documents is electronic. An administrator of the involved school should be present at the hearing. Legal counsel may represent the appealing parties provided the AAA Executive Director is notified at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.
- D. Within ten (10) working days after the conclusion of any hearing, the Executive Director shall notify all parties of the committee's or hearing officer's decision.
- E. Then,
 1. In the event the appealing parties are dissatisfied with the decision of the hearing subcommittee or Board of Directors as the case may be, an appeal to an independent hearing officer may be had by serving written notice of appeal to the Executive Director.
 2. The Executive Director shall contact a hearing officer and set a date, time, and place for the hearing. Notice of the time and place shall follow the procedures established for the first appeal.
 3. After the hearing the hearing officer shall render an expeditious written opinion as to whether the Executive Director, hearing subcommittee, or the Board of Directors followed the rules of the association and the law in making a determination about the alleged violation or other basis for appeal. Within ten (10) working days after the decision of the hearing officer, the Executive Director shall notify all parties of the committee's or hearing officer's decision.
 4. In the event the appealing parties are dissatisfied with the decision of the subcommittee and hearing officer, an appeal to the Board of Directors to review the opinion of the hearing officer may be had by serving a written notice of appeal to the Executive Director. Notice of the time and place of such a hearing shall follow the procedures established for the earlier appeals.
 5. In the event a majority of the original hearing Directors who heard the original appeal as part of a hearing subcommittee or the Board of Directors as the case may be, are dissatisfied with the opinion of the hearing officer, such Directors may request an appeal to the Board of Directors to review the opinion of the hearing officer. A 75% majority agreement of the Board of Directors present at the hearing is required for the Board of Directors to reject an opinion of the hearing officer. Notice of the time and place of such a hearing shall follow the procedures established for the earlier appeals.

- F. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal to the AAA Board by the appealing parties or by request from the subcommittee, the Executive Director shall set the appeal for hearing, de novo, at its next meeting. The rules as set out above for a hearing before the Executive Director shall apply to hearings before the AAA Board.
- G. The procedure for notifications of the appealing party(ies) shall be the same as for the previous appeal.
- H. The filing of a written objection and appeal from the decision of the Executive Director of an appeal from the decision of the hearing subcommittee or the opinion of the hearing officer shall not stay the order of the Executive Director. Such order may be stayed by the AAA Board if, in the exercise of its judgment, the interest of justice would be served. A hearing subcommittee may stay the order of the Executive Director when acting instead of the AAA Board, and such action shall be considered at the next meeting of the AAA Board.
- I. If the appeal to the AAA Board as a whole requires a special called meeting, the appealing party(ies) shall be required to make such arrangements as are satisfactory to the Executive Director to secure the payment of the costs of the appeal including travel expenses of the AAA Board and the cost of taking and transcribing a record thereof to be paid by the appealing party(ies) in the event the appeal to the AAA Board is not successful.

Rule 4: Penalties

Except for fines authorized in other sections of the bylaws, a violation of any rule or regulation, mandatory or prohibitory, contained in either the bylaws or the constitution of the Arkansas Activities Association, or any amendment enacted by any member school or a representative of such school shall subject the school or the representative, through action against the school, to one of the following penalties, depending upon the severity of the violation: Warning, Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion. Any further violation(s) during a penalty period shall subject the school or individual to a more severe penalty. If a violation occurs during a non-participating time period, other penalties may be imposed.

A. Warning

- 1. School may forfeit games/awards during violation period.
- 2. May still compete for championships, ratings, and awards.
- 3. Can last up to 365 days from the date of the school being placed on warning.
- 4. May participate in regular season events.

B. Probation

- 1. School forfeits games/awards during violation period.
- 2. Cannot compete for championships, ratings, or awards in that sport/activity.
- 3. Can last up to 365 days from the date of the school being placed on probation.
- 4. May still play regular season games.
- 5. As an alternative, the school may reduce the penalty of probation to a warning by suspending a school employee or student causing the violation for a length of time accepted by the AAA and from duties or privileges of attendance, supervision, coaching, practicing, or playing in the activity or sport involved. Suspension of such individuals shall not exceed the time prescribed for the probation or warning period.

C. Suspension

- 1. School forfeits games/awards during violation period.
- 2. Cannot play regular season, invitational, district, regional, or state events.
- 3. Can last up to 365 days from the date of the school being placed on warning.

D. Expulsion

- 1. School forfeits games/awards during violation period.
- 2. The school or individual may not participate in any interscholastic activities.

3. The Governing Body shall have exclusive power to expel a school from the association by a two-thirds vote.

E. Additional Provisions

1. Forfeited events as a result of warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion: The offended team receives the forfeit as defined in the sport's official rules.
2. Awards: If forfeiture is required after an event has occurred, the next finisher (individual sport) or the last team offended (team sport) receives the award.
3. If a student is ineligible according to AAA rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such AAA rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order of injunction against that student's school and/or AAA, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed, or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination, those penalties stipulated in Rule 4A, B, C, D, or E, may be imposed.

SECTION 5 – CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS

Rule 1: Senior High Classification Cycle

- A. Cycle length: Every two years; begins in an even-numbered school year (e.g., 2026–2028).
- B. Basis: October 1 enrollment in grades 9–11.
- C. Public school enrollment: Use the school's DESE October 1 reports, averaged over three years.

Rule 2: Nonpublic, Single-Gender, and Petitions

- A. Single-gender schools: Enrollment is doubled for classification.
- B. Nonpublic schools: Use ANSAA October 1 grades 9–11 enrollment, averaged over three years.
 1. 80+ nonpublic students (grades 9–11): Move up one class at baseline; then sport-by-sport adjustments may apply via the Competitive Equity Factor (CEF).
 2. CEF timing & duration: Calculated after each sport concludes in the final year of the classification cycle; adjustments apply to the next two-year cycle.
- C. Nonpublic schools may petition to move to a higher classification than assigned. The petition must include all sports offered by the school. Must petition each cycle and may cite geography, population density, or competitive factors. Deadline: File a written petition with the Executive Director within 20 working days after classification numbers are released.

Rule 3: Classifications (General)

- A. Classifications are statewide and supervised by the AAA Board.
- B. Refer to each sport for its specific classification model.
 1. Football
 - a. 7A: Nonpublic schools assigned by CEF + largest football-playing public schools by enrollment (total 16).
 - b. 6A: Nonpublic schools assigned by CEF + next largest football-playing public schools by enrollment (total 16).
 - c. 5A: Nonpublic schools assigned by CEF + next largest football-playing public schools by enrollment (total 32).
 - d. 4A: Nonpublic schools assigned by CEF + next largest football-playing public schools by enrollment (total 48).
 - e. 3A: Nonpublic schools assigned by CEF + next largest football-playing public schools by enrollment (total 48).
 - f. 2A: Remaining football-playing public schools + nonpublic schools by CEF.
 2. All Other Sports (non-football)

- a. 6A: Largest 16 public schools by enrollment + nonpublic schools by CEF.
 - b. 5A: Next largest 32 public schools by enrollment + nonpublic schools by CEF.
 - c. 4A: Next largest 48 public schools by enrollment + nonpublic schools by CEF.
 - d. 3A / 2A / 1A: Divide remaining public schools into three groups (place the remainder share in 1A if not divisible by 3) + nonpublic schools by CEF.
- C. Point System for Team Sports (Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball):
 1. Nonpublic schools of 80 or more students grades 9-11 currently participate in one classification higher than the school's enrollment numbers indicate. The following point system would allow for all nonpublic schools in these specific sports to:
 - a. Continue to participate in the classification the school currently participates in if they are competitive or
 - b. Move down a classification if the school is non-competitive or
 - c. Move up another classification if the school is dominant.
 2. Points will be awarded for the 2 years previous to the classification cycle. Specific sports will only be awarded point for the highest point category achieved. For example, if a specific sport is a state finalist, the specific sport would earn 3 points total for that year. The school would not earn points for a winning record or playoff wins for that season.

Winning Conference Record – 1 point
 State Playoff/Tournament Win – 2 points
 State Finalist – 3 points
 State Champion – 4 points
 3. Placement

0 points – Non-Competitive
 Specific sport moves down one classification from the current classification unless the adjustment would classify the specific sport in a classification below their actual enrollment numbers.

1-4 points – Competitive
 Specific sport remains in classification currently assigned.

5+ points – Dominant
 Specific sport moves up one classification from the classification currently assigned for the next cycle unless enrollment fluctuations require additional adjustments pursuant to Rule 2.
 4. If a specific sport moves up in classification due to application of the Competitive Equity Factor, the specific sport may move down one classification at the completion of the 2-year cycle if the specific sport earns 0 points during the previous two years. No specific sport classification can be adjusted due to the Competitive Equity Factor more than one classification up or down per cycle.
 5. Nonpublic schools cannot be moved to a classification below what their actual enrollment numbers indicate.

NOTE: Competitive equity calculations will be applied to any nonpublic AAA member school that has previously declared for a specific sport. Competitive equity calculations will not be considered in classification placement for new nonpublic AAA member schools or for existing nonpublic AAA member schools who declare for a specific sport for the first time. Therefore, if they have 80 or more students in grades 9-11, they will participate one classification higher than their enrollment numbers. Two years of data from the two years previous to the classification cycle as a AAA member school in each specific sport is used to apply the competitive equity factor.
- D. Point system for Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Spirit, Swim & Dive, Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling.

1. Nonpublic schools having 80 or more students in grades 9-11 shall move up one class when classifying schools. The following point system would allow for nonpublic schools in these specific sports to;
 - a. Continue to participate in the classification as assigned.
 - b. Move up another classification if the school is **dominant**.
1. Points will be awarded for the 2 years previous to the classification cycle.
State Runner Up - 3 Points
State Champion - 4 Points
2. Placement
4+ points - Dominant - Specific sport moves up one classification from the classification currently assigned for the next cycle unless enrollment fluctuations require additional adjustments pursuant to Rule 2.
3. If a specific sport moves up in classification due to the Competitive Equity Factor, the specific sport may move back down at the completion of the 2-year cycle if the specific sport earns 0 points during the previous two years.
4. Nonpublic schools cannot be moved to a classification below what their actual enrollment numbers indicate.

NOTE: *Competitive equity calculations will be applied to any nonpublic AAA member school that has previously declared for a specific sport. Competitive equity calculations will not be considered in classification placement for new nonpublic AAA member schools or for existing nonpublic AAA member schools who declare for a specific sport for the first time. Therefore, if they have 80 or more students in grades 9-11, they will participate one classification higher than their enrollment numbers. Two years of data from the two years previous to the classification cycle as a AAA member school in each specific sport is used to apply the competitive equity factor.*

Rule 4: Academic Contests (Selective Schools)

Schools whose enrollment is entirely selected for academic excellence compete in academic contests with the largest state classification.

Rule 5: Junior High

Junior highs are classified the same as their parent school.

Rule 6: Isolated Schools

- A. An isolated school (average one-way conference travel of 200+ miles) may request to move up to reduce excessive travel.
- B. If granted, other adjustments will be made to maintain classification numbers.

Rule 7: Combined Programs & Consolidations

- A. If two annexed districts keep two high schools and one does not offer a sport, a combined team must compete at the higher of the two schools' classifications.
- B. Upon consolidation, enrollment numbers are combined for classification.

SECTION 6 – ATHLETIC CONFERENCES

Rule 1: Assignment to Conferences

- A. The AAA Board assigns schools to conferences geographically every two-year classification cycle.
- B. Small Conferences: If a conference has fewer than 4 schools in a sport:
 1. The AAA Board shall assign such schools to adjacent conferences for that sport only, or
 2. The AAA Board shall move schools from adjacent conferences to a conference with fewer than four schools.

3. Assignments last for the remainder of the current two-year cycle.
 4. Assignments will be for one sport only.
 5. Goal: balance conference size and reduce travel.
 6. Schools in reassigned conferences must decide, by majority of the schools involved, how to split costs (conducting events, fees, awards, etc.), and pay fees before participation.
- C. Classification Groups
1. Classification groups approved by the AAA Board may organize statewide for certain sports.
 2. These groups report directly to the AAA Board, not to an activity district.
- D. Changing Conferences: A school may change conferences if:
1. Numbers remain within limits, and
 2. Both conferences approve with a two-thirds vote of each conference.
 3. Process: School submits a written request for AAA to conduct the ballot.
 4. Applies to all sports the school plays within that conference.
- E. Independent Participation: If a school chooses to compete independently from their conference in one sport, it must compete independently in all sports it offers.

Rule 2: Conference Admittance

Schools can only be admitted to a conference or region in team sports at the start of a classification cycle, before the AAA Board finalizes alignments.

Rule 3: Conference Authority

Each conference has responsibility to:

- A. Organize, elect officers, and adopt rules: Rules may be more restrictive than AAA's, but not less restrictive or in conflict with AAA rules.
- B. Provide awards.
- C. Give financial reports to members at least once a year.
- D. Work with schools to see that schedules are arranged prior to June 1 in football and October 1 in basketball so that each new school may have the opportunity of playing the required number of games.
- E. Set the date of the first game to be counted for the championship.

Rule 4: Determining Conference Seeding

- A. Conferences may use round-robin scheduling for determining conference champions, certifying teams to state events, or seeding of tournaments on a percent basis of games won and lost if two-thirds of the conference schools approve.
- B. Forfeits and Refusals
 1. A school that fails or refuses to play a conference opponent during regular season or district tournament without just cause:
 - a. Forfeits the game, and
 - b. Is ineligible to compete for a championship in that sport.
 2. With AAA approval, a school may schedule a substitute game with a school of equal or higher classification if just cause exists.
 3. A school that refuses to play in a regional tournament without just cause forfeits and cannot advance further.
- C. Unplayed Games: If a round-robin game cannot be rescheduled before the schedule's deadline:
 1. Charge each team a loss for the game(s) not played and order standings.
 2. If this creates a tie, apply the standard tie-breaking procedure.
- D. Mixed Method Option: Conferences may:

1. Use round robin to certify the champion for regional, state, and/or
2. Require a tournament to certify other qualifiers.

SECTION 7 – CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Rule 1: Ninth Grade Participation

Ninth graders may participate in all high school activities, regardless of grade placement or building, if:

- A. They are in the same attendance zone, and
- B. Both principals agree.
- C. A ninth grader may be moved up to senior high in one sport and back down to junior high in another.
- D. Once a student competes in senior high in a sport, they cannot return to junior high in that same sport.

Rule 2: Eligibility Exceptions

- A. A student ineligible for junior high due only to age or semester rules may play on the senior high team.
- B. 7th and 8th graders cannot play senior high unless they are ineligible for junior high due to age/semester rules.

SECTION 8 – EVENTS (ACTIVITIES)

Rule 1: Rules

All interscholastic activities must have rules and regulations approved by the AAA Board.

Rule 2: Changing Rules

- A. Changes require superintendent, principal, or authorized representative approval.
- B. Changes affecting fees or dates must be voted on electronically (email/mail ballot with signatures from sponsor and administrator) by being sent to the superintendent or principal.

Rule 3: AAA Board Authority

- A. The AAA Board may revoke, reconsider, or withdraw approval of an activity if it no longer meets educational standards or if irregularities occur.
- B. The AAA Board may reconsider approval of any activity, at any time, and it shall do so upon receipt of a written request by a school superintendent or principal.

Rule 4: AAA Calendar

- A. Uses a 52-week numbered system.
- B. The week with Thanksgiving is Week #21. All other weeks are numbered accordingly.
- C. A minimum 7-year rolling calendar is included in the handbook.

Rule 5: Scheduling Events

- A. AAA events follow the handbook calendar.
- B. AAA passes must be accepted at all AAA-approved events.

Rule 6: Sanction (Approval) of Events

- A. Non-athletic education based national contests: participation is a local decision.
- B. No competition is allowed with out-of-state schools who are not in good standing with their state association. The member school is responsible for ascertaining the status of such school.
- C. School groups may miss no more than 2 school days per out-of-state trip.
- D. Travel allowed:

1. Contiguous states,
 2. Non-contiguous states within a 300-mile radius of the school,
 3. One athletic event per sport beyond contiguous states per season (NFHS approval required).
- E. Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Director for educational merit.
- F. Penalty: mandatory probation (and possible restrictions) for up to 365 days in that activity.
- G. Events NOT requiring sanction forms:
1. Regularly scheduled events between two schools (after 3:30 p.m., Saturdays, or during extended school breaks, including contiguous/out-of-state trips within 300 miles).
 2. Invitational events sponsored by AAA member schools AND involving only AAA member schools, in-state NFHS affiliated schools or Home School teams that begin after 3:30 p.m. on school days or anytime on Saturday or extended school breaks. Invitational tournaments shall meet the criteria in [Rule 7A](#).
 3. Statewide non-athletic events on the AAA calendar by the constitution and bylaws or rules of the organization or activities that begin after 3:30 p.m. or during weekends/during extended school breaks.
- H. Events REQUIRING sanction forms (submit at least 30 days prior)
1. Multi-school events in contiguous or non-contiguous states (less than 300 mile radius).
 2. One out-of-state event beyond a 300-mile radius (NFHS approved). This is limited to one athletic event, per sport, per season.
 3. Events with non-NFHS schools.
 4. Events with more than two schools and involve out-of-state schools.
 5. Rescheduled weather-related events requiring sanction or would cause a loss of class time.
 6. Out-of-state events starting before 3:30 p.m. on a school day.
 7. Any official event starting before 3:30 p.m. on a school day.
 8. Academic competitions before 3:30 p.m. in math, science, social studies, language arts, or foreign language:
 - a. Students must be enrolled in that subject and be selected to participate based upon outstanding achievement.
 - b. Max 1 school day or 5.5 hours/year.
- I. Exceptions to 3:30 p.m. rule (One or more of the following must be met and applies to district/region/state events only):
1. Facility availability on non-school days.
 2. Multi-day events (Saturday required before using a weekday).
 3. Too many participants for one day.
 4. Lack of available officials/judges on non-school days.
 5. Excessive costs of non-school-day scheduling.
 6. Weather.
- J. Events Outside AAA Jurisdiction
1. Non-eligibility-impacting field trips.
 2. Non-school-sponsored events.
 3. Independent academic contests if In the area of math, science, social studies, or English, and
 - a. Sponsored by outside organizations, and
 - b. Students qualify through local/district events.
 - c. Students of non-member schools must have administrator approval from the AAA member school host school to participate.
- K. Junior High
1. No state-level events for junior high.
 2. Junior high invitationals allowed if:

- a. No more than 4 activity districts involved on a school day, or
- b. Held on Saturday/extended school break.
- 3. Out-of-state competition allowed if within a 150 mile radius of the school.

Rule 7: Criteria for Sanction (Approval)

- A. Invitational events: after 3:30 p.m., no part begins after 9:00 p.m. on weekdays while school is in session.
- B. Tournaments: must finish in one week (early rounds may start on Saturday and conclude the following Saturday).
- C. Purpose must align with AAA; social activities must conform with school policies in a majority of participating schools.
- D. Must provide educational benefit.
- E. Awards must be appropriate in number, kind, and value. In non-athletics, equipment awards relating to the student's skills are acceptable. Scholarships are recommended, cash discouraged.
- F. Entry fees should be proportionate to cover costs only (no profit goal).
- G. No events that are commercial in nature (tour packages/theme park).

Rule 8: Application for Sanction

- A. Must be submitted at least 30 days before the event to the Executive Director.
- B. Late applications may be allowed with a \$200 penalty if schools knew of the event in time.
- C. Application must be complete and submitted by an authorized faculty representative or event sponsor.

Rule 9: Athletic Camps/Clinics

Definition of an athletic camp or clinic: When three or more students or school teams meet for sport instruction.

- A. School teams may not participate in camps or clinics until they have completed all of the student instructional days for the year.
 - B. During School Year (out of season). Students are allowed to participate if:
 - 1. Not sponsored by a high school,
 - 2. No AAA coaches involved,
 - 3. No school time missed (including travel and participation),
 - 4. Paid by students/parents, and
 - 5. No inter-camp competition.
 - C. During Summer/Extended School Breaks: Allowed if:
 - 1. Instructional only, no competition between camps, consists of three or more students or school teams,
 - 2. [Athletic Release Form](#) required if organized, or supervised, by another school's coach.
 - D. Private Lessons when paid by parents: Allowed year-round; not considered camps.
 - E. Amateurism: Students may not be paid for coaching in a manner that violates the [amateurism rules](#).
- NOTE:** See Recruitment Rule ([Article III, Section 1, Rule 5](#)) and [Athletic Release Form information](#).
- F. Football-Specific:
 - 1. Equipment: Grades 9-12 - helmets, shoulder pads, and upper-body pads only; no lower-body pads; no sleds/tackling machines allowed.
 - 2. Equipment: Grades 7-8 - helmets only; no lower-body pads; no sleds/tackling machines allowed.

3. 7-on-7: requires at least 3 schools; only basic equipment (footballs, helmets, mouthguards, handheld dummies) allowed.
 4. Football camps (including 7-on-7) allowed only between end of spring term and the beginning of fall practice (Week #5).
- G. Responsibility: Schools must inform students and monitor compliance.
- H. Penalty: Schools may be penalized in that sport for the next season; students may be ineligible for up to 1 year.

Rule 10: All-Star Contests

- A. Student All-Star Participation.
A student who is a member of a school team may not become a member of an all-star football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer or volleyball team, in season, without losing his eligibility in that sport for up to one year (365 days) from the date of such participation with the all-star team.
- B. Students in grades 7-12 of AAA member schools may not participate in All-Star games or selective competitions unless:
1. They have exhausted their eligibility in that sport,
 2. There is no loss of time from school to travel or participate, and
 3. There is no cost to the school.

Rule 11: Sunday Contests

There are no interscholastic athletic contests on Sunday.

Exception: Executive Director may reschedule championships to Sunday due to weather.

Rule 12: Scouting & Video Recording

- A. During regularly scheduled events, host schools must allow up to two scouts from other AAA schools scheduled to compete against either team later.
- B. No third-party filming without permission from both participating teams.
- C. Each school may film its own events for educational or historical purposes and share for scouting.
- D. Host schools may permit families/friends to record for non-commercial purposes.

Rule 13: Broadcast & Television Rights

- A. Regular events: Host school controls local broadcast/web rights.
- B. Elimination events (regional or state): AAA controls scouting, filming, broadcasting, and streaming rights.

Rule 14: Vendors

- A. The AAA-approved vendors have exclusive rights to sell commemorative merchandise at AAA regional and state championship events.
- B. The AAA Board and staff will contract with responsible vendors to ensure quality items.

ARTICLE III ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1 – ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Purpose and scope

- A. Participation is a privilege, not a right. Rules protect educational value, prevent exploitation, and ensure interscholastic education-based activities remain an integral part of the educational program.

- B. Students are eligible only when **ALL** rules are met; eligibility may be regained by correcting deficiencies.
- C. Rules apply to grades 7–12; junior high rules apply to 7–9; senior high rules apply to 9–12. A 9th-grade program is the varsity junior high team.

NOTE: In the rules that follow, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular as the context requires or permits. Where appropriate, personal pronouns refer to either gender.

Rule 1: Domicile

- A. Public Schools: A student must meet one of the following criteria:
 - 1. Eligibility is in the parent's domicile district (and specific attendance zone, if applicable). AAA recognizes only one domicile. A qualifying domicile change is a complete, bona fide move from one domicile to another, or
 - 2. A student meets the domicile requirement after being continuously enrolled for 365 days, or
 - 3. Transfers (school choice/board-to-board) into grades 7–10 must occur before June 1 with a [CSAP](#) filed with the receiving school and AAA for a student to be eligible; later enrollment results in the student being ineligible for 365 days. ([Act 475 of 2025](#)), or
 - 4. If a public school closes, students may school-choice/board-to-board by June 1 of the calendar year the school closes and remain eligible, or
 - 5. If a student enrolls in the district of their parent's domicile within the first 11 days of the fall or spring semester, eligibility resumes after attending one day, if not violating Same Sport Season. This is not applicable to magnet/specialty/competitive-entry/public charter (no attendance zones).
- B. Nonpublic Schools: A student must meet one of the following criteria:
 - 1. To be eligible in grades 7–10, must enroll before June 1 with a [CSAP](#) on file with the school and AAA; later enrollment results in the student being ineligible for 365 days([Act 475 of 2025](#)), or
 - 2. A bona fide move by the parents from outside a 25-mile radius of the school to within a 25-mile radius of the school satisfies the domicile requirement, or
 - 3. Domicile requirement is also met after being continuously enrolled for 365 days.
- C. Public Charter Schools: A student must meet one of the following criteria:
 - 1. To be eligible in grades 7–10, must enroll before June 1 with a [CSAP](#) on file with the school and AAA; later enrollment results in the student being ineligible for 365 days ([Act 475 of 2025](#)), or
 - 2. A bona fide move by the parents from outside a 25-mile radius of the school to within a 25-mile radius of the school satisfies the domicile requirement, or
 - 3. Domicile is also met after being continuously enrolled for 365 days.
- D. Homeschool — Resident District / Attendance Zone ([Act 475 of 2025](#))(A.C.A. § 6-15-509)
 - 1. A home school student shall be given the opportunity to try out for an athletic or non-athletic competitive activity or team in their resident public school district or specific attendance zone if the following criteria are met:
 - a. Notify the principal in writing of intent before sign-ups/tryouts or deadlines established for all students of the school;
 - b. show academic eligibility (at least 30th percentile on an approved norm-referenced test within the last 12 months or minimum score on other State Board of Education approved test);
 - c. enroll in at least 1 nonacademic period/zero hour within first 11 days of the semester so district may receive 1/6 foundation funding;
 - d. meet all practice/consent/physical exams/drug testing/fee requirements;

- e. be required to be at school only when other students in the same activity are required to be at school; and
 - f. be transported by the district in like manner as other students in the activity;
- 2. A homeschool student is ineligible if the student withdrew from a varsity sport in an AAA member school in the prior 365 days.
- E. Homeschool — Non-Resident Public District ([Act 475 of 2025](#))
 - 1. A home school student shall be given the opportunity to try out for an athletic or non-athletic competitive activity or team at a public school district other than in their resident public school district if the following criteria are met:
 - a. be approved to participate by June 1 before grades 7-10;
 - b. show academic eligibility (at least 30th percentile on an approved norm-referenced test within the last 12 months or minimum score on other State Board of Education approved test);
 - c. enroll in at least 1 nonacademic period/zero hour within first 11 days of the semester so district may receive 1/6 foundation funding;
 - d. meet all practice/consent/physical exams/drug testing/fee requirements;
 - e. be required to be at school only when other students in the same activity are required to be at school; and
 - f. be transported by the district in like manner as other students in the activity;
 - 2. A homeschool student is ineligible if the student withdrew from a varsity sport in an AAA member school in the prior 365 days.
- F. Homeschool — Nonpublic School ([Act 475 of 2025](#))
 - 1. A homeschool student shall be given the opportunity to try out for an athletic or non-athletic competitive activity or team at a nonpublic school if the following criteria are met:
 - a. be approved to participate by June 1 before grades 7-10.
 - b. show academic eligibility (at least 30th percentile on an approved norm-referenced test within the last 12 months or minimum score on other State Board of Education approved test);
 - c. enroll in at least 1 period/zero hour;
 - d. meet all practice/consent/physical/drug testing/fee requirements;
 - e. be required to be at school only when other students in the same activity are required to be at school; and
 - f. be transported by the district in like manner as other students in the activity;
 - 2. A homeschool student is ineligible if the student withdrew from a varsity sport in an AAA member school in the prior 365 days.
- G. Transfers after June 1 before grades 7–10 are ineligible for the current year ([Act 475 of 2025](#)).
- H. Complete & Bona Fide Change of Domicile (what it requires)
 - 1. Abandon original domicile (sold/selling or 1-year lease (minimum) to non-family; no family living there; utilities off unless openly listed for sale or rent; remove belongings/furniture unless leased furnished with a detailed lease).
 - 2. Change all records including, but not limited to: mailing address, assessments, voter registration, records, insurance, utilities, vehicle/boat registration, driver's license, stop mail at old address. Must completely abandon relationship to previous domicile.
 - 3. Two domiciles are not allowed.
 - 4. Moves made to create eligibility result in ineligibility for 1 year at all AAA schools.
 - 5. After such a move, the student may remain at their current AAA school with eligibility if they have attended at least 365 days at that school and have not enrolled elsewhere during that time.
 - 6. The change of domicile shall be made with the intent that it is permanent.

Guidance on Domicile Change

- I. **Arkansas Legal Attendance: Domicile, transfer, and legal attendance rules apply only to students whose parents reside in the state of Arkansas, transfer within the state of Arkansas, or meet the Changing Schools / Athletic Participation (CSAP) guidelines.**
- J. **Same Sport Season**
A student who changes schools and was on a team may not play the same sport at the new school during the same defined season.
NOTE: *Students are members of a school team if a student is practicing, or competing, with the team once a benefit game has been played or the defined sport season begins.*
- K. **CSAP Forms (Act 475 of 2025):** CSAP form attests no recruiting/no athletic-purpose transfer. CSAP forms may only be used by schools within the state of Arkansas, and:
 - 1. must be signed **prior to participation** by:
 - a. superintendent of last school enrolled,
 - b. new superintendent, and
 - c. parent/guardian (witnessed by new superintendent or notarized).
 - 2. Used for the eligibility of public, nonpublic, public charter, boarding students enrolled by June 1 before grades 7–10.
 - 3. Filed with the receiving school and AAA **prior to participation**.
 - 4. Must meet all prior criteria for a student to be eligible.
- L. **JV CSAP**
If all rules are met except transfer requirements, a student may play junior varsity if JV CSAP is signed by both superintendents and parents before JV participation and filed with the receiving school and AAA.
- M. **Athletic Release Form/Athletic Release Form for Camps, Clinics, and Combines**
 - 1. Required before a student attends/participates in a camp/clinic/combine/ private or group training/non-school team organized/led/coached by anyone affiliated with a AAA member school other than the school the student attends.
 - 2. Head Coach must ensure all team staff, volunteers, or anyone who assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school team completes this form before working with non-enrolled or non-feeder students.
 - 3. Violation may result in the school being placed on warning, probation, suspension and/or fine up to \$200.
- N. **Non-School Coach (definition & consequence)**
A coach, registered volunteer, or anyone who has assisted in any capacity with the coaching or training of a school team (within the last 365 days) who also coaches a non-school team or assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of a non-school team, organized program, or individual training (within the last 365 days) is defined as a non-school coach. A school that allows a student to participate who has transferred, moved, or for any reason attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is a school coach is subject to action against the school through one of the following penalties: warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.
- O. **Middle/Junior/Senior High Access (Consolidated Districts, Ark. Code Ann. §6-18-228)**
In an administratively consolidated district, a student may take classes/programs or join extracurriculars at another school if the assigned school doesn't offer the same or similar option, at the local board's discretion.

Rule 2: District Conversion Charter / School of Innovation

- A. If a school of innovation or district conversion charter does not offer a class/program/activity, the district board of directors may allow the student to participate at another school in the district that does.

- B. A school of innovation or district conversion charter school shall participate at the same classification as the highest classified school in the district.

Rule 3: Intradistrict Participation

Any 7th or 8th grade student at the discretion of the administration, shall be eligible to attend any class, academic program, or participate in any extracurricular activity or program offered by another school in the district or system (at the same level of competition), if the school in which the student attends does not offer the same or similar class, academic program, or extracurricular activity or program.

Rule 4: Eligibility in Other Situations

- A. Foreign Students (one option only): Foreign students may be eligible for a maximum of one school year or two consecutive semesters.
1. J-1 Visa (CSIET-listed program): Must meet all rules except domicile. Only eligible for 365 days beginning with their initial enrollment.
 2. F-1 Visa: Ineligible until 365 days of enrollment at said AAA member school; then may be eligible for 365 days only.

NOTE: No extra eligibility by visa changes or other reason; no graduates from home country; athletics only; only U.S. adoptions recognized; [Foreign Exchange Student Eligibility Form](#) required to be completed and sent to AAA. Must meet the following rules: bona fide student, dropout, semester, age, amateur, tryout, and scholarship (academic).

- B. Host Families: No member of the school's administration, coaching staff, or athletic director, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family for any foreign students who participate in athletics.
- C. Legal Adoption: A student legally adopted and attending school in the district in which his adoptive parents reside meets the domicile requirement.
- D. Parental Custody.
1. A student whose parents are divorced or legally separated meets the domicile requirement in the district in which the parent having primary legal custody resides.
 2. In the case of joint custody, the student is eligible in the district of the parent with whom the student is living at the beginning of the school year.
 3. A legal separation is one requiring court action by a judge.
 4. Legal guardianship cannot be used for eligibility purposes.
- E. Boarding School: At schools with at least 50% boarding students, students meet the domicile requirement when enrolling by June 1 before grades 7–10. A [CSAP](#) form is required if the student is coming from an Arkansas school.
- F. Training Schools: A student attending the training schools operated by the State of Arkansas or privately operated schools recognized by state courts or social services as serving the same purpose as a training school meets the domicile requirement on his initial enrollment in the public school assigned by these institutions.
- G. Virtual Schools: Students of a DESE-approved virtual school are eligible in their domicile district if all AAA rules are met other than bona fide student.
- NOTE:** The student must be enrolled at least one period a day, during the first 11 days of the fall or spring semester, in the AAA-member public school district of the parent's domicile to be covered by the AAA catastrophic insurance and receive 1/6th state funding.
- H. School Board Actions Recognized
1. Districts may assign students from a School of Innovation without athletics to compete at an attendance-zone school (does not include magnets/specialty/competitive-entry).
 2. If a nonpublic school is discontinued, a student meets the domicile requirement in their domicile public district or another nearby private school.

- I. Incorrect Domicile Info
Providing incorrect domicile info may result in up to 365 days of ineligibility.
NOTE: *If the family supplied false info to the school, forfeits may be waived.*
- J. Transfers from Nonmember Schools
 - 1. From non-member to AAA member public school or AAA member public charter: eligible after 1 day of attendance back in domicile district (includes homeschool).
 - 2. To nonpublic member: meets domicile if the student attended the nonmember Arkansas school for one full year and transfers by June 1 before grades 7–10.
- K. Nonpublic Student Playing at Resident Public
If the nonpublic school does not offer the activity, the student may participate at the resident public/charter campus within the resident district, must take at least 1 period/zero hour, which also enables catastrophic insurance and 1/6 foundation funding.

Rule 4: Penalty for Use of Ineligible Player

- A. Possible consequences (alone or combined):
 - 1. forfeit,
 - 2. specific sport probation up to 1 year,
 - 3. student suspension from competition and/or activities with time determined by the Executive Director, and/or
 - 4. school fined up to \$500.
- B. Factors in determining penalty may include:
 - 1. participation amount,
 - 2. participation prior to outcome being determined,
 - 3. points scored/impact on game,
 - 4. what the school knew or should have known, and
 - 5. self-reporting.
- C. If eligibility was based on false student info provided by the student, penalties may be reduced. For transcript errors with transfer students which are later corrected, remove the player immediately with no school penalty. Ineligible players may not dress out.
- D. If a parent or guardian either knowingly or unknowingly provides incorrect information concerning a student's domicile, the association may declare the student ineligible for athletic competition with any AAA member school for a period of up to 365 days from the date of the action on ineligibility. If false domicile information is provided to the school, the school may not be required to forfeit games.

Rule 5: Recruitment

NOTE: *The term administrator refers to superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or assistant principal.*

- A. 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 the AAA By-Laws and is expressly prohibited.
- B. “Athletic recruiting” is defined as the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an AAA member 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.
- C. 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 superintendent shall be required to appear before the Executive

- Committee and the Executive Director to answer the allegations against his/her school and the student(s) may be ineligible to participate in athletics for one calendar year.
- D. If a student, parent, or any person regarding a student-athlete transferring to a district contacts a coach or teacher, they must be referred to a school administrator immediately. A coach shall refrain from making any comments or gestures regarding a student-athlete transferring to the district and participating in athletics.
 - E. A coach may not contact or be contacted by a student or the student's parents prior to enrollment in the school. If a student is to attend a camp, clinic, or tryout or participate on a non-school team with a school or school coach other than his or her domicile school, the student must have written permission from the coach and administrator of both schools using the AAA's [Athletic Release Form](#).
 - F. It shall be a violation of this rule for a student-athlete 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.
 - G. A school that allows a student to participate who has transferred, moved or for any reason is attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is a school coach is subject to action against the school through one of the following penalties: warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.
 - H. The penalties for illegal recruiting of students may be one or more of the following:
 - 1. The school may be placed on probation in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred.
 - 2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$1,000 and billed for the cost of any investigation related to the violation.
 - 3. The school may be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation as determined by the executive director.
 - 4. A student found to be recruited in violation of this rule may be ineligible to participate in athletics for up to one calendar year (365 days).
 - 5. A coach or other licensed school personnel may be subject to a complaint for a violation of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators.
 - 6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
 - I. Guidelines. 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 an AAA member school includes, but is not limited to the following offer or acceptance of:
 - 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. Pay for 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. It makes no difference who makes the offer. The school is guilty because it plans to use the student to build a stronger team
 - 5. A residence
 - 6. Free or reduced rent for parents' or student's housing, vehicles or other
 - 7. Cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates or coupons
 - 8. Gift of 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 AAA interscholastic activities in which the school is participating where an admission is being charged
 15. Payments of fees to take the ACT and/or SAT examinations
 16. 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
- J. 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 of any kind including payment of fees to a student-athlete(s) under any circumstances not offered and/or granted to a non-student-athlete(s) who attends the school.
- K. The following individuals shall be considered school-connected:
1. Employees of the school, including but not limited to the superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal(s), athletic director(s), guidance counselor(s), faculty, coaches, and teachers
 2. Non-faculty coaches (paid or voluntary) that coach any sport at the school
 3. A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program, such as a team manager, student trainer, etc., at that school
 4. The parents, guardians, or other relatives of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school
 5. Relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic 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 that is otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program
 11. Any independent person, business, or organization that is representative of the school's athletic interests when a member of the school's administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business, or organization is promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program
 12. Any independent person, business, or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or to an athletic booster organization of that school
 13. Any independent person, business, or organization that contributes money to a school that is used to provide legal financial assistance to a student-athlete attending the school
- L. Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic department staff members, and representatives of the school's athletic interests with a student who does not attend that school includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Visiting or entertaining 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.
 2. Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of written or electronic 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.
 3. Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee or other representative of the school's athletic interests, or any other person such as an alumnus of the school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic 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. Answering an inquiry by the 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. The student or his/her relatives instead should be immediately referred to the principal.
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 department staff member or other representative of the school's athletic interests as part of an effort to pressure, urge to facilitate the student's attendance at that school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
7. A coach may not contact or be contacted by a student or the student's parents prior to enrollment in the school.
8. School-connected individuals shall refrain from statements to prospective student-athletes 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. These types of statements are not normal or appropriate and could be considered recruitment.
9. Any prospective student or parent/guardian who visits an AAA member school may only meet with the school's administration or guidance counselor. Athletic directors and coaches, paid or voluntary, may not conduct tours of school facilities.

NOTE: *This rule attempts to provide a thorough explanation of the AAA recruiting rule. While there are many explanations involved, this rule does not cover every conceivable example of recruiting .*

Rationale - *Recruiting an athlete is a serious offense as it creates an unfair advantage.*

Rule 6: Tuition and Financial Aid Procedures

- A. If tuition is charged, it must be paid by parent, legal guardian, or other family member. If a parent, guardian, or other family member secures a loan for payment of tuition, it must remain an obligation of the parents, guardian, or other family member to repay the principal and interest in full with no exceptions. Financial aid will be allowed under the following conditions:
 1. Financial aid may only be awarded on the basis of need. Proof of need must be filed in the AAA office on forms approved by the Executive Director. In order to determine the basis for need, all schools awarding financial aid shall use one of the following agencies: Financial Aid Independent Review (FAIR); Community Brands (acquired Tuition Aid Data Services [TADS] & School and Student Services [SSS]); FAST (ISM); FACTS Grant in Aid Agency; and Clarity. The use of any unapproved agency is a violation of Rule 5, Recruitment and is subject to the penalties under Rule 5.
 2. Any loan program, grant program, educational foundation, scholarship, or similar program that is established and/or administered, in whole or in part, by a school or official of a school is considered financial aid.
 3. Schools shall remove any student from athletic eligibility whose accounts with the school are 60 days overdue.

- B. All records pertaining to financial aid or tuition assistance shall be open to the AAA upon its request. Each school shall be responsible for securing necessary authorization to allow the AAA to review or audit such records.
- C. In addition, nonpublic member schools providing financial assistance programs for athletes shall present to the Executive Director of the AAA by October 1 of each year the following documents: Financial Aid for Nonpublic School Athletes and Financial Aid Form Supplemental List. Nonpublic member schools must also submit to the AAA a Student-Athlete Financial Aid Report Form for fall sports by December 7 of each year and a Student-Athlete Financial Aid Report Form for winter and spring sports by May 8 of each year.

Rule 7: Bona Fide Student

To be eligible for AAA Activities, the student must be a bona fide student of the school district, charter, or nonpublic school. To be a bona fide student the student must meet the following:

- A. Not graduated/no GED; enrolled and regularly attending at least 4 academic courses. An academic course is a course in which a grade is assigned and becomes part of the student's permanent record.
- B. Online students must be enrolled at least 1 period.
- C. Concurrent college courses may count.
- D. Last-semester seniors must enroll and regularly attend at least 1 academic course if on track to graduate in lieu of the 4 academic course requirement.
- E. Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and Arts (ASMSA) exception: As a member of AAA, ASMSA students may participate at Hot Springs High School in those sports or activities not offered by ASMSA.

Rule 8: Dropouts

- A. A student who drops out, is suspended with no credit, or is expelled must re-establish eligibility by returning to an AAA school and meeting scholarship requirements for at least one full semester.
- B. If the last semester was completed, eligibility may be based on that semester.
- C. If an expelled student remains in digital/alternative coursework, they remain ineligible during expulsion but may regain eligibility by meeting scholastic rules via those courses.
- D. One full semester is either fall or spring semester.

Rule 9: Calendar Years of Eligibility

- A. A student may be eligible for only one calendar year in grade 7 and for only one calendar year in grade 8, beginning with the student's initial enrollment in each grade. Any student attending a AAA member school who repeats 7th or 8th grade shall not be eligible until they have reached the next higher grade. Upon entering the 9th grade for the first time, a student may be eligible for interscholastic competition for four consecutive calendar years.
- B. Students who exceed junior high age/or calendar year limits may still be eligible for senior high; students who exceed senior high limits have no further opportunity.
- C. 9th graders may compete with JH or SH with separate campuses with both principals' approval.
- D. If a 9th grade student plays SH, they cannot return to JH in the same sport.

Rule 10: Age

- A. Junior High: Ineligible if 16 on or before Aug 1 (may play Senior High if other rules met).
- B. Senior High: Ineligible if 19 on or before Aug 1.

- C. Students who exceed junior high age/years of eligibility limits may still be eligible for senior high; students who exceed senior high limits have no further opportunity.

Rationale: *Equalize competition and support on-time graduation.*

Rule 11: Amateurism

- A. The AAA endorses the general principle of amateur athletics that prompts an individual to participate in activities solely for the pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits derived from the activity.
- B. Violations can cause up to 365 days ineligibility in that sport.
- C. Prohibited: a student may not:
 - 1. Compete under an assumed name.
 - 2. Directly or indirectly accept monetary awards or compensation other than the actual or reasonable cost of necessary meals, lodging or transportation in connection with participation.
 - 3. Directly or indirectly accept gifts, products, awards or monetary compensation for permitting his/her name, picture, or person to be used to advertise, promote or recommend a product, service, commercial venture or political venture.
 - 4. Compete for or directly or indirectly accept gifts, awards, or monetary compensation in any form for participation in an event except for those permitted in the amateur rules of the governing body of that specific sport.
 - 5. Student apparel or equipment to be used at a competition site may not be used to advertise, promote or recommend a product, service, commercial venture or political venture. Uniform and equipment manufacturer names, logos or marks are permitted.
- D. Allowed: reasonable pay for officiating/instructing/coaching/supervising.
- E. NIL: Students may exercise rights under Arkansas Student-Athlete Publicity Rights Act (A.C.A. §4-75-1301, et al.)
- F. All student athletes must comply with all Arkansas laws addressing Name, Image, & Likeness (NIL) including, but not limited to A.C.A. §4-75-1301 et al.

NOTE: *An athlete may be named a player of the week or game and be presented with a certificate or plaque.*

NOTE: *Since it is impossible to cover all instances of possible violations of the amateur rule, it is suggested that the Executive Director be consulted in any questionable case.*

Rule 12: Tryouts — Team Sports

- A. Playing or practicing with a college/pro team may result in up to 1 year ineligibility in that sport.
- B. A tryout consists of sport-specific drills in front of scouts/coaches (not simply playing in a game they attend).
- C. Tryouts are allowed if no cost, no class time lost (incl. travel), and outside the sport season.
- D. Try-outs held in connection with camps or clinics may be conducted only as permitted by the [Athletic Camps rule](#).
- E. Applies to Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, and Softball.

Rule 13: Scholarship (Academics)

- A. Junior High
 - 1. Promoted 6th→7th grade: eligible.
 - 2. Promoted 7th→8th grade: eligible first semester.
 - 3. Second-semester 8th & first-semester 9th: must pass 4 academic courses previous semester. An academic course is a course in which a grade is assigned and becomes part of the student's permanent record.
 - 4. First-semester 9th must pass 4 academic courses to be eligible second-semester 9th.

5. By end of second-semester 9th, must meet senior high academic rules to be eligible fall of 10th grade year.
 6. After two 9th-grade semesters, follow senior high (10–12) rules. If not yet classified as a sophomore, senior high scholarship rules still apply.
- B. Senior High. The requirement for senior high (10-12) eligibility shall include:
1. Passing four academic courses; and
 2. A minimum semester GPA of 2.0 for the previous semester.
 3. The student must have passed four academic courses in the previous semester. Any of these four courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher learning recognized by the DESE.
- C. Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP)
1. To participate in interscholastic competition, students passing four academic courses but failing to meet the 2.0 GPA requirement must be enrolled in and attending 100 minutes per week a Supplemental Instruction Program meeting established criteria and approved by the AAA. The [Supplemental Instruction Program](#) must be submitted to the AAA office for approval prior to the start of the school semester.
 2. If a student's GPA drops below 2.0 at the end of any semester, the student must immediately enroll in and attend the SIP at the beginning of the next concurrent semester. If a student fails to enroll in the SIP at this time, the student must attain a 2.0 GPA to regain eligibility.
 3. In the first semester of SIP the student must meet the stated requirement (2.0) at the end of that semester in order to become fully eligible again OR meet the requirement to remain in the SIP one additional semester.
 4. To maintain eligibility under the Supplemental Instruction Program and be eligible to continue for a second semester, the student must show improvement of at least one tenth of one point in his/her GPA after the first semester of participation in the supplemental program. To continue to participate following the second semester in the SIP, the student must have reached a 2.0 GPA as well as passing four academic courses.
 5. Maximum participation in the SIP is two consecutive semesters. If the student does not achieve a 2.0 GPA within this period, the student will remain ineligible until a 2.0 GPA is achieved. A student who has been in SIP and regained eligibility by achieving a 2.0 GPA would be eligible to enter the SIP again later if passing four courses but not earning a 2.0 GPA.
- D. Loss of Opportunity for Athletic Participation
1. During participation in the SIP, the student must have no unexcused absences for the current semester or its equivalent from the SIP or regular classes.
 2. The student must have no school disciplinary action for the current semester. The school may define school disciplinary action, but as a minimum the policy shall state that a student has been disciplined when being placed on suspension where the student is out of school for a period of time.
 3. The student must have no known felony convictions during a semester in which the student is in the SIP.
 4. If at any point the student falls out of compliance with any criteria listed above during the semester, the student will be immediately suspended from competition for the remainder of the semester. For the student to re-establish eligibility, he/she must pass four academic courses and achieve a 2.0 grade point average.
 5. If a student fails to participate in the supplemental instruction program during any semester, then eligibility can only be regained by the student passing four academic courses and earning a grade point average of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester.

- E. Limitation. A student is restricted to a maximum of two consecutive semesters in the SIP any time a student's GPA falls below a 2.0 for the previous semester.
- F. Academic Course Defined. An academic course is a course in which a grade is assigned and becomes part of the student's permanent record.
***NOTE:** Each semester, P.E./Athletics in grades 9-12 can be used to satisfy AAA eligibility with passing the four academic courses and maintaining a 2.0 GPA.*
- G. Alternate Course Credit. A student may satisfy the requirement by successfully completing the course(s) failed or courses(s) needed or equivalent course(s) in a summer term(s) or a correspondence course(s) approved by the DESE for granting credit for graduation requirements. Such credit shall be applied to the previous semester.
***NOTE:** When the same course is repeated, the former grade may be replaced. When a substitute course is completed, the grade shall be added to the courses for the previous semester and the GPA recomputed.*
- H. Special Education (Handicapped). A student must have earned passing grades in four academic courses of the I.E.P. for the previous semester. There is no GPA requirement for special education students.
- I. Becoming Eligible or Ineligible. A student may regain or lose academic eligibility on the first day of classes in a new semester. Eligibility shall be determined twice per year, once at the beginning of the fall semester (August/September) and once at mid-term (December/January).

Rule 14: Ineligible in Another State

- A. A student ineligible under their home state's rules is ineligible upon transfer to a AAA member school.
- B. If Arkansas is less restrictive, the Executive Director may approve eligibility.

Rule 15: Participation on Non-School Teams

- A. Team Sports
 - 1. A student who is a member of a school's team may not try out/practice/participate with a non-school team in the same sport in-season (risk up to 365 days of ineligibility from the date of participation).
 - 2. Applies to Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, and Softball.
 - a. Baseball/Softball exception: may tryout/practice with non-school team on off days (no practice, no game, and not during AAA championship weeks).
 - b. Soccer exception: may play or practice on non-school soccer team except on school team game days.
 - 3. In-season:
 - a. Grades 10th–12th and 9th who were members of a senior varsity team in Football, Volleyball, and Basketball between the AAA start date of season as defined in AAA Calendar to the end of the state tournament in that sport.
 - b. Grades 7th–8th and 9th who did not play SH varsity: season ends when their school team is finished. (No state tournament for Junior High).
 - 4. No non-school spirit team participation in competitions during the interscholastic spirit season. The end of the season is after the state championship.
- B. Non-School Teams
 - 1. During the school year, a school coach may not coach their school team in out-of-season games.
 - 2. Players may join outside leagues/games if not school-sponsored and not during season.
 - 3. A non-school team is a team composed of members not solely from one AAA member school.

4. Non-school teams cannot use school equipment/uniforms; facilities/transportation only per normal board policies for non-school groups.
5. Non-school team includes:
 - a. League-affiliated teams;
 - b. Opponents of teams that meet criteria (a)
 - c. Named or uniformed teams that are independent of a league.
6. Individual non-school competition: Allowed in individual sports (XC, track, tennis, golf, swim and dive, wrestling, bowling). If school-sponsored, the event must be sanctioned ([Art II, Sec 8, Rule 6](#)).

Note: *Special Olympics excluded.*

- C. School Team: comprised solely from one member school (or same attendance zone).

Rule 16: National Team, Olympic Development Programs, And International School Sport Federation.

Exception to the [non-school team rule](#) for:

- A. National team competition, selected by the National Governing Board (NGB) for that sport for international competition (and direct tryouts).
- B. Olympic Development Programs conducted/sponsored or directly funded by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC)/NGB.
- C. Specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by the NGB as having potential for future participation in regional, national or international competition in the sport involved;
- D. Conditions: school admin approval (If during the school year); AAA notified in writing by the principal at least 30 days ahead; student makes prior arrangements to complete missed work prior to the last day of classes in that grading period; student misses no AAA event in that sport.

NOTE: *Waiver possible with documentation.*

Rationale – *The purpose of this rule is to prevent students from being adversely affected by conflicts in coaching philosophies during the school season and to prevent the health and wellbeing of athletes from being negatively affected by over-participation.*

Rule 17: Physical Examination

- A. Required annually before practice or tryouts each year.
- B. A physical is valid for up to 15 months.
- C. A physical is required for marching band.

Rationale - *The coaches and school administration must be assured that the athletes are physically fit prior to beginning practice as well as competition. The health and safety of students and student-athletes fall directly under school care.*

Rule 18: Hardship Exceptions

Upon petition from a student's school administrator, the Executive Director is authorized to waive the requirements of all eligibility rules except the age rule if the school develops acceptable proof based on the stated criteria for a [hardship waiver](#). Hardships must be applied for and approved by the Executive Director before a student participates in interscholastic competition. Hardships shall not be retroactive. Documentation and correspondence must be through the voting representative of the school.

- A. Domicile Exceptions.
 1. After an investigation, a court of law has removed the student from the parents or guardians and subsequently assigned the student a place of domicile.
 2. The student is an orphan or there is no record of the parent's whereabouts.

3. The students' parents are out-of-state residents, and the student is attending school in a school district where the parents maintain a legal domicile (military, etc.).
4. The student's parent(s) have abrogated their responsibility toward the student as parents.
5. The student's parent's employment requires absence from home great portions of the time the student is at home, and the parent has arranged domicile with relatives or friends for the purpose of supervision.
6. The student is married and living with a spouse, has a parent with domicile in the school district or a spouse who had an established domicile in the district one year prior to the marriage.
7. A student who has lived three continuous years at any time as a bona fide member of a family may establish the family heads as substitute parents with respect to the domicile rule.
8. An extreme and unusual circumstance exists that is no fault of the student or the parents. (Examples of conditions that warrant an extreme or unusual circumstance: extreme medical or psychiatric conditions; sexual abuse or assault; or physical abuse or assault - must have supporting documentation from doctors and/or law enforcement)

NOTE: *The Executive Director is authorized to specify limitations or contingency conditions as needed when giving approvals, to ensure that such student shall not be induced to another school district or played under the pretense of being eligible should the eligibility status change.*

NOTE: *The petition shall not be authorized if the director obtains reliable information that the student is transferring to the petitioning school primarily for athletic purposes or as a result of inducement or recruitment.*

NOTE: *If a AAA member school drops a declared varsity team sport in which they participated in during the previous year, the domicile requirement may be waived and the students may become eligible to participate in the same varsity team sport at the nearest AAA member public school of the parent's domicile the offers the sport provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements. The student must attend and stay enrolled in all academic courses at their current assigned school. Due to the Same Sport Same Season rule, this exception does not apply if a member school drops a varsity team sport during the sport season. If the student's current assigned school resumes the sport the following year, the student must return to their current assigned school to participate.*

B. Exception to Other Eligibility Requirements.

1. School Attendance Prevented. There has been an extreme and unusual circumstance that is no fault of the student, the parent, or the school that has prevented school attendance sufficient to cause that student to be in violation of the dropout rule or the scholarship rule or the semester rule.
2. Non-Recommended Courses. The student has been identified as being in need of special education or other special programs of study as authorized by the DESE regulation but is subsequently required by the school to participate in non-recommended courses.

SECTION 2 – NON-ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

- A. Bona Fide Student – Same as athletics ([Rule 7- Bona Fide Student](#)).
- B. Scholarship Rule – Same as athletics ([Rule 13- Scholarship \(Academics\)](#)).
- C. Calendar Years of Eligibility – Same as athletics ([Rule 9- Calendar Years of Eligibility](#)).
- D. Age – Senior High follows athletic [age rule](#) (not eligible if 19 before Aug. 1). No junior high age limit.
- E. Vocational Education Youth Organizations – Must be a bona fide student, meet scholarship rule, and cannot participate after turning 21.
- F. Hardships – Same as athletics ([Rule 17- Hardship Exceptions](#)).

SECTION 3 – NON-COMPETITIVE SPIRIT TEAMS (CHEER & DANCE)

Rule 1: Eligibility

- A. Must meet [Non-athletic Competitive Activities eligibility rules](#).
- B. Exception: Students in 7–12 schools have a total of 12 semesters (instead of 8).

Rule 2: Physicals

Annual physical required before tryouts, practice, or workshops. (Valid for 15 months).

Rule 3: Participation Rules

- A. Only cheerleaders may be on sidelines, floor, or field—unless admin authorizes dance/pom.
- B. Mascots or any student designated as a part of the spirit team, must meet same eligibility rules as cheer/dance team members.

Rule 4: Cheer Limitations

At regional/state basketball: max 12 cheerleaders on sidelines during play. Entire team may perform during full timeouts or between quarters.

Rule 5: Rules

- A. Must follow NFHS Spirit Rules Book.
- B. Jr. High/Middle School additional rules (USA Cheer):
 - 1. No basket, elevator, or similar multi-base tosses.
 - 2. No more than one rotation in dismounts (except $+\frac{1}{4}$ turn for side-facing stunts such as Arabesque, Scorpion, etc.).

Rule 6: Advisors

- A. Must be either:
 - 1. An employee of the school district, OR
 - 2. A Registered Volunteer (meet all criteria in [Registered Volunteer Coaches](#) and Arkansas Code §6-22-101 et seq.) and be listed on the “non-Competitive Spirit Team Advisor” form submitted to AAA. Additionally, the Registered Volunteer:
 - a. Cannot receive any financial compensation for services,
 - b. Must provide to the school a current criminal background check (finger printing) prior to coaching,
 - c. Must participate in a minimum of six hours of in-service related to the advisor’s duties and responsibilities,
 - d. Must be listed on the “Non-Competitive Spirit Team Advisor” form that must be submitted annually to the AAA office.
 - e. Must submit a Registered Volunteer enrollment form to the AAA office in any year that they serve in that capacity.
 - f. Must hold a current NFHS Learn Cheer and Dance Safety Certification prior to practice. A certified coach must be present at any practice, game, or performance involving learning, practicing, or performing partner stunts or tumbling.
- B. Must complete annual online spirit rules training. Non-compliance may incur penalty ([Reporting requirements](#)).
- C. Cheer advisors must hold valid NFHS Learn Cheer and Dance Safety Certification (renew every 4 years).
- D. No stunting until an advisor is certified and present. Violations may result in grounding and a \$50 fine. Further violations may result in additional penalties as allowed in AAA handbook).

SECTION 4 - OTHER SPIRIT GROUPS

- A. Eligibility – Same as athletics rule 6: ([Rule 7- Bona Fide Student](#)).
- B. Game Restrictions – Must remain in spectator areas during contests, unless pregame/halftime/postgame activities are approved by school administration.
- C. Safety Rules – Same as Non-Competitive Spirit Teams [Rule 5: Rules](#).

ARTICLE IV

ADMINISTRATION OF SPORTS

SECTION 1 - TEAMS

Rule 1: Middle School Administrative Consolidation

Any student who is enrolled in a middle school (7th or 8th grade) that is consolidated administratively with other middle schools may, at the discretion of the administration, be eligible to attend any class, academic program or participate in any extracurricular activity or program offered by another school in the administratively consolidated district or system, if the middle school in which the student attends does not offer the same or similar class, academic program or extracurricular activity or program.

A middle school is defined as one containing 7th and/or 8th grade.

A junior high school is defined as one containing 7th up to 9th grade.

A senior high school is defined as one containing 9th up to 12th grade.

Rule 2: Separate Teams by Sex (Ark. Code Ann. §16-129-101 et seq.)

A member school may sponsor separate teams for students of each gender where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport. If a school sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one gender, but sponsors no such team for members of the other gender, members of the excluded gender may be allowed to try out for the team offered.

NOTE: AAA rules permit girls to play on the football and baseball teams.

NOTE: Per Act 953 of 2021, “sex”, means a person’s immutable biological sex as objectively determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.

Rule 3: Participation by Sex in Competition

- A. If a sport is offered for members of each gender, athletes must participate with members of their own gender in district, region, state, or overall competition, except for female athletes who must choose prior to the district/conference tournament to waive their opportunity to compete in girls state competition in order to compete on a boys team in a district/conference or state competition.
- B. No athlete will be allowed to compete in both boys and girls district/conference or state competition in individual sports. Individual sports are bowling, golf, tennis, cross country, swim and dive, wrestling, and track.

Rule 4: Coed Teams

- A. Coed means any roster with at least one member of each sex.
- B. All coed teams except spirit must compete in boys competitions.
- C. Cheer coed teams must compete in coed divisions.

Rule 5: Varsity and Non-Varsity Teams

- A. Varsity Team: the school’s primary team; only one varsity per sport per level (JH/SH) and boys, girls, and coed.
- B. Non-varsity Team: comprised of a majority of players who don’t play varsity games.

- C. Middle schools with separate AAA membership may play one tournament per team sport that doesn't count against junior high tournament limits in each sport.
- D. No middle school athlete may exceed 3 total tournaments per sport (combined JH + MS) in volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, and soccer.

Rule 6: Multiple Junior High Varsity Teams

- A. The AAA Board may approve more than 1 junior high varsity team if:
 - 1. Teams are selected by geographic zones with similar enrollment;
 - 2. The school shall organize teams for all sports sponsored boys', girls', and coed teams.
 - 3. Separate coaching staffs for football, basketball, and track;
 - 4. Contrasting uniforms between the teams;
 - 5. Non-varsity teams come from the same zones as the varsity teams;
 - 6. Number of 7th/8th non-varsity teams set by administration;
 - 7. The AAA Board may add requirements to ensure fair competition.
- B. If the JH feeds more than one senior high, both varsity JH teams classify by the largest senior high.

SECTION 2 - SEASONS & LIMITATIONS

Rule 1: AAA Jurisdiction (Sports)

- A. Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Competitive Cheer, Competitive Dance, Cross Country, Decathlon/Heptathlon, Football, Golf, Outdoor Track & Field, Soccer, Softball (Girls), Swim & Dive, Tennis, Volleyball (Girls), Wrestling.
- B. The AAA Board may add/remove sports.
- C. The AAA has jurisdiction over spin-off skill activities.

Rule 2: End of Season (see [Seasons & Event Limitations Chart](#))

- A. Senior High
 - 1. Football, Basketball, Volleyball: Ends with completion of state championships for grades 10–12 and grade-9 students who practiced or played senior varsity.
 - 2. Baseball, Softball, Soccer: Ends when the school fails to advance to the next state-championship level.

***NOTE:** If a varsity team finishes conference play and does not qualify for postseason, the season ends then.*
- B. Junior High: Ends when the school's JH season is finished by playing their last regularly scheduled game. (including 9th graders who did not practice or play senior varsity in FB/VB/BB).

Rule 3: Dead Weeks

- A. Summer Dead Period:

All AAA member schools will observe an annual mandatory two-week athletic dead period running the week prior to July 4th and the week of July 4th. During this time, coaches (licensed teacher coaches and registered volunteers) shall be prohibited from engaging in any type of activity involving student-athletes, whether it be practice, training, weightlifting, competition, or travel. Further, school athletic facilities will be closed to everyone during this period. Schools that have the only baseball, softball fields, and track in the community may allow the community to use the school fields and track during the dead period, as long as no school teams are playing and no school coaches are coaching the teams.
- B. Christmas Dead Period:

All AAA member schools will observe a 3-consecutive-day athletic dead period during Christmas Break. Member schools shall select 3 consecutive days from December 23 – 27

to observe the 3-day Christmas dead period. During this time, licensed teacher coaches and registered volunteers shall be prohibited from engaging in any type of activity involving student-athletes, whether it is practice, training, weightlifting, competition, or travel. Further, school athletic facilities will be closed to everyone during this period.

Rule 4: Summer Competition Days

- A. School teams: 8 days max of competitive activities during summer break.
- B. Individual students: 8 days max per sport during summer break. Includes camps, tournaments, 7-on-7, jamborees, etc.
- C. Regular season/benefit games on AAA calendar do not count against the 8 days.
- D. Once competition begins, the day counts, even if postponed/canceled.
- E. Must follow WBGT heat guidelines at all summer events.
- F. Summer break/Summer Defined: The time period between the last day of school in one school year until the first day of school in the next school year or until the start of the next season in the specific sport, whichever is sooner.

Rule 5: Preseason/Postseason Events

- A. No preseason/postseason interscholastic events except catastrophic insurance benefit events. Cheer/Dance nationals: only UCA/UDA or NCA/NDA (NFHS-endorsed) nationals are allowed.
- B. Teams cannot register for both NCA and UCA in cheer or NDA and UDA in dance.

Rule 6: Practice Events

- A. No interscholastic scrimmages/practice events between schools are allowed.
- B. Practice is an activity involving the players of only one AAA member school. Additionally, it is an activity involving members of a boys program or members of a girls program from only one member school.
- C. Any event between two or more school teams—with or without officials, uniforms, or scorebook—counts toward event limits and is subject to season limits.

Rule 7: Extended Season (JH Basketball/Volleyball)

The Executive Director may grant up to 2-week extensions for districts with multiple JHs, if:

- A. Requested annually;
- B. Competition limited within the district;
- C. Cannot exceed number of events limitations for schools in same classification.
- D. All other AAA eligibility/participation rules followed;
- E. District names a monitor to report as required by the Executive Director.

Rule 8: Registered Officials

- A. The Board of Directors is authorized to require member schools to use registered officials in any of the sports for which state championship events are conducted.
- B. AOA-registered officials required for JH & SH varsity contests in listed sports (football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, track, and wrestling).
 - 1. By mutual agreement, non-registered officials may be used only for non-varsity/other contests; schools may not pay non-registered officials.
 - 2. Penalties for knowingly or unknowingly using non-registered officials in varsity:
 - a. 1st: Warning (rest of season)
 - b. 2nd: Probation
 - c. 3rd: Probation and forfeit
 - 3. Officials who work with non-registered officials may be placed on warning or probation.

4. Non-registered officials who work a contest: barred from AOA registration for one year.
5. It is the responsibility of the school's coach, athletic director, and administration to verify that all officials are registered with the AOA either by checking DragonFly or contacting the AAA office.

Rule 9: Minimum Participation for Championships

- A. No conference or district may certify a team to state tournament, meet, etc. if fewer than four teams participate in the certifying competition.
- B. In sports that require no conference or district certification to state competition, no state champion shall be declared if fewer than four teams participate in that classification.

Rule 10: Event Limits

Per-sport team/event limits are in the [Seasons & Limitations Chart](#).

Rule 11: Semester Tests

Local districts decide whether to schedule interscholastic events during semester tests.

SECTION 3 - GAME RULES

Rule 1: Official Rules Books

- A. Baseball: NFHS
- B. Basketball: NFHS
- C. Bowling: US Bowling Congress
- D. Football: NFHS
- E. Golf: The Rules of Golf-USGA Rules; AAA Golf Handbook
- F. Soccer: NFHS
- G. Softball: NFHS
- H. Spirit (Cheer/Dance): NFHS Spirit Rules
- I. Swim & Dive: NFHS
- J. Tennis: USTA Yearbook; AAA Tennis Handbook
- K. Track & Field/Cross Country: NFHS
- L. Volleyball: NFHS
- M. Wrestling: NFHS

Rule 2: Deviations from Rules

AAA Board may authorize NFHS-approved deviations or make exceptions when the rule making authority has created an undue financial hardship on AAA member schools.

Rule 3: Rules Meetings

- A. When the AAA Board deems there is sufficient interest in the participation rules of a specific sport or activity, a program of education to teach such rules shall be initiated. The AAA, in cooperation with the AOA, shall develop procedures, requirements, etc. for officials in each sport.
- B. Head coaches and SIP Directors must complete the online rules presentation by the [posted deadlines](#). Penalties: \$50 fine; repeat-year failure adds a warning and may require forfeits.
- C. Written requests for a deviation from the penalty from school administration may be considered for extenuating circumstances.

Rule 4: Required Ceremonies (Ark. Code Ann. §§6-10-135 and 6-16-108)

- A. At each school-sanctioned after-school assembly and sporting event, the school shall lead or broadcast:
 1. The Pledge of Allegiance, then

2. One minute of silence, then
 3. The Star-Spangled Banner.
- B. If multiple events occur on the same day at the same school, schools may do this at one event only.
- C. Each district must adopt a policy to broadcast “The Star-Spangled Banner” at school-sponsored sporting events. Same one-event exception applies.

For scripts see [Sportsmanship Public Service Announcements](#)

SECTION 4 - BASEBALL

Rule 1: Classifications & Conferences

- A. Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A
- B. Conferences
 1. 6A: 2 conferences
 2. 5A: 4 conferences
 3. 4A: 8 conferences
 4. 3A: 8 conferences
 5. 2A: Number of conferences is based on participation
 6. 1A: Number of conferences is based on participation
- C. Conference Tournament Timing (4A–1A)
Must be scheduled at least 1 week before regionals and at least 2 weeks before state.

Rule 2: Online Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Declare Sport	December 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Schedule	February 1	DragonFly	\$50 fine Must be paid before season starts.
Online Rules Presentation	February 28	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster	February 28	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Score Reporting	Within 24 hours of game	DragonFly or MaxPreps	\$50 fine
Pitch Count	Noon day after game	MaxPreps	\$50

Rule 3: Pitch Count Rule

- A. What counts: Only pitches thrown to a batter. Warm-ups, between-innings, umpire-granted warmups don’t count.
- B. A pitcher may finish the current batter if they reach the max during the at-bat, then must be removed.
- C. Counting & Verification:
 1. Each team keeps a count; host school provides a separate pitch recorder.
 2. Recorders compare counts each end of each inning at a field location set by host/umpire.
 3. If counts differ: the predominant count is official; if all three differ, the independent recorder’s count is official.
- D. Umpires do not enforce this rule. Schools must self-report violations to AAA within 24 hours after completion of a contest.

- E. Penalties for violations of the pitch count rule follow the same standard as using an ineligible player.
- F. Per-Day Pitch Limits & Required Rest
 - 1. 1–30 pitches: 0 days rest
 - 2. 31–60 pitches: 1 full calendar day of rest
 - 3. 61–85 pitches: 2 full calendar days of rest
 - 4. 86+ pitches: 3 full calendar days of rest
- G. Rest days are full calendar days (e.g., 86 on Fri → rest Sat/Sun/Mon → eligible Tue).
- H. Max per day: 110 (varsity) / 85 (JV). If a player throws in both varsity and JV, the 110 max applies.
- I. Recordkeeping: Host or tournament director must complete and retain the pitch-count form for the entire season.
- J. Position after pitching: Strongly recommended to consider recovery/health when assigned to another position after pitching.
- K. Interrupted Games & Pitch Counts: If a game in progress is delayed or suspended, by circumstances beyond administrative control, such as darkness, inclement weather, extra innings, etc. to a different calendar day, the pitch count for all pitchers who have pitched in that game will pick up where it was interrupted and continue throughout the remainder of that game. All other pitching rules will apply.

Example: *If a pitcher throws 40 pitches in a game that started on Friday and that game is delayed or suspended to a different calendar day, he could resume that game with pitch number 41.*

Rule 4: In-Season Non-School Teams (Eligibility Limit)

A student who is a member of a school's team may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with a non-school team during the school's season, except he/she may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play.

Rule 5: Conference Certification & Postseason

- A. Qualifiers
 - 1. 6A: Top 6 per conference advance to playoffs
 - 2. 5A: Top 4 per conference advance to playoffs
 - 3. 4A: Top 4 per conference advance to four regional tournaments; top 4 from each regional advance to state
 - 4. 3A: Top 4 per conference advance to four regional tournaments; top 4 from each regional advance to state
 - 5. 2A: Number of qualifiers based on participation; advance to four regionals, then top 4 to state
 - 6. 1A: Number of qualifiers based on participation; advance to four regionals, then top 4 to state
- B. All conferences will use a rotating bracket.
- C. Regionals: Played Week #44
- D. State: Played Weeks #45–#46
- E. Seed placement for the championship tournament brackets shall use rotating brackets (all classifications).

Rule 6: Tiebreakers (Conference Titles / Playoff Seeding)

- A. Two-Team Tie
 - 1. Head-to-head (regular season conference only)
 - 2. If split: margin of victory between the two (cap 5 runs/game)

3. If still tied: sum of margins in all conference wins (cap 5 runs/game)
4. Forfeits: offended team receives +5 runs for margin-sum purposes
5. If still tied: coin flip by AAA Executive Director (or designee)
- B. Three-Team Tie (Non-triangle): Use head-to-head to eliminate any team that lost twice to one of the others; remaining two revert to the two-team steps (Rule 5, A).
- C. Three-Team “Perfect Triangle” (all split)
 1. Rank by sum of margins in all conference games (cap 5 runs/game).
 2. After computing sums, eliminate all but the two teams with the greatest sums; then revert to the two-team procedure (Rule 5, A).
- D. Four+ Teams Tie
 1. Use sum of margins in all conference games (cap 5 runs/game).
 2. Head-to-head decides the two with the most runs; if those two split: use margin between them (cap 5 runs/game).
 3. If still tied, team with most total runs gets the higher place (if still tied: coin toss).
 4. Repeat until all places are set.

Rule 7: Suspended Games

During conference/district/regional/state play, any game suspended without the required number of innings played to be considered a complete game shall resume at the point of interruption unless agreed upon to be final by both school administrators.

Rule 8: Number of Events

- A. Senior High Varsity: Max 30 games; all games count except conference/region/state tournament games.
- B. Doubleheaders: Each game counts separately toward limits.
- C. Middle Schools (with separate AAA membership): May play one tournament that does not count against JH tournament totals.
- D. No middle school athlete may play in more than 3 total tournaments combined (JH + MS).

Rule 9: Championship Brackets — Home/Away Choice

In conference, regional, and state tournaments (including state finals):

- A. The higher seed chooses home or away.
- B. If same seed, a coin toss determines which team gets the choice.

Rule 10: End of Season

- A. Senior High: See Seasons & Event Limitations Chart.
- B. Junior High: Ends with final scheduled event/tournament.

NOTE: Season ends when a team finishes its conference schedule and does not qualify for postseason or does not advance in postseason play.

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 11: Sports Medicine Requirements

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 5 - BASKETBALL

Rule 1: Classifications & Conferences

- A. Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A.
- B. Conferences

1. 6A: 2 conferences
2. 5A: 4 conferences
3. 4A: 8 conferences
4. 3A: 8 conferences
5. 2A: set by participation
6. 1A: set by participation

Rule 2: Online Reporting Requirements (Deadlines & Fines)

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Declare Sport	June 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Schedule	June 1	DragonFly	\$50 fine Must be paid before season starts.
Online Rules Presentation	Non FB Schools: Oct. 18 FB Schools: Nov. 8	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster	Non FB Schools: Oct. 18 FB Schools: Nov. 8	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Score Reporting	Within 24 hours of game	DragonFly or MaxPreps	\$50 fine

Rule 3: Number of Senior High Varsity Events

- A. Football schools: max 30 games
- B. Non-football schools: max 36 games
- C. Benefit and conference/region/state tournament games do not count toward the limit.

Rule 4: Season Limits & Participation Rules

- A. Season start: Must follow [Seasons and Limitations](#) and [Seasons & Event Limitations](#) chart. Non-football and football schools follow their respective dates.
- B. Five-Quarter Rule: A player may play up to 5 quarters the same day across varsity + non-varsity if the non-varsity game is the same day as the varsity game.
- C. Junior High vs Senior High team games: Allowed and counts toward game limits.
- D. Multiple games on Saturdays: 7th/8th/10th/JV may play multiple games on Saturdays; each counts toward limits.
- E. When a team finishes its regular conference season and does not qualify for, or is eliminated in postseason, it may no longer compete in further competitions.
- F. End of Season
 1. Junior High: Ends with final scheduled event.
 2. Senior High: Ends with conclusion of the State Playoffs.

Rule 5: Conference Certification (Postseason Qualification)

- A. 6A: Top 6 from each conference qualify for playoffs
- B. 5A: Top 4 from each conference qualify for playoffs
- C. 4A: Top 4 from each conference qualify for four regionals, top 4 from each regional qualify for state
- D. 3A: Top 4 from each conference qualify for four regionals, top 4 from each regional qualify for state
- E. 2A: Qualifying numbers based on participation qualify for four regionals, top 4 from each regional qualify for state

- F. 1A: Qualifying numbers based on participation qualify for four regionals, top 4 from each regional qualify for state

Rule 6: Tiebreakers (Conference Titles / Seeding)

- A. Two-Team Tie (Regular Conference records)
 - 1. Head-to-head (conference only)
 - 2. If split: margin of victory between the two (cap 10 pts/game)
 - 3. If still tied: sum of margins in all winning conference games (cap 10 pts/game)
 - 4. Forfeits: offended team gets +10 for margin-sum purposes
 - 5. If still tied: coin flip by AAA Executive Director (or designee)
- B. Three-Plus Team Tie (general) (Regular Conference records)
 - 1. Head-to-head
 - 2. Any team losing twice to another (or once in single round-robin) is eliminated
 - 3. If two remain, revert to Two-Team Tie process (Rule 6, A, 2); if three remain, go to Perfect Triangle Process (Rule 6, C)
- C. “Perfect Triangle” (all split) (Regular Conference records)
 - 1. Rank using the two-team procedure iteratively:
 - a. Compute sum of margins in all conference games (cap 10 pts/game).
 - b. The top two by that sum use Two-Team Tie process (Rule 6, A) to determine the first position.
 - c. Repeat to place remaining positions.

Rule 7: Game / Tournament Administration

- A. Running Clock (NFHS-permitted adoption)
 - 1. After Q3 ends, if the lead is 30+, use running clock.
 - 2. Stop clock only for: charged TO, injury TO, scorer/timer conference, unusual delay to make ball live, all technical/intentional/flagrant/disqualifying fouls, emergencies.
 - 3. After a stoppage, resume running clock with normal live-ball procedure.
- B. Crowd interference: No spectator encroachment on floor; stop play until floor is cleared. If play continues under noncompliant conditions, there is no protest basis to AAA. In conference tournaments, the host school, tournament committee, and tournament manager are responsible.
- C. Invitational Tournaments
 - 1. Allowed from season start (week #16 non-football schools / week #19 football schools) through week #34.
 - 2. Junior Boys and Junior Girls: up to 2 tournaments each
 - 3. JV teams: may replace a school that drops out; must be from host or a tournament participating school
 - 4. Junior High may add a 3rd invitational if:
 - a. Non-football schools: subtract 3 from regular-season game limit (22→19)
 - b. Football schools: subtract 2 from regular-season game limit (18→16)
 - 5. JV teams: may play 2 invitational tournaments
 - 6. Format
 - a. More than 8 teams: single-elimination (Does not prohibit the 2 losers of semifinals from playing for 3rd and 4th place); unless on an extended school break without loss of class time and completed in one week,
 - b. 8 teams or fewer: consolation bracket allowed (all places determined)
 - c. Single round-robin (4 teams or less): allowed if a champion is selected
 - 7. Daily Tournament limits: Max 2 games/day; start times at least 5 hours apart
 - 8. College-Campus Invitationals (recommended governance)
 - a. Run by a ballot elected Board of Directors (HS admins/coaches)

- b. HS superintendent as chair elected annually by the Board of Directors
- c. At first meeting, all board members should draw lots for staggered terms
- d. Balloted elections for expiring terms
- e. Unexpected vacancies filled by vote of Board of Directors
- f. Proceeds after approved expenses: share plus mileage to teams
- g. Bylaws/regs must be approved in writing by AAA Board

D. Conference Tournaments

- 1. Except as provided in [Article II, Section 6, Rule 3](#) & [Article II, Section 6, Rule 4](#), conferences shall hold tournaments necessary to certify varsity teams (senior boys, senior girls) to state tournaments. Each of the conferences of all classifications are authorized to formulate rules and regulations necessary to conduct and schedule such tournaments.
- 2. Round-robin seeding: If used, seed strictly by order of finish (see following brackets).

4 Team Bracket	
Line	Order in Standings
1	1 st
2	4 th
3	2 nd
4	3 rd

8 Team Bracket			
Line	Order in Standings	Line	Order in Standings
1	1 st	5	2 nd
2	4 th	6	7 th
3	2 nd	7	3 rd
4	3 rd	8	6 th

16 Team Bracket			
Line	Order in Standings	Line	Order in Standings
1	1 st	9	2 nd
2	16 th	10	15 th
3	8 th	11	7 th
4	9 th	12	10 th
5	4 th	13	3 rd
6	13 th	14	14 th
7	5 th	15	6 th
8	12 th	16	11 th

32 Team Bracket			
Line	Order in Standings	Line	Order in Standings
1	1 st	17	2 nd
2	32 nd	18	31 st
3	16 th	19	15 th
4	17 th	20	18 th
5	8 th	21	7 th
6	25 th	22	26 th
7	9 th	23	10 th
8	24 th	24	23 rd
9	4 th	25	3 rd
10	29 th	26	30 th
11	13 th	27	14 th
12	20 th	28	19 th
13	5 th	29	6 th
14	28 th	30	27 th
15	12 th	31	11 th
16	21 st	32	22 nd

NOTE: If a conference has fewer than 8 or 16 teams, replace the lowest seed(s) with *byes* to reduce to the correct field size.

3. For certification to the state tournament, teams must play either: a round-robin, the minimum required games or play in the conference tournament.
4. If a conference lacks procedures, default procedures apply:
 - a. Meeting notice: from the president to all schools including date, time, and place of meeting
 - b. Quorum/vote: those attending; majority rules; one vote per school (admin or authorized representatives)
 - c. Tournament sites: written bids submitted at meeting; selected by vote of tournament participating teams
 - d. Seeding is based on conference record; if indeterminable, by vote
 - e. Officials:
 1. Number set by school representatives
 2. Nominated by school representatives
 3. The official receiving the most votes shall be designated first choice, the one receiving the next greatest vote second choice, etc. until all nominated have been ranked. (In the event more than twice the number of officials needed are nominated, two ballots shall be taken. The first shall be used to reduce nominees to twice the number needed and the second to rank the officials.)
 4. President shall designate a person responsible for hiring officials and require that the employment be attempted in the same sequence as the rankings indicated by the schools' preference; he shall have the authority to write contracts on behalf of the conference.
 5. Fees set by school representatives
 6. Bench officials nominated by host; approved by a committee of conference officers; fees for the bench officials approved likewise

- f. Other business: proceeds and expenses handled by motion/second at meeting
- E. Regional & State Tournaments
 - 1. Regionals: Week #34
 - 2. State: Weeks #35–#36
 - 3. Brackets are rotating (all classifications).

Rule 8: Gymnasium Safety (Recommended)

It is recommended that schools hosting interscholastic play provide a safe facility and competition area for participation. Obstructions at player level in the competition area should have appropriate padding to provide adequate protection for participants. Such obstructions are those that are in significant proximity to the playing area. It is recommended that such padding be a minimum of one inch in thickness.

Rule 9: Minimum Gym Specs to Host Regional/State

- A. Four dressing rooms (each with showers/hot water/toilets/washbasins)
- B. Two public restrooms
- C. Court at least 48' x 84'
- D. Clear, unobstructed space: at least 3 ft on sidelines, 5 ft on end lines
- E. Visible time clock from both directions
- F. Meet minimum safety standards (see [Article IV, Section 5, Rule 8-Gymnasium Safety](#))
- G. Minimum Seating (by class; 18" per seat)(number of feet x 12/18 = number of seats)
 - 1. Regional: 1A - 800, 2A - 1000, 3A - 1200, 4A - 1400
 - 2. State: 1A - 1200, 2A - 1500, 3A - 1500, 4A - 1800, 5A - 2000, 6A – 2200

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 10: Sports Medicine Requirements

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 6 - BOWLING

Rule 1: Classifications

- A. Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A & below.
- B. Competition is open to students in grades 9–12 in all participating AAA member high schools.
- C. An advisory committee may be appointed to recommend improvements and updates to the Board.

Rule 11: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 7 - CROSS COUNTRY

Rule 1: Classification

Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A.

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Online Rules Presentation	August 23	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Declare Sport	June 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 3: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 8 – DECATHLON/HEPTATHLON

Rule 1: General

- A. The AAA may host a Boys' Decathlon and a Girls' Heptathlon after the close of the regular track season.
- B. The Track & Field Advisory Committee will make recommendations for approval by the AAA Board.

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 2: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 9 - FOOTBALL

Rule 1: Classification and Conferences

- A. Classifications are 7A, 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 8-Man (2A only).
- B. Number of Conferences
 - 1. 7A: Two conferences
 - 2. 6A: Two conferences
 - 3. 5A: Four conferences
 - 4. 4A: Six conferences
 - 5. 3A: Six conferences
 - 6. 2A: Based on participation
 - 7. 8-Man: Based on participation

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Schedule Entry	April 1	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Declare Sport	June 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Online Rules Presentation	August 30	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster	August 30	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Score Reporting	Within 24 hours of game	DragonFly or MaxPreps	\$50 fine

Rule 3: Limitations

- A. Players may not participate in more than five (5) quarters per calendar day.
- B. Week 1 of football season is Week 9 on the [AAA calendar](#).
- C. Teams may schedule:
 - 1. Zero-week games in Week 8 on the [AAA calendar](#),
 - 2. Benefit games in Week 7 or 8 on the [AAA calendar](#), and

3. Up to 10 regular season games (Weeks 0–10 of football season).
- D. Schools that have fewer than 7 conference games due to forfeiture may schedule a non-conference opponent to replace the lost opportunity to play AND accept the forfeit for conference standings.

Rule 4: Conference Certification

- A. Each conference certifies state playoff representatives and utilizes the [AAA tiebreaker system](#) when applicable:
 1. 7A: Top 6 from each conference qualify for playoffs
 2. 6A: Top 6 from each conference qualify for playoffs
 3. 5A: Top 4 from each conference qualify for playoffs
 4. 4A: Top 5 from each conference qualify for playoffs
 5. 3A: Top 5 from each conference qualify for playoffs
 6. 2A: Top 4 from each conference qualify for playoffs
 7. 8-Man: Top 4 from each conference qualify for playoffs
- B. Conferences shall certify their representatives to the state playoffs by a method accepted by a majority of the schools within that classification.
- C. Playoffs begin Week 19 on the [AAA calendar](#).
- D. Brackets are published annually on the [AAA website](#).

Rule 5: Tiebreaking Procedures

- A. If two teams tie, and one of the teams has defeated the other in a regular scheduled conference game, the winner shall be declared the conference playoff representative. Three or more tied teams shall first be considered in sets of two-way ties.
- B. If three or more teams are tied, use head-to-head record among the tied teams (a mini conference) to break ties for seeding. Only utilize points to break ties among teams when the ties are a perfect triangle with each team having the same record among the tied teams (mini conference).
- C. If two teams tie and the tied teams split or have not played each other in a conference game (no round robin) the team with the greater sum of winning margin using the following point system, shall be the playoff representative.
- D. If more than two teams remain tied after applying (A) above, the following point system shall be used to eliminate all but two teams. Tabulate the sum of the winning margins of each team's conference games as indicated in the following:
 1. If the margin of victory is more than 13 points only 13 points shall count.
 2. Losses shall be tallied as 0 (zero) points.
 3. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive 13 points when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking conference ties.
- E. After tabulating the sum of the winning margins, all teams except the two with the greater sum shall be eliminated, and the selection process shall begin again with paragraph (A).
- F. If teams remain tied after the above procedures are applied, the playoff representative shall be determined by a coin toss. The coin toss, supervised by the Executive Director, shall be used to eliminate all but two teams and then begin again with paragraph (A).
- G. In the event the conference is eligible for more than one playoff representative, each subsequent playoff representative shall be chosen by reapplying the procedures above.

Rule 6: Game Administration

- A. A school not declared for varsity high school football cannot play a varsity high school team and cannot play on Friday.
- B. A running clock begins after halftime when a team leads by 35 points or more. Clock stops only for:

1. Official's timeouts,
 2. Following a change of possession,
 3. A charged time-out is called,
 4. At the end of a period, or
 5. A score occurs.
- C. By mutual agreement of both school administrators and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.

Rule 7: Game-Ending Procedures

- A. Non-Conference Games: If interrupted due to events beyond the control of the administrative authority,
1. Before halftime results in "No Contest." Neither team is issued a win or loss.
 2. If after the first half, existing score stands and game is considered complete.
- B. Conference Games:
1. Games may resume from the point of interruption or be finalized, with existing score, by administrative agreement. Games may not end in a tie.
 2. If postponed, must be rescheduled for Saturday (10 AM–7 PM).
 - a. If unable to agree on a time, the game will be scheduled for 7PM on Saturday.
 - b. If it is unable to be played on Saturday at 7 PM due to weather, the game will resume on Monday at 7 PM.
- C. Ties: All tied varsity (Sr. and Jr.) games must use the NFHS 10-yard line overtime procedure with try for extra point attempts included. Other games OT is optional.

Rule 8: Football Practice

- A. Between the end of the football season and the beginning of the next season's official start of fall practice.
1. Practice may use footballs, football shoes, helmets, mouth protectors, and dummies only.
 2. Activities that require full contact are specifically prohibited.
- B. Preseason Schedule
1. Preseason meeting with parents and students to review how to identify and treat heat illness.
 2. All students and parents must sign the [Sports Medicine Fact Sheet](#) prior to practicing.
 3. Practice may begin on Monday of **Week #5**:
 - a. Days 1–2 of practice: Helmets and dummies only; no other contact equipment, no contact (max 3 hours + optional 1-hour walkthrough separated by a 1-hour rest from practice).
 - b. Days 3–5: Helmets and shoulder pads only; contact with sleds and dummies only. Max 3 hours for single practice with optional 1-hour separated by a 1-hour rest from practice.
 - c. After Day 5: Full pads/equipment allowed; no consecutive days of "two-a-day" practices; Max 3 hours for any single practice day. When more than one practice is held in a day, there cannot be more than 5 hours of practice activity in total. No practice can be longer than 3 hours. Days with multiple practices must include a rest/recovery period of no less than 1-hour between practices.
- C. Any team or student that starts practice after Day 1 of Week #5 must follow the procedures above for practice on Days 1-2, Days 3-5, and after Day 5.

NOTE: Rest periods must be uninterrupted—no meetings, workouts, weight training, film study, or injury treatment allowed. No activities (including meetings, weight training, and film study) can occur during the one-hour rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice (on days when more than one practice is

scheduled). This time is exclusively for students to rest/recover for the following practice session.

- D. Practice Activities: Includes: actual on field/court practice, sport specific instruction, and conditioning. Does not include meetings, weight training, film study, water breaks, rest breaks, nor injury treatment.
- E. Contact Rules
 - 1. Full Contact Defined. Full contact is defined as any practice or game in which participants are taken or knocked to the ground. It is allowable to dress in full pads for protective purposes and practice at a “thud pace” without the practice counting as a “full contact” practice.
 - 2. Preseason Guidelines. Schools cannot have consecutive practices of full contact after Day 5 unless there is a full calendar day (i.e. Sunday) between practices in which no practices are conducted.
 - 3. In season Guidelines. Teams can have three days of full contact per calendar week. Junior varsity and varsity level contests are included in the three-day limitation. This period shall begin six days prior to the first regular season contest and continue through the state championships.
 - 4. Spring Guidelines. Teams are allowed three full contact practices per week with no full contact practices occurring on consecutive days. A spring game will count as a full contact practice.
- F. Spring Practice
 - 1. Allowed 4 consecutive weeks between Week 37 and last day of school. The selection date must be reported to the AAA.
 - 2. Max 10 full-contact practices (Monday-Friday only) and 20 hours total (Grades 9–11).
 - 3. Practices are limited to 2 hours per day.
 - 4. No back-to-back contact days.

Rule 9: Playoff Responsibilities

- A. AAA assigns and pays officials.
- B. Admitted free: cheerleaders in uniform, bands in uniform, AAA pass holders, and approved groups in uniform to perform on the field.

Rule 10: Playoff Administration

- A. Host school manages operations and game-day expenses.
- B. Both schools share half-time equally.
- C. If held at a neutral site, each school is equally responsible for game administration and expenses.
- D. The host school will receive all receipts for the sale of programs and concessions.
- E. The gross receipts will be disbursed as follows:
 - 1. 5% of the first-round games to each of the participating schools’ conferences.
 - 2. 30% of the first-round games to host schools and 30% of subsequent games.
 - 3. 40% of the first-round games to visiting school and 40% of subsequent games.
 - 4. 20% of the first-round games and 30% of subsequent games to the AAA from which the awards and officials shall be paid.
- F. The Board of Directors may schedule all football playoff finals at one site to be played over three weekends. In the event the committee chooses to arrange for one site for all football finals, the proceeds shall be distributed as follows:
 - 1. Expenses for stadium rental, officials’ fees and officials’ travel shall be retained and paid by the AAA.
 - 2. Each school shall be reimbursed the following per diem on mileage:

One Way Mileage	Per Diem	2A/3A/4A	5A/6A/7A
Less than 50 miles	1	\$300	\$500
50 to 75 miles	1 1/2	\$450	\$750
76 to 100 miles	2	\$600	\$1000
101 to 200 miles	3	\$900	\$1500
Over 200 miles	4	\$1200	\$2000

3. All schools shall receive \$.50/mile for round trip travel with \$50.00 minimum.
***NOTE:** The above allowances shall be prorated if gate receipts are not sufficient to pay in full.*
4. Net receipts after payments of items 1 & 2 above shall be paid at 20% to AAA and 80% to participating schools. Each school's share of the 80% shall be computed as follows:
 - a. Gross receipts for each classification's finals game shall be totaled separately in order to establish a per game gate receipt total.
 - b. All classifications' finals games gross receipts, including pre-sold tickets, shall be totaled separately. All finals participating schools will then receive their pro-rata share based on finals receipts. After expenses, schools shall receive money on a 20% to AAA, and 80% to member school based on presold tickets, and a 20% to AAA and 40% to each participating school on walk-up ticket sales.
 - c. Each school participating shall receive one-half of the amount obtained by multiplying the percent established in 4b. above multiplied by 80% of the net receipts.
5. The AAA shall retain all radio and TV rights income

Rule 11: Stadium Requirements

- A. Minimum standards for hosting playoff games:
 1. Separate dressing rooms with hot showers, toilets, and sinks.
 2. Minimum of 2 Public restrooms.
 3. Safe bleachers (metal/masonry with footboards and properly maintained).
 4. Minimum seating capacity (based on ~20" per seat), by classification:
 - a. 7A: 2,000
 - b. 6A: 2,000
 - c. 5A: 1,800
 - d. 4A: 1,600
 - e. 3A: 1,500
 - f. 2A: 1,500
 - g. 8-man: 1,500
 5. Scoreboard and play clocks (40/25) are required that are plainly visible to officials, players, and fans.
 6. Fenced and controlled access facility.
 7. Recommended:
 - a. Five yards of unobstructed space outside the playing field along both sidelines and end zones.
 - b. Restraining barriers (such as cables, fences, walls) running goal line to goal line to clearly separate spectators from team areas.
 - c. Press box with at least 50 square feet of floor space, equipped with a public address system.
- B. If a school assigned to host a playoff game lacks minimum stadium facilities, the Executive Director shall require that school to secure another suitable stadium that meets all minimum standards.

- C. If a school fails to cooperate in providing or securing the required facilities, the Executive Director may:
1. Assign the site to the opposing school, or
 2. Select another appropriate stadium, with related expenses deducted from the host school's share of the playoff gate receipts.
- NOTE:** A decision regarding the playoff venue must be made by noon Tuesday of the game week.

Rule 12: Forfeited Games

Teams may not count substitute games as conference wins after receiving a forfeit once the season has begun.

Rule 13: End of Season

- A. Junior High: Ends with final scheduled event.
- B. Senior High: Ends with conclusion of the State Playoffs.

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 14: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 10 - GOLF

Rule 1: Classification & Conferences

- A. Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A.
- B. Number of Conferences
 1. 6A: Two conferences
 2. 5A: Four conferences
 3. 4A: Six conferences
 4. 3A: Six conferences
 5. 2A: Six conferences
 6. 1A: Six conferences

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Online Rules Presentation	August 2	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Declare Sport	June 1	DragonFly	\$25

Rule 3: Limitations

12 regular-season events/team; up to 6 may start before 3:30 PM on a school day.

Rule 4: Conference Certification to State

- A. 6A Boys/Girls: All teams play a 36-hole, 2-day tournament.
 1. Top half of teams (incl. ties) plus the next top 8 individuals (incl. ties) play 18 holes on day 2.
 2. If an uneven number of teams play on the first day, the number of teams that advance would be rounded up. For example, if there were 13 teams, seven teams would advance.
 3. Both days' scores are used to determine team championship and medalists (individuals).

4. In state tournament—Teams: Boys: 4–5 players (best 4 scores). Girls: 3–5 players (best 3 scores).
- B. 5A Boys/Girls: Top 3 teams from each of 4 conference tournaments and the best 3 individuals not on qualifying teams from each conference (cap 18 individuals total from each conference). State teams: Boys up to 5 players (best 4 scores). Girls 3–4 players (best 3 scores).
- C. 4A / 3A / 2A / 1A (Boys & Girls): Top 2 teams from each of 6 conferences + best 4 individuals not on qualifying teams from each conference (cap 12 individuals total from each conference). State teams: 3–4 players (best 3 scores).

Rule 5: Individual Qualifying Score (not on qualifying team)

Advance if you meet either:

- A. 3rd-place conference score plus 15 strokes, or
- B. the class score below—whichever is higher:

Class	Boys	Girls
6A	90	105
5A	90	105
4A	95	110
3A	100	115
2A	105	120
1A	105	120

Rule 6: State Mechanics

- A. Girls State: Week #13
- B. Boys State: Week #14
- C. Conferences must certify entries to AAA at least 1 week before state.

Rule 7: Championships & Medalists

- A. Team and individual titles in each classification.
- B. Schools may not enter more than one team.
- C. No team champion if less than 4 teams compete.
- D. Medalist: Lowest individual score in each classification.
- E. Schools without teams may enter individuals in the conference tournament for medalist contention.

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 8: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 11 - MEET OF CHAMPS

- A. The AAA may sponsor a Meet of Champions after the close of the track season. The Track & Field Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to be approved by the AAA Board of Directors.
- B. Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

SECTION 12 - SOCCER

Rule 1: Classification & Conferences

- A. Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A & below.
- B. Number of Conferences:
 - 1. 6A: 2 conferences
 - 2. 5A: 4 conferences
 - 3. 4A: based on participation
 - 4. 3A & below: based on participation

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Schedule	February 1	DragonFly	\$50 fine Must be paid before season starts.
Online Rules Presentation	February 28	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster	February 28	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Score Reporting	Within 24 hours of game	DragonFly or MaxPreps	\$50 fine
Declare Sport	December 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine

Rule 3: Limitations

- A. Varsity (Sr High): Max 24 games (benefit & region/state tournament games don't count).
- B. Jr High: 16 regular season dates and 2 invitational tournaments.
- C. Three-half rule: A player may play 3 halves in one day across varsity/non-varsity if the non-varsity game is the same day.
- D. Non-school team participation: Allowed in-season except on school team game days.
- E. Season: Starts Week #35.
- F. Middle school exception: AAA-member middle schools may play 1 tournament that doesn't count against junior high tournament limits.
- G. No middle school athlete may exceed 3 total tournaments (middle and junior high combined).

Rule 4: Conference Certification for State (Playoffs)

- A. 6A: Top 6 teams per conference
- B. 5A – 2A & Below: Top 4 teams per conference

Rule 5: Tiebreakers (Conference Standings)

- A. If two teams are tied from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedure will be

1. Head-to-head in regular season conference play.
 2. If the two teams have split, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of three (3) goals per game.
 3. If the two teams are still tied, all winning or tied conference game goals (winning margin), with a maximum of three (3) goals per game in a win, and one (1) goal for tied conference games, and zero (0) for a loss.
 4. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive three (3) goals when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking conference ties. Teams will receive no goals for tied conference games.
 5. If two teams are still tied, a coin flip by the Arkansas Activities Association Executive Director or his designee will decide seeding.
- B. If three or more teams are in a tie from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be:
1. Head-to-head competition.
 2. If a team has been defeated by one of the other teams twice or has been defeated and tied by one of the other teams (or defeated once when a single round robin is used), they will be eliminated.
 3. If two teams remain, the teams would go to step 1 listed above in paragraph A.
 4. If step one does not break the tie, step two would follow, then step three, then four, then five. If three teams remain, the teams would go to paragraph C.
- C. If three or more teams are tied and each team has split (or a perfect triangle), each position will be decided using the two-team tiebreaking procedure in paragraph A to determine which two teams go head-to-head for the first available position. First, tabulate the margin of victory in all conference games (up to 3 goals per game winning margin and 1 goal per game for a tie). The two teams with the greatest margin of victory/tie goals in conference games shall utilize the procedure in paragraph A to determine the first position available. Use the same process to determine the second position available and all other positions available for the teams involved in a three or more team “perfect triangle” tie.

Rule 6: Game Administration

- A. Regular season ties: Stand as ties.
- B. Conference standing points: Win = 3, Tie = 1.
- C. State tournament ties:
 1. 5 min break prior to first overtime: 10-minute time for first overtime, first team to score wins
 2. Two minutes break before second overtime. 10-minute time for second overtime, first team to score wins
 3. If there are no goals in overtime, then match is decided by kicks from the penalty mark.
- D. Sportsmanship timing rule:
 1. If 6 goals or greater lead at halftime, then the second half duration is cut in half. Clock stoppages remain unchanged.
 2. If the lead reaches 6 at any point in 2nd half, then reduce remaining time by half.
 3. Once time is reduced due to the sportsmanship timing rule, it stays reduced.
- E. Suspended games:
 1. If at least 1 half is completed, the game is official.
 2. If less than 1 half has been completed, then resume from interruption unless agreed upon to be final by both school administrators.

Rule 7: End of Season

- A. Senior High: See Seasons & Event Limitations Chart.
- B. Junior High: Ends with final scheduled event/tournament.

NOTE: Season ends when a team finishes its conference schedule and does not qualify for postseason or does not advance in postseason play.

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 8: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 13 - SOFTBALL

Rule 1: Classification & Conferences

- A. Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A.
- B. Conferences:
 - 1. 6A: 2 conferences
 - 2. 5A: 4 conferences
 - 3. 4A: 8 conferences
 - 4. 3A: 8 conferences
 - 5. 2A: Based on participation
 - 6. 1A: Based on participation
- C. Conference Tournament Timing (4A–1A)
 - Must be scheduled at least 1 week before regionals and at least 2 weeks before state.

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Declare Sport	December 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Schedule	February 1	DragonFly	\$50 fine Must be paid before season starts.
Online Rules Presentation	February 28	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster	February 28	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Score Reporting	Within 24 hours of game	DragonFly or MaxPreps	\$50 fine

Rule 3: In-Season Non-School Teams (Eligibility Limit)

A student who is a member of a school's team may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with a non-school team during the school's season, except he/she may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play.

Rule 4: Conference Certification → Postseason

- A. 6A: Top 6 from each conference go to state playoffs.
- B. 5A: Top 4 from each conference go to state playoffs.
- C. 4A: Top 4 from each conference go to 4 regionals. Top 4 from each regional go to state playoffs.
- D. 3A: Top 4 from each conference go to 4 regionals. Top 4 from each regional go to state playoffs.
- E. 2A: Qualifiers by participation go to 4 regionals. Top 4 from each regional go to state playoffs.

- F. 1A: Qualifiers by participation go to 4 regionals. Top 4 from each regional go to state playoffs.
- G. Regionals: Week #44. State: Weeks #45–46.
- H. The seeding of the championship tournament brackets shall be placed on a rotating bracket for all classifications.

Rule 5: Tiebreakers (Conference Standings)

Determining conference champions/playoff representatives:

- A. If two teams are tied from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be:
 - 1. Head-to-head in regular season conference play.
 - 2. If the two teams have split, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of five runs per game.
 - 3. If the two teams are still tied, margin of victory of all conference wins, with a maximum of five runs per game.
 - 4. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive five runs per game when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking conference ties.
 - 5. If the two teams are still tied, a coin flip by the Arkansas Activities Association's Executive Director will decide seeding.
- B. If three teams are in a three-way tie from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be: Head-to-head competition. If one team has been defeated by one of the other teams twice, they would be eliminated. The two remaining teams would go to step two listed above for two teams that are tied. If step two does not break the tie, step three would follow, then step four.
- C. If three teams are tied and each team has split (or a perfect triangle), tiebreaker procedures will be: Margin of victory in all conference games, with a maximum of five runs per game.
- D. After tabulating the sum of the winning margins, all teams except the two with the greater sum shall be eliminated and the selection process shall begin again with paragraph (A).
- E. If four or more teams were tied, the margin of victory in all conference games would be used, with a maximum of five runs per game. Head-to-head competition would decide the two teams with the most runs. If these teams had split victories, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of five runs per game. If the two teams remain tied, the team with the most total runs would receive the place for the first team (if both tied with the same number of runs, a coin toss would be used to decide the first team). This procedure would continue until all places were filled.

Rule 6: Extra-Inning Tiebreaker

- A. Start each half-inning with the runner on second (the batter preceding the inning's leadoff batter).
- B. Play a full inning until a winner emerges.
- C. Use after 7 innings in a single game or 5 innings in a doubleheader.

Rule 7: Suspended Games

During conference/district/regional/state play, any game suspended without the required number of innings played to be considered a complete game shall resume at the point of interruption unless agreed upon to be final by both school administrators.

Rule 8: Number of Events

- A. Senior varsity baseball/softball teams: max 30 games (conference/region/state tournament games don't count).
- B. Doubleheaders count as two games.

- C. AAA-member middle schools may play 1 tournament that doesn't count towards junior high tournament totals; no middle school athlete may exceed 3 total tournaments (middle and junior high combined).

Rule 9: Championship Brackets

- A. Higher seed chooses home/away at all conference/regional/state tournaments.
- B. If equal seeds meet, coin toss decides who chooses.

Rule 10: End of Season

- A. Senior High: See Seasons & Event Limitations Chart.
- B. Junior High: Ends with final scheduled event/tournament.

NOTE: Season ends when a team finishes its conference schedule and does not qualify for postseason or does not advance in postseason play.

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 11: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 14 - SPIRIT

Rule 1: Classifications

- A. All-Girl Cheer: based on participation
- B. Co-ed Cheer: based on participation
- C. Game Day Cheer: based on participation
- D. Dance: based on participation
- E. Game Day Dance: based on participation
- F. AAA may combine/add divisions per entries. See also Bylaws, Article IV, Sec. 2, Rule 9 ([Minimum Participation for Championship Events](#)).

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Declare	June 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Online Rules Presentation (Comp Cheer, Sideline Cheer, Comp Dance, Sideline Dance)	August 16	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster (Comp Dance)	October 1	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster (Comp Cheer)	October 22	DragonFly	\$50 fine

Rule 3: Interscholastic Competition

- A. Grades 9–12.
- B. State spirit competition:
 1. AAA Board sets date/site.
 2. Teams only
 3. Size of Teams: min 5, max 36 on competitive cheer for safety.

- C. No non-school spirit team participation in competitions during the interscholastic spirit season.
- D. Senior high: up to 5 invitationals before state.
- E. Junior high: up to 5 invitationals.
- F. Coach requirements (prior to competition): NFHS Learn Cheer and Dance Safety Certification and current year's rules meeting attendance. Violations: team grounded and \$50 per stunting occurrence; additional AAA penalties possible for further violations.

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 4: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 15 - SWIM & DIVE

Rule 1: Classifications

Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A & below.

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Declare Sport	June 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Online Rules Presentation	November 1	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster	November 15	DragonFly	\$50 fine

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 3: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 16 - TENNIS

Rule 1: Classifications

Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A & below.

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Declare Sport	June 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Online Rules Presentation	August 16	DragonFly	\$50 fine

Rule 3: Limitations

- A. A player cannot represent the school in both singles and doubles.
- B. State entries per school: max 2 singles and 2 doubles teams.

Rule 4: Conference Certification to State

- A. 6A: 6 singles and 6 doubles per conference.

- B. 5A: 4 singles and 4 doubles per conference.
- C. 4A/3A/2A & below:
 - 1. If 7 or more conferences: 2 each (singles and doubles) from each conference.
 - 2. If 6 conferences: 2 each (singles and doubles) from each conference and 4 (singles and doubles) at-large by seeding committee.
 - 3. If 5 conferences: 3 each (singles and doubles) per conference.
 - 4. If 4 conferences: 4 each (singles and doubles) from each conference.
 - 5. The seeding committee may grant at-large bids to 3rd-place conference finishers but not beyond a 16-draw.

Rule 5: State Mechanics

- A. There shall be a singles, doubles and team championship for boys and girls.
- B. Matches: Best 2 of 3 sets, No-Ad scoring, 12-point tiebreaker at 6–6.
- C. Team scoring:
 - 1. 1 point per singles/doubles win through quarter finales; 1 point for a bye (if following match is won).
 - 2. 2 points for semifinal win;
 - 3. 3 points for championship.
 - 4. Team scoring shall determine a team champion.
- D. Seeding: Top 4 seeds in singles and doubles; rest by draw.
- E. Entries from same school are placed in opposite halves of bracket, when possible.
- F. State Tournaments are held Week: #15; conferences certify entries to AAA at least 1 week prior to state tournament

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 6: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 17 -TRACK & FIELD

Rule 1: Classification & Conferences

- A. Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A,1A.
- B. Conferences:
 - 1. 6A: 2 conferences
 - 2. 5A: 4 conferences
 - 3. 4A: 6 conferences
 - 4. 3A: Up to 8 conferences and qualifiers for each classification, based on participation.
 - 5. 2A: Up to 8 conferences and qualifiers for each classification, based on participation.
 - 6. 1A: Up to 8 conferences and qualifiers for each classification, based on participation.
- C. Number of conferences may be adjusted as needed.

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Declare Sport	December 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Online Rules Presentation	February 21	DragonFly	\$50 fine

Rule 3: Conference Certification to State

- A. Track & Field Advisory Committee recommends classification group per conference; AAA Board approves; guided by number of conferences in a classification; max 24 participants per event.
- B. Conference certification per classification:
 - 1. 6A: Top 8 per event from each conference.
 - 2. 5A: Top 4 per event from each conference.
 - 3. 4A: Top 3 per event from each conference.
 - 4. 3A/2A/1A: Top 2 per event from each conference from each classification.
- C. A Track Handbook recommended by the Track and Field Advisory Committee (AAA Board-approved) governs all procedures of the conference and state meets.

Rule 4: Administration

- A. Sites approved by AAA Board.
- B. Qualifiers meets must complete at least 1 week before state at sites determined by conference organizations.
- C. Order of events & time schedule set by the advisory committee and approved by the AAA Board;
- D. Conference and other qualifying meets follow state order but may adjust timing and logistics per level.

Rule 5: Records

- A. State records only from official State Meets.
- B. Meet of Champions records are separate and listed in addition to State Records.
- C. Overall state records shall be the best from any State Meet or Meet of Champs.

NOTE: *The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.*

Rule 6: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 18 - VOLLEYBALL

Rule 1: Classification & Conferences

- A. Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A & below.
- B. Conferences:
 - 1. 6A: 2 conferences
 - 2. 5A: 4 conferences
 - 3. 4A: 6 conferences
 - 4. 3A: based on participation
 - 5. 2A & below: based on participation.

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Schedules	April 1	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Declare Sport	June 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Online Rules Presentation	August 23	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster	August 23	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Game Scores	Within 24 Hours of Game	DragonFly & MaxPreps	\$50 fine

Rule 3: Regular-Season Limits

- A. JV may enter invitationals only as replacement teams (host or participating school).
- B. Varsity: 30 matches (conference/region/state tournaments don't count).
- C. High School JV: 20 matches.
- D. Junior high varsity: 20 matches and 2 invitationals or 18 matches and 3 invitationals.
- E. Middle school: 18 matches; AAA-member middle schools may also play 1 extra tournament that doesn't count vs junior high totals. No middle school athlete can exceed 3 total tournaments (middle + junior high).
- F. State finals: Week #17 (schools should plan around national ACT date).
- G. Benefit event: One varsity-only benefit for Catastrophe Insurance Fund during Weeks #7–#16.
- H. Two events on the same day are allowed to ease travel/scheduling. It is not allowed to schedule tri-meets (three teams) on a weekday.

Rule 4: Conference Certification to State

- A. Conference tournament at least 1 week before state.
- B. 6A: 6 teams per conference.
- C. 5A: 4 teams per conference.
- D. 4A: 4 teams per conference.
- E. 3A / 2A & below: number of qualifiers based on participation.

NOTE: The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.

Rule 5: Tiebreakers (Conference Standings to State Seeding)

- A. The breaking of ties that occur in the order of standings when round robin schedules determine the placement at the next level of competition shall be resolved by use of the AAA-adopted tiebreaker.
- B. **2-Way Tie.** When conference records are tied, the higher seed shall be determined by the first of the tiebreakers in which one team prevails.
 - 1. Head-to-head (2 matches) When team A or B has defeated the other in both conference matches, that team shall be the higher seed.

NOTE: If the tied teams have only played each other once, the winner of that match shall be the higher seed.
 - 2. Head-to-head (2 matches - split)
 - a. Match #1 – A defeated B
 - b. Match #2 – B defeated A
 - c. Teams are still tied.

3. Set count
 - a. A defeated B: 3-1
 - b. B defeated A: 3-2
 - c. A shall be the higher seed because A won in fewer sets.
 4. Point Differentials
 - a. In A's total sets, the point differentials are +5, +3, +2 and $-2 = 8$ points
 - b. In B's total sets, the point differentials are +2, +7, +4 and $-2 = 11$ points
 - c. B would be the higher seed because the margin of victory is greater.
 5. If the tie is not broken by any of the above steps, the tie shall be resolved with a playoff match (3/5-high school, 2/3-junior high) between the two teams.
 6. If both tied teams mutually agree not to play a playoff match, the tie shall be resolved by a coin toss administered by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association or his designee.
- C. 3-Way Tie**
1. Head-to-Head - Perfect Triangle
 - a. Teams A, B, and C have identical conference records and are tied for seeding to the state tournament.
 - b. If one team has lost to another tied team twice, that team is eliminated. In a perfect triangle each team has split with the other two, thus all are still tied for the highest conference seed.
 2. Head-to-Head - Set Record with No Ties
 - a. Ranking is determined by which team won in fewer sets.
 - b. Sample:
 1. Match A-B: B wins in fewer sets.
 2. Match B-C: C wins in fewer sets.
 3. Match A-C: C wins in fewer sets.
 4. Results:
 - A. C is the #1 seed.
 - B. B is the #2 seed
 - C. A is the #3 seed.
 3. Head-to-Head - Set Record with a Tie
 - a. Sample:
 1. Match A-B: A wins in fewer sets.
 2. Match A-C: Set count is tied
 3. Match B-C: C wins in fewer sets
 - b. Results:
 1. A and C are still tied for higher seed.
 2. B is eliminated from higher seed by set record against A and C
 3. B is the #3 seed.
 4. The margin of victory must be determined between A and C.
 4. Determine Point Differentials between A and C Using Set Scores
 - a. C had the greater point differentials
 - b. C is the higher seed
 - c. A is the next higher seed
 - d. As determined in Ex. B-3, B is the third higher seed
 5. If the tie is not broken by any of the above steps, the tied teams shall resolve the tie with a playoff match (3/5-high school, 2/3-junior high) between the tied teams.
 6. If a three-way tie is not broken by the steps above, the teams shall draw for the number 1,2, and 3 that shall identify each team to begin the playoff, with 1 playing 2 and 3 playing the winner. The winner of the final match will be the highest conference seed

with the opponent being the 2nd highest seeded team. The loser of the first playoff match shall be the 3rd highest seed for tournament position(s) available.

7. If the tied teams mutually agree not to play a playoff match, the tie will be resolved by a coin toss administered by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association or his designee in the same manner as the playoff procedure.

NOTE: *The same procedure shall be applied in the same manner if four teams are tied. After drawing numbers, 1 would play 4 and 2 would play 3, after which winners would play one another for the first seeded position. The loser of this match will be the second seeded position. If more than two teams are to advance to the state tournament, further elimination play would be conducted for third and fourth seeded positions.*

A's Wins	Point Differentials	C's Wins	Margin
25-22	+3	25-21	+4
23-20	+5	25-18	+7
25-23	+2	28-26	+2
23-25	-2	23-25	-2
Total	+8	Total	+11

Rule 6: Event Types (Definitions)

- A. Dual: Two schools (varsity/non-varsity or varsity only).
- B. Tri-Meet: Round-robin, three varsity teams from three schools (each match counts towards season limitations).
- C. Jamboree: greater than 3 varsity teams; full or partial round-robin format; no player in greater than 5 games; counts as one event.
- D. Tournament. An event where teams are placed in a bracket through which an eventual champion is named.
 1. Tournaments can include preliminary sets for the purpose of seeding teams into bracket play. Up to six teams per seeding group are permitted. Teams should play no more than ten total 25-point sets in preliminary play. Preliminary play does not count toward the limit of 30 matches.
 2. A play day/jamboree in which no awards are given but which exceeds the maximum play for one regular season event shall be considered an invitational tournament.
 3. Out-of-state tournaments: follow host format.

Rule 7: Forfeits

- A. If not started: 25–0 (or 15–0 for deciding set).
- B. If in progress: offending team keeps its points; opponent gets ≥ 25 (or 15 in deciding set) or enough for a 2-point win.

Rule 8: End of Season

- A. Junior High: Ends with final scheduled event.
- B. Senior High: Ends with conclusion of the State Playoffs.

NOTE: *The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.*

Rule 9: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

SECTION 19 - WRESTLING**Rule 1: Classifications**

- A. Boys: Classifications are 6A, 5A, 4A & below.
- B. Girls: Number of classifications based on participation.

Rule 2: Reporting Requirements

Requirement	Deadline	Platform	Penalty
Declare	June 1	DragonFly	\$25 fine
Online Rules Presentation	November 15	DragonFly	\$50 fine
Team Roster	November 15	DragonFly	\$50 fine

Rule 3: Administration

- A. Grades 9–12 competition.
- B. State tournament: 6A, 5A, 4A & below; team titles in each classification, plus individual champions in 14 weight classes.

NOTE: *The AAA Board shall be responsible for the organization, administration, and sites of regional and state tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport, including finances.*

Rule 4: Sports Medicine

Schools must follow all rules in [Sports Medicine](#).

ARTICLE V

SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL

The Arkansas Activities Association is committed to promoting the ideals of sportsmanship, integrity, and ethics at all levels of interscholastic competition. It is the responsibility of each member school to establish policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct consistent with the educational mission and goals of that school and to continually educate students, coaches, teachers, parents, and all involved about those policies.

SECTION 1 - GENERAL

- A. The Arkansas Activities Association defines sportsmanship as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others.
- B. Good sportsmanship is abiding by the rules of a contest and accepting victory or defeat graciously and to treat opponents with fairness and courtesy.
- C. Interscholastic activities are an integral part of the educational curriculum and experience.
- D. Education based activities provide an arena for participants to grow, to excel, to understand, and to value the concepts of sportsmanship. They provide an opportunity for coaches and school staff to teach citizenship, to build school pride, and to increase student involvement which translates into improved academic performance.
- E. **Sportsmanship must be taught, modeled, expected, and reinforced in all education-based activities.**
- F. Removing a team from a contest which causes the event to be ended prematurely for any reason other than an emergency is prohibited. A coach who orders any team to cease play before an interscholastic event is completed unless agreed upon by both schools' administrations shall be suspended for the next comparable event.
- G. Schools hosting events shall require officials such as scorers, judges, etc. to exhibit fairness by accomplishing their responsibilities in a competent manner without exhibiting emotion or becoming argumentative while observing recommendations of the AAA and AOA.
- H. A student, coach, or spectator who physically assaults an official shall be expelled from the activity immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for one year from the date of the offense.
- I. Any school representative who publicly criticizes an event official or an event official who publicly criticizes the performance of a school representative shall be subject to a penalty issued by the Arkansas Activities Association that could include warning, suspension, or probation. Public comments include all media outlets and social media platforms.

SECTION 2 - ADMINISTRATORS

- A. Teach that secondary school activities are a vital part of the educational experience.
- B. Have a plan for teaching, emphasizing, promoting and supporting good sportsmanship.
- C. Should be alert and prepared to confront unsportsmanlike actions as they arise and are prepared to expel and/or prosecute any person who commits a misdemeanor or criminal act under the statutes of Arkansas or when such action at an event constitutes unsportsmanlike conduct.
- D. Should prepare in advance to ensure proper seating arrangements for opposing students, support groups and fans to minimize potential conflicts.
- E. Attend events and serve as a role model of good sportsmanship.
- F. Communicate expectations regarding acceptable behavior before and during an event.
- G. Maintain control of spectators, students and support groups.
- H. Provide a safe environment for all education-based activities.
- I. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools.

- J. Maintain a safe environment for officials from the time they arrive until they have departed.

SECTION 3 - COACHES

- A. Head Coaches are responsible for the conduct of all persons in the bench, sideline, or team area.
- B. Should exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership in support of the mission of education-based activities.
- C. Maintain strict adherence to the rules of the game.
- D. Exercise self-control in a competitive environment.
- E. Shall not publicly criticize game officials.
- F. Shall not display antics clearly designed to incite the crowd in a negative manner.
- G. Demonstrate that you care about all students, not just your own students.
- H. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools.

SECTION 4 – STUDENT-ATHLETES

- A. Exercise self-control in a competitive environment.
- B. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- C. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools.
- D. Avoid offensive gestures or language.
- E. Show respect for public property and equipment.
- F. Understand that the sportsmanship expectations extend from pre-game through postgame interactions.

SECTION 5 - SPECTATORS

- A. Engage in positive encouragement and support of their team without being rude, negative or derogatory to opponents.
- B. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools.
- C. Shall not wear full face paint or mask. Small logos or insignias are allowed.
- D. Shall not wear derogatory or suggestive slogans on apparel.
- E. Stay off the playing area.
- F. Shall not participate in negative, demeaning, or obscene yells.
- G. Show respect for public property and equipment.
- H. Must wear shirts. No bare chests are permitted. 9. Shall not throw any objects on the playing area.

SECTION 6 – SUPPORT GROUPS (BAND, CHEER, DANCE, PEP, ETC.)

- A. Engage in positive encouragement and support of their team without being rude, negative or derogatory to opponents.
- B. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools
- C. Shall not participate in negative, demeaning, or obscene yells.
- D. Show respect for public property and equipment.
- E. Arrange performance times and expectations in advance.

SECTION 7 – OFFICIALS

- A. Should embrace the competitive nature of the activity and demonstrate respect for all participants.
- B. Should accept your role in an unassuming manner.
- C. Should know the rules and apply them equitably at all times.
- D. Should never show emotion, or argue with a player, coach or fan.

SECTION 8 – OUTDOOR VENUES

- A. Bands are not to be used to disrupt an opponent's play. At football games, bands and any component thereof, shall not play when either team is inside the twenty yard line.
- B. The use of school controlled sound systems and school controlled noisemakers and lighting shall be restricted to pregame, halftime, postgame, after a score and timeouts.
- C. The use of individual handheld noisemakers that do not require an external power source is allowed.
- D. No handheld signs or balloons are allowed.
- E. The home team has authority over all sound systems at the venue during pre-game, game, and post-game activities. The visiting team may use their own sound system in the locker room but are prohibited from using their own sound system at indoor and outdoor venues.

SECTION 9 – INDOOR VENUES

- A. Bands, indoor lighting displays, school-controlled sound systems and school controlled noisemakers shall be restricted to pregame, between quarters or sets, halftime, postgame and timeouts.
- B. The use of artificial noisemakers is not allowed.
- C. No handheld signs, balloons, poms, towels, megaphones, etc. are allowed.
- D. Poms properly used by school spirit squads are allowed.
- E. The home team has authority over all sound systems at the venue during pre-game, game, and post-game activities. The visiting team may use their own sound system in the locker room but are prohibited from using their own sound system at indoor and outdoor venues.

SECTION 10 – PUBLIC ADDRESS ANNOUNCERS

- A. Announcers shall not attempt to be bigger than the game or event by doing play-by-play or by providing commentary in an effort to draw attention to themselves.
- B. Announcers shall understand that cheers and antics designed to incite the crowd for the purpose of gaining an advantage are inappropriate.
- C. Announcers shall promote good sportsmanship by what they say and how they act.
- D. Announcers shall treat the opponents and their fans as guests, not the enemy.
- E. Announcers shall respect the individuals who are responsible for the conduct and administration of athletic games and events, such as coaches, officials, and administrators, and avoid making any comments that reflect positively or negatively on them.
- F. Announcers shall be competent. This means following approved announcing guidelines, expectations and policies, such as emergency procedures, provided by the administration or the host facility.
- G. Announcers shall be prepared, such as being familiar with the correct pronunciations of the participants' names, knowing the rules of the sport, the officials' signals and how the game is played.
- H. Announcers shall exhibit professional behavior and represent their school, organization or association with respect and dignity at all times by what they say, how they act, and how they appear.

SECTION 11 – EJECTIONS

Rule 1: Consequences for Ejections

- A. A participant/coach/administrator/spectator is prohibited from participation and/or attendance (see **NOTES** below) from the point of ejection plus:
 - 1. Football — next four (4) consecutive full quarters of comparable events.
 - 2. All other sports — next comparable event
 - 3. If ejected for fighting for the first time - the next two comparable events or 8 consecutive football quarters.
- B. Second offense in same season:
 - 1. Football – next eight consecutive full quarters of comparable events.
 - 2. All other sports – next two comparable events.
 - 3. If ejected for fighting for the second time - the next four comparable events or 16 consecutive football quarters.
- C. Third offense in same season: Prohibited from participation for the remainder of same sport season and school placed on probation or warning. If there are fewer than 3 comparable games remaining in the season, the prohibition of participation carries over to the next same sport season to total at least 3 games.
- D. Seniors who are ejected for fighting in their last event of a sport will serve their ejection penalty in the next sport participated in during the school year.
- E. Comparable event is defined as an event in the same sport that has already been scheduled and is at the same level of competition. If ejected from a varsity event, penalty shall be served at the next scheduled varsity event in that sport. If ejected from a JV event, penalty shall be served at the next scheduled JV event in that sport. If ejected from a benefit game, penalty shall be served at the next scheduled benefit game in that sport.
- F. To be reinstated for all ejections (excluding a targeting call in football), a coach or participant must also successfully complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course on NFHSLearn.com. Spectators who are ejected do not have to complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course.

NOTE: Any student-athlete who is ejected may attend but may not participate in the next comparable event in that sport while serving the ejection penalty.

NOTE: Any coach who is ejected may not be present at the next comparable event venue or perform any coaching duties during the comparable event in that sport while serving the ejection penalty.

NOTE: Any spectator who is ejected may not attend the next comparable event in that sport while serving the ejection penalty.

NOTE: Fighting is a flagrant act and can occur when the ball is dead or live. Fighting includes, but is not limited to combative acts such as:

- A. An attempt to strike, punch or kick by using a fist, hands, arms, legs or feet regardless of whether contact is made.
- B. An attempt to instigate a fight by committing an unsporting act that causes a person to retaliate by fighting.

Rule 2: Ejection Appeal

- A. An appeal of ejection must be filed through the school's authorized representative in writing on the [Ejection Appeal Form](#) to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or designee will review writing on the ejection appeal form to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or designee will review the video on the next business day after the appeal is filed. A ruling on the appeal will be made within three business days of the filing. The ruling of the Executive Director or designee is final and may not be appealed to the AAA Board. All periods of ineligibility (suspensions) remain in effect until such time that a ruling is rendered by the Executive Director or designee in writing. The school's authorized

representative must also provide video or access to the video specific to the ejection. Video from outside sources may be utilized but must be submitted through the school's authorized representative. Submitted video should include only clips specific to the ejection. Full game films submitted will not be reviewed.

B. Video Review

1. Only video involving an ejection may be reviewed.
2. Reviewable ejections are limited to physical actions.
3. Video review may be used to properly identify and eject any participant in a situation where it is possible that misidentification occurred.
4. Video review may be used to properly identify participants in situations involving multiple participants involved in a fight, confrontation or ejection where circumstances prevent accurate reporting of the individuals involved. This could include identifying and ejecting individuals not previously identified or reported, including contest participants, nonparticipants, or coaches who enter the playing area during the incident.
5. Video review may be used to assess the level of involvement in an incident.
6. Video review must provide indisputable evidence to overturn the ejection.

SECTION 12 – VIOLATIONS

Penalty for any violation of the sportsmanship manual may include forfeiture, warning, probation or suspension.

SPORTS MEDICINE

Rule 1: Concussion Guidelines

- A. Every coach and registered volunteer must receive training on concussions once every three years per A.C.A. § 6-18-708.
- B. Every student-athlete and parent/guardian must read and sign the [Sports Medicine Fact Sheet](#) which includes concussion information prior to participation (These forms should be kept annually for each sport).
- C. A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or who has had an injury in a game, an activity, or a practice for a game shall be removed from the game, activity, or practice at that time per A.C.A. § 6-18-710.
- D. A youth athlete who has been removed under this subdivision (d)(4) shall not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed healthcare provider (Neuropsychologist, MD, DO, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Certified Athletic Trainer, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, or Chiropractor) trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives written clearance to return to play from that healthcare provider. (Neuropsychologist, MD, DO, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Certified Athletic Trainer, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, or Chiropractor) per A.C.A. § 6-18-710.
- E. Any student-athlete that has been clinically diagnosed by a QHP with a concussion must then be medically cleared prior to beginning the [Graduated Return to Play protocol](#) (GRTP).
- F. The [Graduated Return to Play protocol](#) for delayed return to play:
 - 1. Early therapeutic cardiovascular activities may begin as early as 24 hours after injury. Even if the student athlete is still symptomatic. However, cardiovascular activities must NOT worsen symptoms. Cardiovascular activities that do not worsen symptoms may be administered until the student athlete becomes symptom free. (This may last just a few days or could last a few weeks) .
 - 2. The student athlete must exhibit a resolution of concussion symptoms back to or near pre-injury baseline levels for a minimum of “**24 hours**” prior to the student athlete being cleared by their QHP to initiate and proceed to **days 4 & 5 of the GRTP**.
 - 3. If school is in session: the student athlete that has been diagnosed with a concussion MUST attend a FULL DAY of school (within the normal school year) without symptoms or classroom modifications prior to that athlete beginning days 4 & 5 of the GRTP (student athletes that are only attending a partial day or currently have classroom modifications in place due to their concussion are eligible to begin GRTP but may ONLY do the cardiovascular activities as long as symptoms do not increase).
 - 4. If school is not in session: (Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring Breaks, AMI or a regularly scheduled non-school day) the GRTP may be administered by the direction of the QHP overseeing the student-athlete’s healthcare.
 - 5. There should be at least 24 hours between each step of the GRTP.
 - 6. If any symptoms significantly increase during these activities, stop the workout immediately.
 - 7. The student-athlete should then rest until symptoms return to or near pre-injury baseline levels for 24 hours then return to the previously completed stage of the GRTP.
 - 8. If symptoms persist or worsen, seek medical attention by referring the student-athlete back to the QHP that is overseeing their healthcare.
 - 9. Once the student-athlete has successfully completed the 5-day GRTP they are eligible to return to full participation on Day 6 (**not eligible to return to play on the 5th day of the protocol**).

10. In the absence of a QHP a designated school employee may administer the GRTP under the AAA Guidelines set forth by this document and following the direction of the QHP in charge of the student-athlete's healthcare.
11. The GRTP paperwork must be fully completed, signed, dated by the individual that completes the step wise protocol.
12. **THE ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE SCHOOL THEN KEEPS THE MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS FOR A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS FOR DOCUMENTATION.**

Rule 2: Sudden Cardiac Arrest Guidelines

- A. Per Arkansas Code 6-10-122 - Every coach and registered volunteer must receive training on prevention of sudden cardiac death every three years.
- B. Every athlete and parent must read and sign "Cardiac Screening for Athletes and Parents" Information Sheet (contained in [Sports Medicine Fact Sheet](#)).
- C. Per Arkansas Code 6-10-122(a) - Every school sponsored sporting event for grades 7-12 shall have an automated external defibrillator (AED) available at all times.
- D. Any athlete experiencing syncope (fainting), chest pains, shortness of breath that is out of proportion to their level of activity or an irregular heart rate should not return to practice or play until evaluated by an appropriated healthcare professional (MD, DO, PN, Certified Athletic Trainer). Parents of the student must be notified. Arkansas Code 6-18-713
- E. The referred athlete must be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to return to play/practice.

Rule 3: Emergency Action Plan and procedures for hot weather practice

In accordance with Arkansas Code §6-18-708, each member school must develop an emergency action plan for each individual athletic venue and procedures for practices/games. The emergency action plans shall be reviewed and rehearsed annually by all parties involved each year with the athletic staff and local EMS provider/first responders. The emergency action plans for practice/games shall be completed by August 1st or six weeks prior to the beginning of their season. (Communicate Emergency Action Plan information with appropriate personnel.) Arkansas Code §6-18-708 - Venue specific for emergency action plans.

Rule 4: Required Sports Medicine Training

Every three years all coaches of member schools are required to receive training on concussion, heat illness, and communicable disease (sudden cardiac required by 2019-2020 school year).

Rule 5: Sports Medicine Fact Sheet

Parents and students must read and sign the [Sports Medicine Fact Sheet](#) prior to participation each year.

Rule 6: Pre-season Heat Illness Meeting

Football teams must have an annual parent meeting concerning heat illness.

Rule 7: Required Guidelines for Use of Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer

In 2019 the Arkansas Activities Association approved the Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer (WBGT) as the measurement device for measuring acceptable heat/humidity levels for practices. The WBGT device is a measurement tool that uses ambient temperature, relative humidity, wind and solar radiation from the sun to get a measure that can be used to monitor environmental conditions during exercise.

The American College of Sports Medicine has approved the following WBGT guidelines that dictate modifications in activity (work: rest ratios, hydration breaks, equipment worn, length of practice) at given WBGT temperatures to prevent Exertional Heat Stroke. The table below is to be used when the WBGT reaches an unsafe level. The table represents modified guidelines from the American College of Sports Medicine regarding:

- A. The scheduling of practices at appropriate WBGT levels.
- B. The ratio of workout time to time allotted for rest and hydration at various WBGT levels.
- C. The WBGT levels at which activities should be terminated.

WBGT UNDER 82.0	Normal activities. Provide separate rest breaks each hour of practice. Breaks should equal 10 minutes per hour.
WBGT 82.0 - 86.9	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; watch at-risk players carefully; Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour for a minimum of 4 minutes in duration for each.
WBGT 87.0 - 89.9	Maximum length of participation within this range is 2 hours. <u>Football</u> : players restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice, protective equipment must be removed for conditioning activities. <u>All Sports</u> : there must be 20 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of participation.
WBGT 90.0 - 92.0	Maximum length of participation with this range is 1 hour. <u>Football</u> : no protective equipment may be worn. no conditioning activities. <u>All Sports</u> : there must be 30 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of participation.
WBGT OVER 92	No outdoor workouts. Delay practice until a cooler WBGT level is reached.

A scientifically approved instrument that measures the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) should be utilized at each practice when the temperature is greater than 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The instrument should be set up 30 minutes prior to practice and should be read 15 minutes prior to the start of practice. WBGT readings should be taken every 30 minutes during practice. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for recalibration.

Practices are defined as: the time period that a participant engages in a coach-supervised, school-approved sport or conditioning-related activity. Practices are timed from when players report to the practice/workout area until the players leave the area. If a practice is interrupted for a weather-related reason, the “clock” on the practice will stop and will begin again when the practice resumes.

Conditioning activities include things like weight training, wind-sprints, timed runs for distance, etc., and may be a part of the practice time. A walk-through is not a part of the practice and may last no longer than one hour. Walk-through activities may not include conditioning activities or contact drills. No protective equipment may be worn during a walk-through, and no full-speed drills may be held.

Rest breaks may not be combined with any other type of activity and players must be given unlimited access to hydration. Breaks must be held in a “cool zone” where players are out of direct sunlight. Cool zones must be set up for all practices. This may include cold tubs, misting fans, and other cooling devices. Onsite cooling using cold water immersion before transport to the hospital.

For regularly scheduled competitions; use appropriate EAP for high temperatures and humidity, consider altering start time, ensure athletes are properly hydrated and acclimatized, and provide extra time outs for rest and hydration.

***NOTE:** Starting July 2024, marching band students will be required to present verification of a physical examination. Marching band programs will also have to abide by the approved WBGT guidelines.*

***Rationale** - The coaches and school administration must be assured that the athletes are physically fit prior to beginning practice as well as competition. The health and safety of students and student-athletes fall directly under school care.*

Rule 8: Required Lightning Guidelines

A. Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safe area:
 - a. A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library.
 - b. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.

B. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:

1. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
2. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
3. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. When independently validated lightning detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device. * – At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

C. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at the start of the season.

Lightning Apps (ex.) - Lightning Pro, Lightning Tracker, Lightning Alarm, WeatherBug, NOAA Live Weather Radar, Storm Tracker

Rule 9: Physical Examination

In any year that a student engages in interscholastic competition, the student shall be required to present to the coach verification of a physical examination prior to beginning practice.

***NOTE:** A yearly physical shall reasonably be expected to be within 15 months using the approved [AAA Physical Form](#).*

***NOTE:** Marching band students will be required to present verification of a physical examination. Marching band programs will also have to abide by the approved WBGT guidelines.*

***Rationale** - The coaches and school administration must be assured that the athletes are physically fit prior to beginning practice as well as competition. The health and safety of students and student-athletes fall directly under school care.*

Rule 10: Amendments

Amendments to the Sports Medicine Guidelines are made in conjunction with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and the AAA Board. The AAA Board approves all changes to Sports Medicine.

DEFINITIONS

Academic Course – A course in which a grade is assigned and becomes part of the student’s permanent record.

Attendance Area – The geographic boundaries of a school district with one high school, or the local board-defined attendance zones when multiple high schools exist.

Authorized Representative – The official voting delegate of a AAA member school.

Camp – A gathering of three or more students or teams for sports instruction. Football camps are only permitted between the end of spring term and the start of fall practice (Week #5).

NOTE: *Violating the Summer Camp or All-Star Rule may result in up to one year of ineligibility.*

Competition – When students from two or more schools compete for awards, ratings, or advancement.

NOTE: *Eligibility rules apply to all athletic and non-athletic activities.*

Core Curriculum – 7th–8th grade math, science, English, and social studies courses.

De Novo – Heard anew. Where a decision by the Executive Director is appealed “de novo” to the AAA Board of Directors, the AAA Board of Directors is not in any way bound, restricted, or limited by the findings or conclusions of the Executive Director and may render whatever decision it deems appropriate based on its own review of the facts and circumstances.

Domicile – The place at which a person is physically present and that the person regards as home; a person’s true, fixed, principal, and permanent home.

Field Trip – A school-approved visit with no competition or qualifying activity involved. Transportation may be provided.

Interscholastic – Events involving students from two or more schools.

Interscholastic Activities – Athletic or non-athletic school vs. school events for grades 7–12 (e.g., band, speech, drama, etc.). Performance activities such as band, speech, drama, etc. may be viewed as competitive arenas both internally (ratings by individual schools) and externally (comparisons of individual or school ratings with a view toward determining an ultimate winner).

Invitational – An activity not designated as an official AAA event or subdivision thereof.

Junior High School – A school that contains 7th grade up to 9th grade.

Middle School – A school serving grades 7 and/or 8.

Middle School Tournament – A separate AAA member school may play in one middle school tournament not counted toward the junior high limit.

NOTE: *No middle school athlete may play in more than three total tournaments (junior + middle school combined).*

Official Activity – An AAA-sponsored or AAA-recognized state-level event in which students receive benefits tied to the organization’s goals.

Official Interpretations – Only written responses to written requests from the Executive Director are considered official. If there is a question concerning the eligibility of a participant in any interscholastic activity, the Executive Director should be contacted in writing for an official interpretation of the rule in question.

Participation – Students from multiple schools meeting for prearranged programs or performances with no competition involved.

Practice – An activity involving only players from one member school team (boys' or girls' team).

Pre-Season – The period from the start of the semester until the official beginning of the sport's season.

Sanctioned – AAA-approved participation for specific students from member schools.

School-Sanctioned Events – Events sponsored by a AAA member school. Sponsorship or co-sponsorship by any organization or individual other than a member school requires sanctioning by the AAA office.

School Sponsorship – Occurs when the school assumes responsibility for student actions.

Season – The time period from when a benefit game has been played or the first allowable regular season playing date to the official end of the season as defined in [Article IV, Section 2, Rule 2](#).

Senior High School – A school containing 9th grade up to 12th grade.

Subdivision of an Official Activity – An activity qualifying or certifying a student for an official AAA event, sponsored or supervised by AAA or an AAA-recognized organization. The activity must be sponsored by the AAA or sponsored or supervised by an official AAA recognized club or organization.

Tournament – Organized competition using elimination or advancement rounds leading to a champion.

Transfer – A change from one school to another without a bona fide parental move.

SEASONS AND EVENT LIMITATIONS

Season Beginning Week #	Sport	Maximum Permissible Events				Week # of State Events
		Sr. High		Jr. High		
		Varsity	JV	Varsity	JV	
5	GOLF (boys)	12	12	12	12	14
5	GOLF (girls)	12	12	12	12	13
6	TENNIS	12	12	12	12	15
7	COMPETITIVE CHEER	5	5	5	5	24
7	COMPETITIVE DANCE	5	5	5	5	19
8	VOLLEYBALL	30	20	18/20	18	17
8	FOOTBALL	10	10	10	10	22/23
8	CROSS COUNTRY	12	12	12	12	18
16	BASKETBALL (non-FB)	36	28	22	22	36
18	SWIM AND DIVE	10	10	10	10	34
19	BASKETBALL (FB schools)	30	20	18	18	36
20	WRESTLING	18	18	18	18	32
21	BOWLING	10	10	10	10	32
34	TRACK & FIELD (outdoor)	13	13	13	13	44
35	SOCCER	24	16	16	16	46
35	BASEBALL	30	22	12	12	46
35	SOFTBALL	30	22	12	12	46
	DECATHLON/HEPTATHLON					46

NOTE: Football schools may schedule basketball games earlier than week #19 if the football season is shortened but may not begin before week #17, nor play additional games.

- A. Baseball/Softball/Volleyball/Soccer (Sr. High Varsity) –District, regional, or state tournament play does not count towards maximum number of events.
- B. Spirit teams – Limited to 5 invitational events.
- C. In team sports, middle school teams with separate AAA membership may play one additional tournament not counted toward the junior high limit.
- D. No middle school athlete may compete in more than three total tournaments (combined middle and junior high).

BENEFIT GAMES

Each varsity team from an AAA member school may play one interscholastic benefit game that does not count toward the season limit. Proceeds must include the designated percentage contribution to the AAA Catastrophe Insurance Fund.

SPORT-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR BENEFIT GAMES/MATCHES

- A. Football – Weeks #7 or #8 only; games may not begin before 5:30 p.m. on weekdays.

- B. Basketball (Non-Football Schools) – Week #15 or anytime in regular season.
- C. Basketball (Football Schools) – During regular season or 1st Saturday after the final regular season football game.
- D. All Basketball Benefit Games:
 1. *One game:* may not begin before 6:30 p.m. on school nights.
 2. *Two games (jr./sr. high) or Jamborees (3+ schools):* may not begin before 5:30 p.m. on school nights.
- E. Volleyball – Week #7 or during season; may not begin before 5:30 p.m. on weekdays.
- F. Baseball / Softball / Soccer – From Week #34 or during season; may not begin before 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

NUMBER OF BENEFIT GAMES

- A. Only one game or partial game allowed per varsity squad (Sr. Boys, Jr. Boys, Sr. Girls, Jr. Girls).
- B. No JV or “B” team benefit games.
- C. Jamborees (Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Football, Basketball): permitted if no school plays more than one full game’s equivalent.
- D. Volleyball Jamborees: permitted if no player participates in more than five games.

Benefit Game Forms: Click on the Benefit Games Admin Ribbon on the [AAA Administrators Page](#).

AAA CALENDAR OF NUMBERED WEEKS (SUN-SAT) 8 YEAR								
WEEK	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2032-2033	2033-2034
1	7/5-7/11	7/4-7/10	7/2-7/8	7/1-7/7	7/7-7/13	7/6-7/12	7/4-7/10	7/3-7/9
2	7/12-7/18	7/11-7/17	7/9-7/15	7/8-7/14	7/14-7/20	7/13-7/19	7/11-7/17	7/10-7/16
3	7/19-7/25	7/18-7/24	7/16-7/22	7/15-7/21	7/21-7/27	7/20-7/26	7/18-7/24	7/17-7/23
4	7/26-8/1	7/25-7/31	7/23-7/29	7/22-7/28	7/28-8/3	7/27-8/2	7/25-7/31	7/24-7/30
5	8/2-8/8	8/1-8/7	7/30-8/5	7/29-8/4	8/4-8/10	8/3-8/9	8/1-8/7	7/31-8/6
6	8/9-8/15	8/8-8/14	8/6-8/12	8/5-8/11	8/11-8/17	8/10-8/16	8/8-8/14	8/7-8/13
7	8/16-8/22	8/15-8/21	8/13-8/19	8/12-8/18	8/18-8/24	8/17-8/23	8/15-8/21	8/14-8/20
8	8/23-8/29	8/22-8/28	8/20-8/26	8/19-8/25	8/25-8/31	8/24-8/30	8/22-8/28	8/21-8/27
9	8/30-9/5	8/29-9/4	8/27-9/2	8/26-9/1	9/1-9/7	8/31-9/6	8/29-9/4	8/28-9/3
10	9/6-9/12	9/5-9/11	9/3-9/9	9/2-9/8	9/8-9/14	9/7-9/13	9/5-9/11	9/4-9/10
11	9/13-9/19	9/12-9/18	9/10-9/16	9/9-9/15	9/15-9/21	9/14-9/20	9/12-9/18	9/11-9/17
12	9/20-9/26	9/19-9/25	9/17-9/23	9/16-9/22	9/22-9/28	9/21-9/27	9/19-9/25	9/18-9/24
13	9/27-10/3	9/26-10/2	9/24-9/30	9/23-9/29	9/29-10/5	9/28-10/4	9/26-10/2	9/25-10/1
14	10/4-10/10	10/3-10/9	10/1-10/7	9/30-10/6	10/6-10/12	10/5-10/11	10/3-10/9	10/2-10/8
15	10/11-10/17	10/10-10/16	10/8-10/14	10/7-10/13	10/13-10/19	10/12-10/18	10/10-10/16	10/9-10/15
16	10/18-10/24	10/17-10/23	10/15-10/21	10/14-10/20	10/20-10/26	10/19-10/25	10/17-10/23	10/16-10/22
17	10/25-10/31	10/24-10/30	10/22-10/28	10/21-10/27	10/27-11/2	10/26-11/1	10/24-10/30	10/23-10/29
18	11/1-11/7	10/31-11/6	10/29-11/4	10/28-11/3	11/3-11/9	11/2-11/8	10/31-11/6	10/30-11/5
19	11/8-11/14	11/7-11/13	11/5-11/11	11/4-11/10	11/10-11/16	11/9-11/15	11/7-11/13	11/6-11/12
20	11/15-11/21	11/14-11/20	11/12-11/18	11/11-11/17	11/17-11/23	11/16-11/22	11/14-11/20	11/13-11/19
21	11/22-11/28	11/21-11/27	11/19-11/25	11/18-11/24	11/24-11/30	11/23-11/29	11/21-11/27	11/20-11/26
22	11/29-12/5	11/28-12/4	11/26-12/2	11/25-12/1	12/1-12/7	11/30-12/6	11/28-12/4	11/27-12/3
23	12/6-12/12	12/5-12/11	12/3-12/9	12/2-12/8	12/8-12/14	12/7-12/13	12/5-12/11	12/4-12/10
24	12/13-12/19	12/12-12/18	12/10-12/16	12/9-12/15	12/15-12/21	12/14-12/20	12/12-12/18	12/1-12-17
25	12/20-12/26	12/19-12/25	12/17-12/23	12/16-12/22	12/22-12/28	12/21-12/27	12/19-12/25	12/18-12/24
26	12/27-1/2	12/26-1/1	12/24-12/30	12/23-12/29	12/29-1/4	12/28-1/3	12/26-1/1	12/25-12/31
27	1/3-1/9	1/2-1/8	12/31-1/6	12/30-1/5	1/5-1/11	1/4-1/10	1/2-1/8	1/1-1/7
28	1/10-1/16	1/9-1/15	1/7-1/13	1/6-1/14	1/12-1/18	1/11-1/17	1/9-1/15	1/8-1/14
29	1/17-1/23	1/16-1/22	1/14-1/20	1/13-1/19	1/19-1/25	1/18-1/24	1/16-1/22	1/15-1/21
30	1/24-1/30	1/23-1/29	1/21-1/27	1/20-1/26	1/26-2/1	1/25-1/31	1/23-1/29	1/22-1/28
31	1/31-2/6	1/30-2/5	1/28-2/3	1/27-2/2	2/2-2/8	2/1-2/7	1/30-2/5	1/29-2/4
32	2/7-2/13	2/6-2/12	2/4-2/10	2/3-2/9	2/9-2/15	2/8-2/14	2/6-2/12	2/5-2/11
33	2/14-2/20	2/13-2/19	2/11-2/17	2/10-2/16	2/16-2/22	2/15-2/21	2/13-2/19	2/12-2/18
34	2/21-2/27	2/20-2/26	2/18-2/24	2/17-2/23	2/23-3/1	2/22-2/28	2/20-2/26	2/19-2/25
35	2/28-3/6	2/27-3/4	2/25-3/3	2/24-3/2	3/2-3/8	2/29-3/6	2/27-3/5	2/26-3/4
36	3/7-3/13	3/5-3/11	3/4-3/10	3/3-3/9	3/9-3/15	3/7-3/13	3/6-3/12	3/5-3/11
37	3/14-3/20	3/12-3/18	3/11-3/17	3/10-3/16	3/16-3/22	3/14-3/20	3/13-3/19	3/12-3/18
38	3/21-3/27	3/19-3/25	3/18-3/24	3/17-3/23	3/23-3/29	3/21-3/27	3/20-3/26	3/19-3/25
39	3/28-4/3	3/26-4/1	3/25-3/31	3/24-3/30	3/30-4/5	3/28-4/3	3/27-4/2	3/26-4/1
40	4/4-4/10	4/2-4/8	4/1-4/7	3/31-4/6	4/6-4/12	4/4-4/10	4/3-4/9	4/2-4/8
41	4/11-4/17	4/9-4/15	4/8-4/14	4/7-4/13	4/13-4/19	4/11-4/17	4/10-4/16	4/9-4/15
42	4/18-4/24	4/16-4/22	4/15-4/21	4/14-4/20	4/20-4/26	4/18-4/24	4/17-4/23	4/16-4/22
43	4/25-5/1	4/23-4/29	4/22-4/28	4/21-4/27	4/27-5/3	4/25-5/1	4/24-4/30	4/23-4/29
44	5/2-5/8	4/30-5/6	4/29-5/5	4/28-5/4	5/4-5/10	5/2-5/8	5/1-5/7	4/30-5/6
45	5/9-5/15	5/7-5/13	5/6-5/12	5/5-5/11	5/11-5/17	5/9-5/15	5/8-5/14	5/7-5/13
46	5/16-5/22	5/14-5/20	5/13-5/19	5/12-5/18	5/18-5/24	5/16-5/22	5/15-5/21	5/14-5/20
47	5/23-5/29	5/21-5/27	5/20-5/26	5/19-5/25	5/25-5/31	5/23-5/29	5/22-5/28	5/21-5/27
48	5/30-6/5	5/28-6/3	5/27-6/2	5/26-6/1	6/1-6/7	5/30-6/5	5/29-6/4	5/28-6/3
49	6/6-6/12	6/4-6/10	6/3-6/9	6/2-6/8	6/8-6/14	6/6-6/12	6/5-6/11	6/4-6/10
50	6/13-6/19	6/11-6/17	6/10-6/16	6/9-6/15	6/15-6/21	6/13-6/19	6/12-6/18	6/11-6/17
51	6/20-6/26	6/18-6/24	6/17-6/23	6/16-6/22	6/22-6/28	6/20-6/26	6/19-6/25	6/18-6/24
52	6/27-7/3	6/25-7/1	6/24-6/30	6/23-6/29	6/29-7/5	6/27-7/3	6/26-7/2	6/25-7/1

AAA CALENDAR OF NUMBERED WEEKS (SUN-SAT) 2026 - 2027

WEEK #	2026-2027	EVENT
1	7/5-7/11	
2	7/12-7/18	
3	7/19-7/25	
4	7/26-8/1	
5	8/2-8/8	Football Practice Begins Monday (No Pads)/ Golf Season Begins / Saturday – Football Practice (Full Equipment)
6	8/9-8/15	Tennis Season Begins
7	8/16-8/22	Benefit Volleyball Events Begin/ Cheer & Dance Seasons Begin/ Benefit Football Events
8	8/23-8/29	Benefit Football Events / Volleyball Season Begins / Football Zero Week / Cross Country Season Begins
9	8/30-9/5	Football Week 1
10	9/6-9/12	
11	9/13-9/19	
12	9/20-9/26	
13	9/27-10/3	State Girls Golf Tournament
14	10/4-10/10	State Boys Golf Tournament
15	10/11-10/17	Overall Golf / State Tennis Tournament
16	10/18-10/24	**First Basketball Game for Non-Football Schools / Overall Tennis / Regional Volleyball
17	10/25-10/31	State Volleyball Tournaments
18	11/1-11/7	Swim & Dive Season Begins / *State Cross Country Meet / Football Season Ends/Playoffs Begin***
19	11/8-11/14	State Dance / First Basketball Game for Football Schools
20	11/15-11/21	Wrestling Season Begins
21	11/22-11/28	Bowling Season Begins
22	11/29-12/5	Football Finals
23	12/6-12/12	Football Finals
24	12/13-12/19	State Cheer
25	12/20-12/26	
26	12/27-1/2	
27	1/3-1/9	
28	1/10-1/16	
29	1/17-1/23	
30	1/24-1/30	Regional Wrestling Girls
31	1/31-2/6	Regional Wrestling Boys
32	2/7-2/13	State Wrestling / State Bowling Tournaments
33	2/14-2/20	
34	2/21-2/27	*State Swim & Dive Meet / Regional Basketball Tournaments / Track Season Begins
35	2/28-3/6	State Basketball Tournaments / Baseball & Softball Seasons Begin / Soccer Season Begins
36	3/7-3/13	State Basketball Finals
37	3/14-3/20	
38	3/21-3/27	Spring Break
39	3/28-4/3	
40	4/4-4/10	
41	4/11-4/17	
42	4/18-4/24	
43	4/25-5/1	
44	5/2-5/8	*State Track / Regional Baseball & Softball
45	5/9-5/15	*Meet of Champs / State Baseball, Softball, & Soccer
46	5/16-5/22	State Baseball, Softball, & Soccer Finals / Decathlon & Heptathlon
47	5/23-5/29	
48	5/30-6/5	
49	6/6-6/12	
50	6/13-6/19	
51	6/20-6/26	
52	6/27-7/3	

Dead Weeks-Week prior to July 4th & Week of July 4th.

*Traditional date - Board of Directors has authority to assign date.

**Football schools may begin basketball the week following the last regularly scheduled football game, week #18 or after.

***All football playoffs shall be scheduled on Fridays except by mutual agreement of participating schools or assignment by AAA.

AAA STAFF EMAILS

Balboa, Amber	amber@ahsaa.org
Clark, Kristy	kristy@ahsaa.org
Cunningham, Nicole.....	nicole@ahsaa.org
Hill, Dax	dax@ahsaa.org
Langley, Michelle.....	michelle@ahsaa.org
Lasker, Nick	nick@ahsaa.org
Mays, Jennifer	jennifer@ahsaa.org
Parker, Christyal	christyal@ahsaa.org
Roberts, Steve.....	steve@ahsaa.org
Saunders, Eric.....	eric@ahsaa.org
Spafford, Leah	leah@ahsaa.org
Swofford, Bobby	bobby@ahsaa.org
Taylor, Lance W.....	lance@ahsaa.org

Visit the AAA website at www.ahsaa.org!

- ♦ Like us on [Facebook](#)
- ♦ Follow us on [X](#) & [Instagram](#)



Building Citizenship Through Activities Participation

AAA STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Before calling the Arkansas Activities Association, please check the listings below for the director or administrative assistant in charge of that particular sport or organization.

Accounts Payable – Jennifer Mays	Football – Steve Roberts
Accounts Receivable – Jennifer Mays	Golf – Bobby Swofford
Accounting Questions – Jennifer Mays	Graphic Reproduction/Supplies – Nicole Cunningham
Active Scholar – Christyal Parker	Hall of Fame Program – Bobby Swofford
Advertising – Bobby Swofford	Hall of Fame Tickets/Reservations – Nicole Cunningham
AHSCA (coaches) registration/passes – Leah Spafford	Hardships – Lance Taylor
AHSAAA (athletic directors) registration/passes – Leah Spafford	Heptathlon – Nick Lasker
All-Star Coaches (baseball) – Dax Hill	Media – Bobby Swofford
All-Star Coaches (football, softball) – Steve Roberts	Media Assistant – Nicole Cunningham
All-Star Coaches (basketball, soccer) – Eric Saunders	Meet of Champions – Nick Lasker
All-Star Coaches (spirit) – Christyal Parker	Non-Athletic Events – Christyal Parker
All-Star Coaches (volleyball) – Nick Lasker	Passes (administrator, school board member, activity advisor) – Jennifer Mays
All-Star Secretary – Leah Spafford	Passes (athletic director) – Leah Spafford
AOA Registration/Records – Kristy Clark	Passes (officials) – Kristy Clark
Artwork and Design – Nicole Cunningham	Passes (coaches) – Leah Spafford
Awards (medals, ribbons, plaques) – Christyal Parker	Passes (media) – Nicole Cunningham
Baseball – Dax Hill	Passes (registered volunteer) – Leah Spafford
Basketball – Eric Saunders	Registered Volunteers/Coaches Education – Nick Lasker
Board of Directors – Lance Taylor	Sanctioning – see specific sport/activity
Bookkeeping (accounts/school fees) – Amber Balboa / Jennifer Mays	Scheduling Office Meeting Space – Jennifer Mays
Bowling – Christyal Parker	School Kits – Christyal Parker
Broadcast Rights – Bobby Swofford	School membership – Jennifer Mays
Calendar — Christyal Parker	Soccer – Eric Saunders
Certificates – Leah Spafford	Softball – Steve Roberts
Clinic Registration (AHSCA) – Leah Spafford	Spirit – Christyal Parker
Clinic Registration (AOA) – Kristy Clark	Sports Records – Bobby Swofford
Clinic Registration (AHSAAA) – Leah Spafford	Sportsmanship Awards – Christyal Parker
Clinic Exhibitors (AHSCA/AD's)– Nicole Cunningham	Supplemental Instruction Program – Christyal Parker
Coaches Education/Registered Volunteers – Nick Lasker	Swim & Dive – Nick Lasker
Coaches Education/Registered Volunteers (records, enrollment, schedule) – Leah Spafford	T-Shirts/Event Merchandising – Christyal Parker
Corporate Sponsors – Steve Roberts/Bobby Swofford	Tennis – Eric Saunders
Cross Country – Nick Lasker	Tickets – Jennifer Mays
CSAP forms – Michelle Langley	Track and Field – Nick Lasker
Decathlon – Nick Lasker	Transfers – Lance Taylor
Directory (school) – Bobby Swofford	Volleyball – Nick Lasker
DragonFly – Bobby Swofford	Webmaster – Bobby Swofford
Eligibility – Lance Taylor, Dax Hill, Eric Saunders, Nick Lasker, Steve Roberts, Bobby Swofford, Christyal Parker	Website Questions – Bobby Swofford
Ejection of Players – Dax Hill	Wrestling – Dax Hill
Event Programs – Bobby Swofford	

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (AAA) & ARKANSAS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION (AOA)

The Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) recognizes that officiating is a vital component of every athletic program. For this reason, the Association invests significant time, effort, and resources in training officials through clinics, instructional materials, and other developmental programs aimed at improving rules knowledge, mechanics, and officiating techniques.

Officials serve as guardians of the game's integrity. Both on and off the field, they must earn the trust and respect of players, coaches, spectators, and media alike. This responsibility demands unquestionable honesty, proven ability, consistent professionalism, and a comprehensive understanding of the sport they officiate.

REGISTRATION AND TRAINING

To promote uniformity and consistency in rules administration across Arkansas, the AAA staff oversees the registration and training of athletic officials under the following framework:

- A. AOA Registration: All officials must register and renew annually through the Arkansas Officials Association (AOA) under the supervision of the AAA office.
- B. Promotion System: Advancement is based on a point system that considers:
 - 1. Performance on the written rules examination
 - 2. Successful experience in a required number of games
 - 3. Meeting attendance and participation in professional development activities
- C. Clinics and Interpretation Meetings: A statewide series of officials' clinics is scheduled annually by the AOA and conducted by AAA-appointed presenters to review rules, mechanics, and interpretations.
- D. Use of Registered Officials: AAA Bylaws require that all member schools use only registered AOA officials in the following sports: football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, track and wrestling.
- E. Rules Interpretations: AAA adopts National Federation (NFHS) interpretations to supplement rules when necessary and distributes them statewide to ensure consistency.
- F. Rules Publications: Each registered official receives the NFHS rules books (digital) and related publications issued through the AAA.
- G. Assignments: The AAA office is responsible for the assignment of officials for all major events it conducts.
- H. Advisory Committees: The AAA may form advisory or ad hoc committees for each sport—composed of administrators, coaches, and officials—to provide input, assist with experimental rules, and make recommendations to national rules committees.
- I. Compensation Restrictions: AAA Bylaws prohibit member schools from paying any officiating fee to individuals who are not officially registered with the Arkansas Officials Association.

ELIGIBILITY FOR POSTSEASON OFFICIATING

- A. Football Playoffs: Division 1 officials only, when possible.
- B. Basketball Regional and State Tournaments: Division 1 officials only, when possible.
- C. Baseball and Softball – Regional and State Tournaments: Division 1 officials only, when possible.



2026-27 **FORMS**

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

Academic State Champions

The Academic State Championships recognize teams in football, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls track, softball, baseball, volleyball, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls golf, boys and girls swim and dive, boys and girls bowling, boys and girls wrestling, competitive cheer, and competitive dance who have achieved academically. It is based on each team member's cumulative grade point average for the most recent official grading period. The team with the highest grade point average in each sport will receive a banner to display in their school.

Academic State Champions will be determined by the following procedure:

1. List every student who participated at the varsity level by the reporting date in each sport. All students who participate in a varsity contest at any time during the season are considered varsity athletes. Only full teams in each sport will be considered for the award
2. List each student's cumulative GPA figured on a standard 4.0 scale. Include the last full grading period in which credit was earned.
3. Round GPAs off to the nearest thousandth — Example: 3.255, , not to exceed 4.0
4. Complete and submit applications to the AAA before the deadline for each season.
5. Use a separate form for each sport. Do not combine girls and boys teams. The form must be signed by both the coach and principal.
6. In individual sports, a minimum of four (4) team members will be required to be eligible for the award.

DEADLINES

Fall Sports (*golf, tennis, cross country, volleyball, football, cheer, and dance*) — January 15

Winter Sports (*basketball, bowling, wrestling, and swim & dive*) — April 1

Spring Sports (*baseball, softball, soccer, and track & field*) — June 15

Failure to follow the above guidelines will automatically disqualify a team.

E-mail application to: Christyal@ahsaa.org

Academic State Champions Application

The Academic State Champions in each AAA-approved sport will be determined by the team's average GPA. To be considered for an academic state championship, the school must submit each team member's cumulative grade point average (unweighted, standard 4.0 scale) for the most recent official grading period. Team GPAs must be submitted on this form. The team with the highest grade point average in each sport will receive a banner to display in their school

SCHOOL _____

CLASSIFICATION _____ CONFERENCE _____

SPORT _____

PLAYER'S NAME	GPA
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	
16.	
17.	
18.	
19.	
20.	
21.	
22.	
23.	

PLAYER'S NAME	GPA
24.	
25.	
26.	
27.	
28.	
29.	
30.	
31.	
32.	
33.	
34.	
35.	
36.	
37.	
38.	
39.	
40.	
41.	
42.	
43.	
44.	
45.	
46.	

PLAYER'S NAME	GPA
47.	
48.	
49.	
50.	
51.	
52.	
53.	
54.	
55.	
56.	
57.	
58.	
59.	
60.	
61.	
62.	
63.	
64.	
65.	
66.	
67.	
68.	
68.	

PLAYER'S NAME	GPA
69.	
70.	
71.	
72.	
73.	
74.	
75.	
76.	
77.	
78.	
79.	
80.	
81.	
82.	
83.	
84.	
85.	
86.	
87.	
88.	
89.	
90.	
91.	

A. Total of GPA column _____

B. Number of players listed _____

C. $A \div B =$ _____ Team's Average GPA

Coach's Signature

Date

Principal's Signature

Application For Hardship Exceptions

A waiver of the AAA eligibility rules is possible under Rule 17, Hardship Exception for Eligibility, and may be considered if conditions exist or existed causing a student to be in violation of a rule. There cannot be an exception made for the Age Rule. Hardships must be applied for and approved by the Executive Director before a student participates in interscholastic competition. Hardships shall not be retroactive. Documentation and correspondence must be through the voting representative of the school.

Please complete the form below and furnish the additional information needed to develop acceptable proof that the student should be considered for this waiver.

1. Name of student: _____

2. School applying for exception: _____

Address: _____

3. Name of supt./principal applying for exception: _____

Phone#: _____ Email: _____

4. List the name, address and phone number of last school attended and principal's name if a transfer student

5. For which rule are you requesting an exception? (Check One):

Residence/Transfer _____ **Semester** _____ **Scholarship** _____ **Drop Out** _____

6. Include a transcript and attendance record.

7. Include a brief narrative explaining the situation and why you feel this student should be considered for the exception. Keep in mind the items on the back that must be considered in granting such an exception.

8. Include written statements from individuals that have *personal knowledge* of the facts. We need those persons in authoritative positions such as; school officials, including principals, superintendents, counselors, etc., doctors, social workers, employers, ministers, etc. Include their names and phone numbers.

9. Include written statements from the parents and provide their address and phone number.

10 If necessary can you bring the student to the AAA office for a personal interview?

_____ Yes _____ No

Signature of Superintendent or Principal

Date

Rule 18: Hardship Exceptions

Upon petition from a student's school administrator, the Executive Director is authorized to waive the requirements of all eligibility rules except the age rule if the school develops acceptable proof based on the stated criteria for a hardship waiver. Hardships must be applied for and approved by the Executive Director before a student participates in interscholastic competition. Hardships shall not be retroactive. Documentation and correspondence must be through the voting representative of the school.

A. Domicile Exceptions

1. After an investigation, a court of law has removed the student from the parents or guardians and subsequently assigned the student a place of domicile.
2. The student is an orphan or there is no record of the parent's whereabouts.
3. The students' parents are out-of-state residents, and the student is attending school in a school district where the parents maintain a legal domicile (military, etc.).
4. The student's parent(s) have abrogated their responsibility toward the student as parents.
5. The student's parent's employment requires absence from home great portions of the time the student is at home, and the parent has arranged domicile with relatives or friends for the purpose of supervision.
6. The student is married and living with a spouse, has a parent with domicile in the school district or a spouse who had an established domicile in the district one year prior to the marriage.
7. A student who has lived three continuous years at any time as a bona fide member of a family may establish the family heads as substitute parents with respect to the domicile rule.
8. An extreme and unusual circumstance exists that is no fault of the student or the parents. (Examples of conditions that warrant an extreme or unusual circumstance: extreme medical or psychiatric conditions; sexual abuse or assault; or physical abuse or assault - must have supporting documentation from doctors and/or law enforcement)

NOTE: The Executive Director is authorized to specify limitations or contingency conditions as needed when giving approvals, to ensure that such student shall not be induced to another school district or played under the pretense of being eligible should the eligibility status change.

NOTE: The petition shall not be authorized if the director obtains reliable information that the student is transferring to the petitioning school primarily for athletic purposes or as a result of inducement or recruitment.

NOTE: If a AAA member school drops a declared varsity team sport in which they participated in during the previous year, the domicile requirement may be waived and the students may become eligible to participate in the same varsity team sport at the nearest AAA member public school of the parent's domicile the offers the sport provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements. The student must attend and stay enrolled in all academic courses at their current assigned school. Due to the Same Sport Same Season rule, this exception does not apply if a member school drops a varsity team sport during the sport season. If the student's current assigned school resumes the sport the following year, the student must return to their current assigned school to participate.

B. Exception to Other Eligibility Requirements

1. **School Attendance Prevented.** There has been an extreme and unusual circumstance that is no fault of the student, the parent, or the school that has prevented school attendance sufficient to cause that student to be in violation of the dropout rule or the scholarship rule or the semester rule.
2. **Non-Recommended Courses.** The student has been identified as being in need of special education or other special programs of study as authorized by the DESE regulation but is subsequently required by the school to participate in non-recommended courses.

Athletic Release Form

An **Athletic Release Form** must be completed prior to a student attending or participating in a camp, clinic, private or group instruction/training, or on a non-school team that is organized, led, or coached by any person affiliated with a AAA member school other than the school in which the student is currently enrolled. The Head Coach of each school team is responsible for ensuring every coach, registered volunteer or anyone who assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school team completes this form prior to working with any student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school. Failure to complete this form prior to working with a student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school may result in the school being placed on warning, probation or suspension and/or fined up to \$200.

*** PLEASE FILE A COPY & SEND A COPY TO THE AAA OFFICE***

_____ who is enrolled as a student at _____
Name of Student Name of School

is released to attend/participate in an activity, as described above with

_____ of _____
Coach or Person Affiliated AAA Member School

_____ Administrator of Requesting School
Coach Requesting Permission

_____ Administrator of Releasing School
Coach of Releasing School

(Parent or Legal Guardian of Student-Athlete)

Effective Start Date _____ **Effective End Date** _____

Article III, Section 1, Rule 1, N. Non-School Coach. A coach, registered volunteer, or anyone who has assisted in any capacity with the coaching or training of a school team (within the last 365 days) who also coaches a non-school team or assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of a non-school team, organized program, or individual training (within the last 365 days) is defined as a non-school coach. A school that allows a student to participate who has transferred, moved or for any reason is attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is a school coach is subject to action against the school through one of the following penalties: warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Athletic Release Form for Camps, Clinics, And Combines

An Athletic Release Form must be completed prior to a student attending or participating in a camp, clinic, private or group instruction/training, or on a non-school team that is organized, led, or coached by any person affiliated with a AAA member school other than the school in which the student is currently enrolled. The Head Coach of each school team is responsible for ensuring every coach, registered volunteer or anyone who assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school team completes this form prior to working with any student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school. Failure to complete this form prior to working with a student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school may result in the school being placed on warning, probation or suspension and/or fined up to \$200.

I understand that by participating in coaching at the camp/combine, any student who participates in the camp or combine would be ineligible to immediately participate upon transferring to the school in which I am affiliated.

I also understand that coaches from other schools are participating in coaching at the camp/combine and that students who attend my school would be ineligible to immediately participate upon transferring to the school in which that school's coach participated in the camp/combine.

I understand that it is the coach's responsibility to inform all attendees of the AAA eligibility rules regarding Camps, Clinics, and Combines.

Camp/Combine	Date
--------------	------

Participating Coach (Print)	Signature
-----------------------------	-----------

School	
--------	--

OR

Parent's Name (Print)	Signature
-----------------------	-----------

Participant's Name (Print)	School
----------------------------	--------



Arkansas Activities Association

CSAP Varsity

Arkansas Activities Association/3920 Richards Road/North Little Rock, AR 72117
Phone (501) 955-2500 * FAX (501) 955-2600

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (CSAP Form) Previous School

I _____ of _____
Superintendent School

stipulate that to the best of my knowledge _____ was not recruited
Name of Student

or is not changing school for athletic purposes. Student's Grade level in school _____

Superintendent's Signature Date

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (CSAP Form) Receiving School/New School

I _____ of _____
Superintendent School

stipulate that _____ was not recruited or is not attending this
Name of Student

school for athletic reasons.

Superintendent's Signature Date

Revised 1-2026

A **school administrator** must return both completed pages of the CSAP Form via email to:
michelle@ahsaa.org.

School administrator will receive email confirmation upon receipt

Please provide email address of school administrator below to receive confirmation

School administrator email address

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (CSAP Form)

Parent Form

I _____ parent of _____
Parent Name of student

do stipulate that _____ was not recruited by or is not attending
Name of student

_____ because of athletics.
Name of school

Parent's signature Date

Witnessed by: Notary or School Superintendent

Signature Date

(CSAP form must be signed by a notary or the superintendent of the receiving school.)

In accordance with ACT 475 of 2025, the following guidelines apply for CSAP forms:

- CSAP forms have to be completed in full and filed with the receiving district and AAA before the student is eligible.
- Providing false or misleading information on this form may result in a penalty to the student, school, or both.
- CSAP forms may only be used for the eligibility of public school, private school, charter school, and boarding school students who are enrolled in the receiving school by June 1 before a student enters grades 7-10.

Revised 1-2026

CSAP Junior Varsity

Arkansas Activities Association/3920 Richards Road/North Little Rock, AR 72117
Phone (501) 955-2500 * Fax (501) 955-2600

JUNIOR / SUB-VARSITY **CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION** *(JV CSAP Form)* **Previous School**

I _____ of _____
Superintendent School

stipulate that to the best of my knowledge _____ was not recruited
Name of Student

or is not changing school for athletic purposes.

Superintendent's Signature Date

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION *(JV CSAP Form)* **Receiving School/New School**

I _____ of _____
Superintendent School

stipulate that _____ was not recruited or is not attending this
Name of Student

school for athletic reasons.

Superintendent's Signature Date

Revised 1-2026

A **school administrator** must return both completed pages of the JV CSAP Form via email to:
michelle@ahsaa.org.

*School administrator will receive email confirmation upon receipt

Please provide email address of school administrator below to receive confirmation

School administrator email address

JUNIOR / SUB-VARSITY
CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION
(JV CSAP Form)

Parent Form

I _____ parent of _____
Parent Name of student

do stipulate that _____ was not recruited by or is not attending
Name of student

_____ because of athletics.
Name of school

Parent's signature Date

Witnessed by: Notary or School Superintendent

Signature Date

(CSAP form must be signed by a notary or superintendent of the receiving school.)

- CSAP forms have to be completed in full and filed with the receiving district and AAA before the student is eligible.
- Providing false or misleading information on this form may result in a penalty to the student, school, or both.

Revised 1-2026

Coaching Endorsement Requirements (page 1)

Coaches Endorsement Requirements for Arkansas by category - The specified AAA required documents must be ON FILE AT THE SCHOOL and submitted through the DragonFly digital platform each year for each category.

Licensed Teacher (with Endorsement on teaching license)	Licensed Teacher (w/o Endorsement) TLP (Teacher Licensure Plan) from DESE Competitive Spirit Team	Registered Volunteer and/or Competitive Spirit Team	Non-Competitive Spirit Team Advisor	Registered Volunteer Activities Advisor
Concussion Training	Teaching license	Background Check (w/ fingerprints) State and FBI - (Both are required)	Background Check (w/ fingerprints) State and FBI - (Both are required)	Background Check (with Fingerprints)
Heat Illness Training	NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course	NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course	CPR and AED The American Red Cross Course (or) The Heart Association Course (In person Only)	CPR and AED The American Red Cross Course (or) The Heart Association Course (In person Only)
Communicable Disease Training	NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety Course	NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety Course	NFHS – Protecting Students from Abuse	NFHS – Protecting Students from Abuse
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training	CPR and AED The American Red Cross Course (or) The Heart Association Course (In person Only)	NFHS – Protecting Students from Abuse	NFHS – Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	NFHS – Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention
CPR and AED The American Red Cross Course (or) The Heart Association Course (In person Only)	NFHS – Protecting Students from Abuse	NFHS – Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	Concussion Training	Concussion Training
NFHS - USA Cheer/ Dance Safety (Dance required in 2024-2025)	NFHS – Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	CPR and AED The American Red Cross Course (or) The Heart Association Course (In person Only)	Heat Illness Training	Heat Illness Training
	Concussion Training	Concussion Training	Communicable Disease Training	Communicable Disease Training
	Heat Illness Training	Heat Illness Training	Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training	Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training
	Communicable Disease Training	Communicable Disease Training	Six hours of in-service training (to be determined by the school)	Six hours of in-service training (could include any of the highlighted above)
	Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training	Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training	NFHS - USA Cheer/ Dance Safety (Dance required in 2024-2025)	Letter from Adm regarding representing the school in the named activity
	NFHS Sport-Specific Fundamental Course	NFHS Sport-Specific Fundamental Course		Highlighted courses are recommended but not required
	NFHS - USA Cheer/ Dance Safety (Dance required in 2024-2025)	NFHS - USA Cheer/ Dance Safety (Dance required in 2024-2025)		
		Must be 22 years of age		

Coaching Endorsement Requirements (page 2)

How often must I complete the Coaches Endorsement Requirements?

Background Check (w/ fingerprints) State and FBI - (Both are required)	Every 5 years
Communicable Disease Training	Every 3 years (State Law)
Concussion Training	Every 3 years (State Law)
CPR/AED Certification	As often as certification expires (generally 1 to 2 years)
Heat Illness Training	Every 3 years (State Law)
NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety Course	Every 2 years- MUST be taken on NFHSLearn.com
NFHS Fundamental of Coaching Course	1 Time - Must be taken on NFHSLearn.com
NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse	1 Time
NFHS Sports-Specific Course	1 Time
NFHS Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	1 Time
Sudden Cardiac Arrest	Every 3 years (State Law)
NFHS Learn Cheer/Dance Safety Certification	Every 4 years

Contract Between Schools

DO NOT SEND TO AAA

THIS CONTRACT IS MADE AND SUBSCRIBED BY THE ADMINISTRATORS OF

_____ HIGH SCHOOL and	
_____ HIGH SCHOOL for	
_____ CONTESTS IN _____	
(No. of)	(Name of Sport)

	<u>City</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Hour</u>
CONTEST #1	_____	_____	_____	_____
CONTEST #2	_____	_____	_____	_____
CONTEST #3	_____	_____	_____	_____
CONTEST #4	_____	_____	_____	_____

1. The rules of the Arkansas Activities Association are a part of this contract.
2. The official eligibility list shall be entered by the schools authorized representative on the AAA website. The administration of the schools involved will be held strictly responsible for the eligibility of participating players.
3. (a) A forfeit of \$_____ shall be paid by the school failing to keep this contract. The contest shall also be forfeited to the offended school and reimbursement paid for other reasonable financial obligations.
(b) This contract shall be automatically canceled if:
 1. Either school is suspended from AAA membership or
 2. A coach removes a team from the playing area or
 3. Either school proposes to use a player declared ineligible by the AAA but for whom an individual or group of individuals has instituted litigation to have the courts set aside the ruling of the AAA. (Restitution Rule – Penalty Section) Otherwise, this contract cannot be canceled except by mutual agreement or by the authority of the AAA board of Directors.
4. Only officials registered with the AAA shall be used if the game is played in Arkansas. The officials employed shall be selected by mutual agreement before the beginning of the season or no later than _____ (date).

FINANCIAL TERMS: _____

_____ Superintendent or Principal	_____ School	_____ Date
_____ Superintendent or Principal	_____ School	_____ Date

Contract Between Schools and Officials

DO NOT SEND TO AAA

The _____ High School and _____

(Official's Name and Address)

_____, an official registered with the Arkansas Officials Association, hereby enter into the following agreement. The said official agrees to be present and officiate _____ contest(s) as follows:

	DATE	DAY TIME	CONTEST	(Ref., Umpire Lines., Judge)	PLACE	FEE	TRAVEL
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

1. The said school shall pay the said official the amount stated above for his services as an independent contractor. The obligation of the school shall cease if and when the official ceases to be registered with the Arkansas Officials Association.
2. If the contest is cancelled, the official shall be paid if he fails to secure another game on this date.
3. If the contest is postponed and re-scheduled, the official shall be given first chance at the new date; if he cannot accept the new date, this contract shall be void.
4. If this contract is made during a given school year for a contest to be played during the next school year and if, in the meantime, there is a change in the school administration, this contract may be cancelled by the incoming administrator if he does so before the start of the sports season involved.
5. This contract may be voided by mutual agreement confirmed by an exchange of correspondence between the school and official.
6. The school may cancel this contract when a schedule change becomes necessary to be in compliance with changes of regulations adopted by the AAA. The Executive Director must approve such cancellations.
7. If either party fails to fulfill the obligations of any part of the contract, that party shall pay the other party the sum of \$_____ as damages, the remainder of the contract shall not be binding, and the breach of contract shall be reported to the Arkansas Activities Association.

Supt./Prin./AD: _____ Date Signed: _____

Official _____ AOA Card # _____ Date Signed: _____

Domicile Change Guidance

TO: AAA Voting Representative/Athletic Directors
FROM: Lance W. Taylor, Executive Director
RE: Criteria for Changing Domiciles

The following is a suggested list of items that **may be used** to determine if parents have changed domiciles.

If the parents HAVE:

1. Sold their previous home
2. Leased or rented their previous home to a non-member of the family on a long-term basis
3. Registered to vote in the new district
4. Assessed property in the new district
5. All records changed to the new address
6. Insurance covering property at the new address
7. Utilities including a telephone in their name at the new address
8. Registered automobiles and/or boats at new address
9. Changed their driver's license to the new address
10. Stopped mail delivery at the previous address
11. Turned off all utilities and have no furniture in the previous home
12. Completely severed their relationship to the previous home
13. Changed their church affiliation (in a new town)

The following is a suggested list of items that may indicate the parents ***have not*** made a change of domiciles.

If the parents HAVE NOT:

1. Sold their previous home
2. Leased or rented their previous home to a non-family member on a long-term basis
3. Changed their mailing address
4. Turned off their utilities or changed the name on the billing at the previous home
5. Insured their new address or personal property at the new address
6. Had a phone installed in their name at the new address
7. Changed their voting precinct
8. Changed their address on licenses
9. Completely severed their relationship to the previous home

NOTE: *These suggested criteria are not intended to be the only means of making a determination as to a change in domiciles.*

NOTE: *The Arkansas individual Income Tax Booklet defines Domicile in this way "This is the place you intend to have as your permanent home, the place you intend to return to whenever you are away. You can have only one domicile".*

Ejection Appeal Form

May be filed by mail or email.

Name of Athlete Ejected _____ School _____

Date of Ejection _____ Sport _____ Opponent _____

School's Authorized Representative/Position _____

Referee(s) _____

Description of Ejection: _____

Ejection Appeal – An appeal of ejection must be filed through the school's authorized representative in writing on the ejection appeal form to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or designee will review the video on the next business day after the appeal is filed. A ruling on the appeal will be made within three business days of the filing. The ruling of the Executive Director or designee is final and may not be appealed to the Board of Directors. All periods of ineligibility (suspensions) remain in effect until such time that a ruling is rendered by the Executive Director or designee in writing. The school's authorized representative must also provide video or access to the video specific to the ejection. Video from outside sources may be utilized but must be submitted through the school's authorized representative.

Video Review

- A. Only video involving an ejection may be reviewed.
- B. Reviewable ejections are limited to physical actions.
- C. Video review may be used to properly identify and eject the participant in a situation where it is possible that misidentification occurred.
- D. Video review may be used to identify participants in situations involving multiple participants involved in a fight, confrontation or ejection where circumstances prevent accurate reporting of the individuals involved. This could include identifying and ejecting individuals not previously identified or reported, including contest participants, non-participants, or coaches who enter the playing area during the incident.
- E. Video review may be used to assess the level of involvement in an incident.
- F. Video review must provide indisputable evidence to overturn the ejection.

School's Authorized Representative Signature

Email

Date

Action by AAA

Appeal Approved _____ Appeal Denied _____

AAA Representative _____ Date _____

Foreign Exchange Student Eligibility

(must be completed and returned to the AAA Office)

Please complete all blanks

NOTE: Foreign students in a recognized exchange program may be eligible only the first year they are in the U.S.

Name of Student _____ Date of Birth _____
First Middle Last

Current grade in school _____ Last date of attendance at home school _____

Has student graduated in his home country? YES _____ NO _____

Student enrolled on the first day of classes in our school? YES _____ NO _____

Has student previously attended school in the U.S.? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, When _____ and where _____

Does student meet all AAA eligibility requirements other than residence? YES _____ NO _____

Name of sponsoring organization (Check one)

NOTE: Students must be participating in an exchange program on the approved list of the Council on Students for International Educational Travel (CSIET).

_____ AFS _____ YFU _____ ROTARY

____ Other (please list the organization with name, address and phone number of contact person)

Indicate the type of VISA issued to student F-1 _____ J-1 _____ Other _____

NOTE: If the student is not participating in one of the programs listed in the CSIET, give the reason for attendance in a U.S. school:

Signed (Superintendent or Principal)

School

Date

Home School Team Coach Verification



Arkansas Activities Association * 3920 Richards Road * North Little Rock, AR 72117
501-955-2500 * www.ahsaa.org

Must be submitted
every year that this
individual coaches.

Date: _____ (Ex. 2022-2023)

HOME SCHOOL TEAM COACH VERIFICATION

EACH ACTIVE HOME SCHOOL COACH MUST BE CREDENTIALLED THROUGH THE AAA-NFHS COACHES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Completing and submitting this form states that all specified documents are ON FILE WITH THE HOME SCHOOL COACH. This form is required for each Home School Team participating against AAA member schools.

No verification forms will be accepted after APRIL 1 of the current school year.

Name (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name) (Mandatory)				Social Security Number	
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip	Telephone Number	
School	Sports to be coached			Email Address	

The coach is required to have the following confirmed credentials:

1. The school is required to have the following confirmed credentials prior to the individual having contact with student-athletes, including practice.
2. DO NOT SEND THIS FORM UNTIL EVERYTHING IS COMPLETED.

Check to the left indicating each item is ON FILE with the Home School coach. Do not send items below to AAA.

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| _____ | 1 | Certificate of Completion – NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching (online at www.nfhslearn.com – state rules exam included) |
| _____ | 2 | Current Certificate of Completion – NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety (online at www.nfhslearn.com - recertification required every 2 years)* |
| _____ | 3 | Certification – CPR (recertification upon expiration) |
| _____ | 4 | Certification – AED (defibrillator - recertification upon expiration) |
| _____ | 5 | Concussion Training - NFHS Concussion Course (online at www.nfhslearn.com) |
| _____ | 6 | Heat Illness Training - available through Arkansas IDEAS at http://ideas.aetn.org/ |
| _____ | 7 | Communicable Diseases - available through Arkansas IDEAS at http://ideas.aetn.org/ |
| _____ | 8 | Sudden Cardiac Arrest (online at www.nfhslearn.com) |
| _____ | 9 | Certification of Completion - NFHS Sport Specific Fundamentals course, if available, for each sport coached |

Check the course(s) completed: (online at www.nfhslearn.com)

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Baseball |
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Basketball |
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Soccer |
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Softball |
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Volleyball |

I certify that all specified requirements have been completed by the above named individual and that the school has all required documentation on file at the school. I understand that documentation must be available upon request.

Signature of Home School coach _____ Date _____

email to Leah@ahsaa.org or mail to the AAA office

Medical Release for Graduated Return to Play Protocol After Concussion

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____ Date of Injury: _____

I verify that I am a licensed healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Completed by (Print Name): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ NPI# _____

____ Neuropsychologist ____ MD ____ DO ____ Nurse Practitioner ____ Certified Athletic Trainer ____ Physician's
Assistant ____ Physical Therapist ____ Chiropractor

GRADUATED RETURN TO SPORT (RTS) STRATEGY – Each step takes typically a minimum of 24 hours¹ NOTE: Arkansas Law specifies RTS takes a minimum of 5 days to complete and requires daily symptom evaluation. <i>It is possible (and likely) that a student will be on a step for multiple days during progression.</i>			
STEP	EXERCISE STRATEGY	ACTIVITY AT EACH STEP	GOAL
1	Symptom-Limited Activity Date Tested: _____	Daily activities that do not exacerbate symptoms (e.g., walking).	Gradual reintroduction of work/school Date Cleared: _____ Initial: _____
2	Aerobic Exercises 2A – Light (up to 55% maxHR) then Date Tested: _____ 2B – Moderate (up to approximately 70% maxHR) Date Tested: _____	Stationary cycling or walking at slow to medium pace. May start light resistance training that does not result in more than mild and brief exacerbation* of concussion symptoms.	Increase heart rate Date Cleared: _____ Initial: _____
3	Individual sport-specific exercise NOTE: If sport specific training involves any risk of inadvertent head impact, medical clearance should occur prior to Step 3 Date Tested: _____	Sport-specific training away from the team environment (e.g., running, change of direction and/or individual training drills away from the team environment). No activities at risk of head impact.	Add movement, change of direction Date Cleared: _____ Initial: _____
Steps 4–6 should begin after the resolution of any symptoms, abnormalities in cognitive function and any other clinical findings related to the current concussion, including with and after physical exertion. Academic accommodations should not be needed to progress to Step 4. RTL Completed: Date Cleared: _____ Initial: _____ N/A _____			
4	Non-contact training drills	Exercise to high intensity including more challenging training drills (e.g., passing drills, multiplayer training) can integrate into a team environment.	Resume usual intensity of exercise, coordination and increased thinking Date Cleared: _____ Initial: _____
5	Full contact practice	Participate in normal training activities.	Restore confidence and assess functional skills by coaching staff Date Cleared: _____ Initial: _____
6	Return to Sport	Normal game play.	

*Mild and brief exacerbation of symptoms (ie, an increase of no more than 2 points on a 0–10 point scale for less than an hour when compared with the baseline value reported prior to physical activity).

- Athletes may begin Step 1 (ie, symptom-limited activity) within 24 hours of injury, with progression through each subsequent step typically taking a minimum of 24 hours. If more than mild exacerbation of symptoms (ie, more than 2 points on a 0–10 scale) occurs during Steps 1–3, the athlete should stop and attempt to exercise the next day. Athletes experiencing concussion-related symptoms during Steps 4–6 should return to Step 3 to establish full resolution of symptoms with exertion before engaging in at-risk activities. Written determination of readiness to RTS should be provided by an HCP before unrestricted RTS as directed by local laws and/or sporting regulations. HCP, healthcare professional; maxHR, predicted maximal heart rate according to age (ie, 220-age).

1-Patricios, J. S., Schneider, K. J., Dvorak, J., et al. (2023). Consensus statement on concussion in sport: the 6th International Conference on Concussion in Sport-Amsterdam, October 2022. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 57(11), 695–711. 2-Broglio, S. P., et al. (2024). National Athletic Trainers' Association Bridge Statement: Management of Sport-Related Concussion. *Journal of Athletic Training*, 59(3), 225–242.

Participant Agreement, Consent, Release, and Venue



This form is valid for the _____ school year and must be on file at the school in which the student is enrolled prior to participation.

Part 1. Student Agreement, Consent, And Release (to be signed by student at the bottom)

A. I know of no reason why I am not eligible to represent my school in interscholastic athletic competition. If accepted as a representative, I agree to follow the rules of my school and the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) and to abide by their decisions. I know that athletic participation is a privilege. I know of the risks involved in athletic participation and choose to accept such risks. I hereby authorize the use or disclosure of my individually identifiable health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary. I also authorize physicians or other designated medical professionals associated with the AAA to review my individually identifiable health information for the purpose of determining my eligibility to participate in certain athletic events. I further authorize the disclosure of my individually identifiable health information by any physician performing such examination to appropriate AAA and/or school officials or other health care officials involved in determining eligibility for participation in athletic events. I hereby consent to the disclosure by my school to AAA, upon its request, and hereby grant AAA the right to review all records including my SSID number relevant to my athletic eligibility including, but not limited to, my official transcripts, and records relating to enrollment and attendance, academic standing, age, discipline, residence and physical fitness. This Consent includes granting AAA the right to review all records otherwise protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and all official transcripts provided to my school from any school. I hereby grant the released parties the right to photograph and/or videotape me and further to use my name, face, likeness, voice and appearance in connection with exhibitions, publicity, advertising, promotional and commercial materials without reservation or limitation. The released parties, however, are under no obligation to exercise said rights herein.

Part 2. Parental Agreement, Consent, And Release (to be completed and signed by a parent(s) at the bottom; where divorced or separated, parent with legal custody must sign.)

A. I hereby give consent for my child to participate in any AAA recognized or sanctioned sport EXCEPT for the following sport(s):

(List **EXCLUDED** sports only, if any)

B. I know of, and acknowledge that my child knows of, the risks involved in interscholastic athletic participation. I authorize emergency medical treatment for my child should the need arise for such treatment while my child is under the supervision of the school. I further hereby authorize the use or disclosure of my child's individually identifiable health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary. I consent to the disclosure, by my child's school, to the AAA, upon its request, of all records relevant to his/her athletic eligibility including, but not limited to, his/her records relating to enrollment and attendance, academic standing, age, discipline, residence and physical fitness. I grant the released parties the right to photograph and/or videotape my child and further to use said child's name, face, likeness, voice and appearance in connection with exhibitions, publicity, advertising, promotional and commercial materials without reservation or limitation. The released parties, however, are under no obligation to exercise said rights herein.

Part 3. Litigation

A. VENUE FOR ANY AND ALL LITIGATION AND ATTORNEY FEES. I agree that in the event I, or anyone acting on my child's behalf, files suit against AAA or any of its officers, directors, agents, or employees alleging any cause of action and seeking either legal or equitable relief impacting my child (individually) or my child's team participation in AAA contests, such action shall be filed in the Pulaski County, Arkansas, Circuit Court. I also agree that filing such action in the Pulaski County Circuit Court is both fair and reasonable.

I HAVE READ THIS CAREFULLY AND KNOW IT CONTAINS A RELEASE AND VENUE CLAUSE (Only one parent/legal primary custodian signature is required)

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Physical History Form

NOTE: This form does NOT need to be turned into AAA

This form should be placed into the athlete's medical file and should not be shared with schools or sports organizations.



PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

HISTORY FORM- Page 1

Note: Complete and sign this form (with your parents if younger than 18) before your appointment.

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
 Date of examination: _____ Sport(s): _____
 Sex assigned at birth: _____

Have you had COVID-19?: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 Have you been immunized for COVID-19?: ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes, you have had ☐ One shot ☐ Two shots

List past and current medical conditions: _____

Have you ever had surgery? If yes, list all past surgical procedures: _____

Medicines and supplements- List all current medications, over-the-counter medicines, and supplements (herbal and nutritional): _____

Do you have any allergies? If yes, list all of your allergies (ie medicines, pollens, food, stinging insects): _____

GENERAL QUESTIONS (Explain "Yes" answers at the end of this form. Circle questions if you don't know the answer.)		
	Yes	No
1. Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with your provider?		
2. Has a provider ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?		
3. Do you have any ongoing medical issues or recent illness?		
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU		
	Yes	No
4. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out during or after exercise?		
5. Have you ever had discomfort, pain, tightness, or pressure in your chest during exercise?		
6. Does your heart ever race, flutter in your chest, or skip beats (irregular beats) during exercise?		
7. Has a doctor ever told you that you have any heart problems?		
8. Has a doctor ever requested a test for your heart? For example, electrocardiography (ECG) or echocardiography.		

HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU (CONTINUED)		
	Yes	No
9. Do you get light-headed or feel shorter of breath than your friends during exercise?		
10. Have you ever had a seizure?		
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY		
	Yes	No
11. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected or unexplained sudden death before age 35 years (including drowning or unexplained car crash)?		
12. Does anyone in your family have a genetic heart problem such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC), long QT syndrome (LQTS), short QT syndrome (SQTs), Brugada syndrome, or catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia (CPVT)?		
13. Has anyone in your family had a pacemaker or an implanted defibrillator before age 35?		

ARKANSAS
ACTIVITIES
ASSOCIATION

MEDICAL QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)		Yes	No
25. Do you worry about your weight?			
26. Are you trying to or has anyone recommended that you gain or lose weight?			
27. Are you on a special diet or do you avoid certain types of foods or food groups?			
28. Have you ever had an eating disorder?			
FEMALES ONLY		Yes	No
29. Have you ever had a menstrual period?			
30. How old were you when you had your first menstrual period?			
31. When was your most recent menstrual period?			
32. How many periods have you had in the past 12 months?			

[illegible]

Date: _____

124

Physical History Form (Spanish)

NOTE: This form does NOT need to be turned into AAA

Este formulario debe colocarse en el expediente médico de un atleta y no debe compartirse con escuelas o organizaciones deportivas.



EVALUACIÓN FÍSICA PREVIA A LA PARTICIPACIÓN

FORMULARIO DE HISTORIAL CLÍNICO- Número de página- 1

Nota: Complete y firme este formulario (con la supervisión de sus padres si es menor de 18 años) antes de acudir a su cita.

Nombre: _____ Fecha de nacimiento: _____

Fecha del examen médico: _____ Deporte(s): _____

Sexo que se le asignó al nacer: _____

¿Ha tenido COVID-19?: ☐ Sí ☐ No

¿Ha recibido la vacuna contra el COVID-19?: ☐ Sí ☐ No

Si la respuesta es sí, usted recibió: ☐ Una dosis ☐ Dos dosis

Mencione los padecimientos médicos pasados y actuales que haya tenido:

¿Alguna vez se le practicó una cirugía? Si la respuesta es sí, haga una lista de todas sus cirugías previas:

Enumere todos los medicamentos recetados, medicamentos de venta libre y suplementos (herbolarios y nutricionales) que consume:

¿Sufre de algún tipo de alergia? Haga una lista de todas sus alergias (medicamentos, alimentos, picaduras de insectos):

PREGUNTAS GENERALES (Dé una explicación para las preguntas en las que contestó "Sí", en la parte final de este formulario. Encierre en un círculo las preguntas si no sabe la respuesta).		
	Sí	No
1. ¿Tiene alguna preocupación que le gustaría discutir con su proveedor de servicios médicos?		
2. ¿Alguna vez un proveedor de servicios médicos le prohibió o restringió practicar deportes por algún motivo?		
3. ¿Padece algún problema médico o enfermedad reciente?		
PREGUNTAS SOBRE SU SALUD CARDIOVASCULAR		
	Sí	No
4. ¿Alguna vez se desmayó o estuvo a punto de desmayarse mientras hacía, o después de hacer, ejercicio?		

PREGUNTAS SOBRE SU SALUD CARDIOVASCULAR (CONTINUACIÓN)		
	Sí	No
5. ¿Alguna vez sintió molestias, dolor, compresión o presión en el pecho mientras hacía ejercicio?		
6. ¿Alguna vez sintió que su corazón se aceleraba, palpitaba en su pecho o latía intermitentemente (con latidos irregulares) mientras hacía ejercicio?		
7. ¿Alguna vez un médico le dijo que tiene problemas cardíacos?		
8. ¿Alguna vez un médico le pidió que se hiciera un examen del corazón? Por ejemplo, electrocardiografía (ECG) o ecocardiografía.		
9. Cuando hace ejercicio, ¿se siente mareado o siente que le falta el aire más que a sus amigos?		
10. ¿Alguna vez tuvo convulsiones?		

EVALUACIÓN FÍSICA PREVIA A LA PARTICIPACIÓN

FORMULARIO DE HISTORIAL CLÍNICO- Número de página- 2



PREGUNTAS SOBRE LA SALUD CARDIOVASCULAR DE SU FAMILIA	Sí	No
11. ¿Alguno de los miembros de su familia o pariente murió debido a problemas cardíacos o tuvo una muerte súbita e inesperada o inexplicable antes de los 35 años de edad (incluyendo muerte por ahogamiento o un accidente automovilístico inexplicables)?		
12. ¿Alguno de los miembros de su familia padece un problema cardíaco genético como la miocardiopatía hipertrófica (HCM), el síndrome de Marfan, la miocardiopatía arritmogénica del ventrículo derecho (ARVC), el síndrome del QT largo (LQTS), el síndrome del QT corto (SQTS), el síndrome de Brugada o la taquicardia ventricular polimórfica catecolaminérgica (CPVT)?		
13. ¿Alguno de los miembros de su familia utilizó un marcapasos o se le implantó un desfibrilador antes de los 35 años?		
PREGUNTAS SOBRE LOS HUESOS Y LAS ARTICULACIONES	Sí	No
14. ¿Alguna vez sufrió una fractura por estrés o una lesión en un hueso, músculo, ligamento, articulación o tendón que le hizo faltar a una práctica o juego?		
15. ¿Sufre alguna lesión ósea, muscular, de los ligamentos o de las articulaciones que le causa molestia?		
PREGUNTAS SOBRE CONDICIONES MÉDICAS	Sí	No
16. ¿Tose, sibila o experimenta alguna dificultad para respirar durante o después de hacer ejercicio?		
17. ¿Le falta un riñón, un ojo, un testículo (en el caso de los hombres), el bazo o cualquier otro órgano?		
18. ¿Sufre dolor en la ingle o en los testículos, o tiene alguna protuberancia o hernia dolorosa en la zona inguinal?		
19. ¿Padece erupciones cutáneas recurrentes o que aparecen y desaparecen, incluyendo el herpes o Staphylococcus aureus resistente a la metilina (MRSA)?		

PREGUNTAS SOBRE CONDICIONES MÉDICAS (CONTINUACIÓN)	Sí	No
20. ¿Alguna vez sufrió un traumatismo craneoencefálico o una lesión en la cabeza que le causó confusión, un dolor de cabeza prolongado o problemas de memoria?		
21. ¿Alguna vez sintió adormecimiento, hormigueo, debilidad en los brazos o piernas, o fue incapaz de mover los brazos o las piernas después de sufrir un golpe o una caída?		
22. ¿Alguna vez se enfermó al realizar ejercicio cuando hacía calor?		
23. ¿Usted o algún miembro de su familia tiene el rasgo drepanocítico o padece una enfermedad drepanocítica?		
24. ¿Alguna vez tuvo o tiene algún problema con sus ojos o su visión?		
25. ¿Le preocupa su peso?		
26. ¿Está tratando de bajar o subir de peso, o alguien le recomendó que baje o suba de peso?		
27. ¿Sigue alguna dieta especial o evita ciertos tipos o grupos de alimentos?		
28. ¿Alguna vez sufrió un desorden alimenticio?		
ÚNICAMENTE MUJERES	Sí	No
29. ¿Ha tenido al menos un periodo menstrual?		
30. ¿A los cuántos años tuvo su primer periodo menstrual?		
31. ¿Cuándo fue su periodo menstrual más reciente?		
32. ¿Cuántos periodos menstruales ha tenido en los últimos 12 meses?		

Proporcione una explicación aquí para las preguntas en las que contestó "Sí".

Por la presente declaro que, según mis conocimientos, mis respuestas a las preguntas de este formulario están completas y son correctas.

Firma del atleta: _____

Firma del padre o tutor: _____

Fecha: _____

© 2019 American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. Se concede permiso para reimprimir este formulario para fines educativos no comerciales, siempre que se otorgue reconocimiento a los autores.

Physical Release Form

■ PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM



Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

EXAMINATION		
Height: _____	Weight: _____	
BP: _____ / _____ (_____ / _____)	Pulse: _____	Vision: R 20/ _____ L 20/ _____ Corrected: ☐ Y ☐ N
MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Appearance • Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, hyperlaxity, myopia, mitral valve prolapse [MVP], and aortic insufficiency)		
Eyes, ears, nose, and throat • Pupils equal, hearing		
Lymph nodes		
Heart* • Murmurs (auscultation standing, auscultation supine, and ± Valsalva maneuver)		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Skin • Herpes simplex virus (HSV), methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA), or tinea corporis		
Neurological		
MUSCULOSKELETAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder and arm		
Elbow and forearm		
Wrist, hand, and fingers		
Hip and thigh		
Knee		
Leg and ankle		
Foot and toes		
Functional • Double-leg squat test, single-leg squat test, and box drop or step drop test		

*Consider electrocardiography (ECG), echocardiography, referral to a cardiologist for abnormal cardiac history or examination findings

- ☐ Cleared for all sports without restriction
- ☐ Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for _____

- ☐ Not cleared
- ☐ Pending further evaluation
- ☐ For any sports
- ☐ For certain sports _____

Reason: _____

Recommendations: _____

I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).

Name of provider: _____ Date of exam: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Signature of physician, APN, PA: _____

© 2019 American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. Permission is granted to reprint for noncommercial, educational purposes with acknowledgment.

PREGAME SAFETY CARD

TIMEOUT CARD FOR COACHES, OFFICIALS & GAME ADMINISTRATORS

ALL EVENTS

- 1. WHO IS THE DESIGNATED ADMINISTRATOR OR SECURITY PERSON IN CHARGE OF DEALING WITH UNSPORTING ACTIONS DURING AN EVENT? WHERE WILL THEY BE LOCATED?**
- 2. IS AN EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN IN PLACE?**
- 3. IS AN AED AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE? IF YES, WHERE IS IT LOCATED?**
- 4. IS THERE A DESIGNATED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ON SITE (MD/DO/NP/PA/AT) WHO CAN EVALUATE AN INJURED ATHLETE?**

OUTDOOR EVENTS

- 1. IS THERE A PLAN IN PLACE FOR POTENTIAL WEATHER ISSUES, SUCH AS LIGHTNING & HEAT?**
- 2. WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE WEATHER?**



Request for Waiver of Academic Standards for Senior High Eligibility for Student Participation in Competitive Interscholastic Activities

The local School Board of _____ High School, by way of this form and the required attachments, requests a waiver to the Arkansas Activities Association Standard for Senior High Eligibility for Student Participation in Competitive Interscholastic Activities by establishing a supplemental instruction program as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by the Arkansas Activities Association.

The required school plan for establishing and implementing a supplemental instruction program must be included with this waiver form.

In order for the waiver request to be considered, the following signatures are required as assurances that the program is designed and will be implemented according to the established Arkansas Activities Association rules and regulations.

The coordinator must be a state-certified classroom teacher.

SIP Coordinator Name

SIP Coordinator Email

SIP Coordinator Phone Number

The following signatures also certify that an official copy of these rules and regulations has been given to all sponsors of interscholastic competitive activities.

School Board President Signature

Date

Superintendent Signature

Date

High School Principal Signature

Date

Sportsmanship Public Service Announcements



Sample Pre-Game Announcements:

Good evening. (Name of school) welcomes you to (name of stadium/field/gymnasium) for tonight's game. We remind you that interscholastic events are an extension of the classroom, and that lessons are best learned when respect is shown to all. Please, let your good sportsmanship show during the game. And now let's meet the starting lineups...

Good evening. (Name of school) welcomes you to (name of stadium/field/gymnasium) for tonight's game. One of the goals of high school athletics is learning lifetime values. Sportsmanship is one such value that makes these games an educational experience. Remember, be a good sport! And now let's meet the starting lineups...

Good evening. (School name) welcomes you to today's game between (team names). The educational value of this event is more important than its outcome. Respect for others, including opponents and officials, is one of those values. So, please be a Good Sport today—the teams are counting on it! And now let's meet the starting lineups...

We are pleased to welcome you this evening to (name of school). Good sportsmanship is one of the primary purposes of the high school interscholastic athletic program. Our athletes recognize that judgment calls are made in good faith and that they must abide by the decisions of the officials. Spectators can support their high school interscholastic program by refraining from derogatory or intemperate remarks or cheers. We hope you will enjoy the game and support your athletes in a positive and sportsmanlike manner. And now let's meet the starting lineups...

This competition is being played according to the rules of the Arkansas Activities Association. These rules provide for fair competition among players. Spectators can help promote good sportsmanship by observing the rules of fair play. Everyone is requested to take a personal responsibility for keeping this game at a high level of fair, clean, wholesome competition by exhibiting good sportsmanship.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the spirit of sportsmanship, (name of school) and the Arkansas Activities Association ask that all fans act responsibly and courteously to those around you. Vulgar, abusive, or demeaning language or disorderly conduct is unacceptable and unwelcome at (name of school). Let's afford the student-athletes, coaches, officials, and your fellow fans the respect they deserve. The throwing of objects on the playing area is strictly prohibited. (Name of school) stands for class and dignity and your help is appreciated in carrying on this great tradition.

Sample announcements for use after lineups are introduced—introduce officials

The officials for tonight's game are (names of officials). These individuals are registered by the Arkansas Officials Association. Their experience qualifies them to administer the rules of the game. An attitude of good sportsmanship should be upheld by all spectators, players, and coaches, no matter what their personal feelings or loyalties may be in this contest.

Sample announcement after the National Anthem

The team, coaches, cheerleaders, student body, and fans of _____ High School extend to each of you a big welcome! We are pleased that you could be here (tonight/today) as our guests. _____ High School and _____ High School are members of the Arkansas Activities Association and abide by the rules and regulations as set forth by the association to maintain and improve high standards of conduct, competition, and relations with member schools. These are high school athletes who are performing here (tonight/today). They are friendly rivals as members of opposing teams; they are not enemies. This basically is the theme of interscholastic activities...the idea of friendly competition. This attitude of sportsmanship should be reflected by all spectators, no matter what their personal feelings of loyalty may be to one of the other teams in (tonight's/today's) contest.

Sample In-game Announcements

Please remember that sportsmanship is a top priority of our school and the Arkansas Activities Association. Your admission to this event entitles you to enjoy the skills of our student-athletes in an educational setting. Please give all athletes your positive support and encouragement. Booing, taunting, or derogatory remarks directed towards opponents and/or officials is unsportsmanlike and unacceptable.

Admission to interscholastic events is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility—responsibility to conduct oneself that keeps the game an enjoyable experience for everyone. (Name of school) reminds you to practice good sportsmanship at all times.

As members of the Arkansas Activities Association, we remind you that the educational objectives of our school, which include the development of good sportsmanship, are a top priority. Your support of the values of respect and good citizenship is appreciated.

Fans, did you know that good sportsmanship equals good performance? High school athletes know it. Fans in the stands applaud it. Respect for players, coaches, fans, and officials sends a message athletes carry with them on and off the field of competition. Let's support our team with good sportsmanship.

Win or lose, the name of the game is sportsmanship in high school athletics. "Good sports are winners no matter what the score" is the lesson learned on the playing field and in the stands. Support high school athletics with good sportsmanship.

Good sports are winners, no matter what the score. And good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. You keep the standards high and the game enjoyable for all by showing respect for players, coaches, and officials. (Name of school) thanks you for being good sports.

Sports Medicine Fact Sheet for Parents and Students

Page 1: HEAT ILLNESS

This document has been created by the Arkansas Activities Association Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. The committee's mission is to ensure Arkansas Activities Association member schools provide sound and consistent medical information to enhance the safety of their athletic programs. The AAA Sports Medicine Committee is committed to offering information and guidance to member schools on topics which impact the welfare of all those involved in interscholastic competition. The topics included in this fact sheet are: Exertional Heat Stroke, Communicable Diseases, Concussion, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The following pages contain important sports medicine information for parents and students. Please read the information and sign to acknowledge that you have received and reviewed the information.

EXERTIONAL HEAT STROKE FACTS

WHAT IS EXERTIONAL HEAT STROKE

Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition that occurs when the body's temperature regulation system is overwhelmed during physical activity in hot weather. It is characterized by a core body temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius) and central nervous system dysfunction.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF HEAT STROKE

- Sweating
- Increase in core body temperature, usually above 104°F/40°C (rectal temperature)
- Altered mental status
- Coma
- Seizures
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Headache, dizziness or weakness
- Increased heart rate, decreased blood pressure or fast breathing
- Dehydration
- Combativeness

TREATMENT

Locate medical personnel immediately. Remove extra clothing or equipment. Begin aggressively whole-body cooling by immersing in a tub of cold water. If a tub is not available, use alternative cooling methods such as cold-water fans, ice or cold towels (replaced frequently), placed over as much of the body as possible. Call emergency medical services. Delay transport to nearest emergency medical facility until core temperature is below 102 degrees Fahrenheit. Continue aggressive body cooling while being transported.

WHEN SHOULD I PLAY AGAIN?

No one who has suffered heat stroke should be allowed to return until appropriate healthcare personnel approves and gives specific return to play instructions. Parents should work with medical professionals to rule out or treat any other conditions or illnesses that may cause continued problems with heat stroke. Return to physical activity should be done slowly, under the supervision of appropriate healthcare professionals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.cdc.gov/heat-health/risk-factors/heat-and-athletes.html>

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/1014745/nfhs-heat-acclimatization-final-april-2018.pdf>



Arkansas Activities Association

Sports Medicine Fact Sheet for Parents and Students

Page 2 : COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

A communicable disease, also known as an infectious disease or transmissible disease, is an illness or infection that can be spread from person to another through direct or indirect contact.

Transmission Routes:

- Direct contact with and infected person (touch, bodily fluids)
- Airborne transmission (coughing, sneezing)
- Contact with contaminated surfaces or objects (towels, razors, shared equipment)
- Skin abrasions, cuts, open wounds, insect bites.
- Consumption of shared food or drink.

Examples of Communicable Diseases:

- Viral Infections: influenza, measles, COVID, chickenpox, herpes, staph infections (MRSA)
- Bacterial Infections: pneumonia, strep throat, pertussis
- Fungal Infections: ringworm, athlete's foot

What are the signs and symptoms MRSA?

Most staph skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Red | Swollen |
| Painful | Warm to the touch |
| Full of pus or other drainage | Accompanied by fever. |

What if I suspect a communicable disease?

It is important to see your healthcare professional quickly to identify the issue and start proper medical treatment. It is especially important to limit the spread of the communicable disease to other individuals.

How are MRSA skin infections treated?

Treatment may include having a healthcare professional drain the infection and, in some cases, prescribe an antibiotic. Do not attempt to drain the infection yourself— doing so could worsen or spread it to others. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses (even if the infection is getting better), unless your healthcare professional tells you to stop taking it.

How can I protect my family and others from communicable diseases?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Know the signs and symptoms | Get treated early |
| Keep cuts and scrapes clean | Encourage good hygiene |
| Wash hands regularly | Discourage sharing personal items such as towels/razors. |

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1-800-CDC-INFO OR visit www.cdc.gov/MRSA

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/5546438/2022-nfhs-general-guidelines-for-sports-hygiene-skininfections-and-communicable-diseases-final-3-8-22.pdf>



Arkansas Activities Association Sports Medicine Fact Sheet for Parents and Students

Page 3 : CONCUSSIONS

A concussion is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. A concussion is caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. Concussions can also result from a fall or from players colliding with each other or with obstacles, such as a goalpost.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION?

Observed by the Athlete

Headache or “pressure” in head
Nausea or vomiting
Balance problems or dizziness
Double or blurry vision
Bothered by light
Bothered by noise
Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
Difficulty paying attention
Memory Problems
Confusion
Does not “feel right”

Observed by the Parent / Guardian, Coach, or Teammate

Is confused about assignment or position
Forgets an instruction
Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
Moves clumsily
Answers questions slowly
Loses consciousness (even briefly)
Shows behavior or personality changes
Can’t recall events after hit or fall
Appears dazed or stunned

WHAT TO DO IF SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION ARE PRESENT

Athlete

TELL YOUR COACH IMMEDIATELY
Inform parents
Seek medical attention
Give yourself time to recover

Parent / Guardian

Seek medical attention
Keep your child out of play
Discuss play to return to play with coach
Address academic needs

RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

- Remove immediately from activity when signs/symptoms are present.
- Release from medical professional required for return (Neuropsychologist, MD, DO, Nurse Practitioner, Certified Athletic Trainer, Physician Assistant, PT, or chiropractor)
- Follow school district’s return to play guidelines and protocol

RETURN TO LEARN GUIDELINES

The REAP Concussion Management Program is a resource for schools, families, and medical professionals to help students that have been diagnosed with a concussion return to school and learning. Reap is based on the latest research and guidelines. It includes a manual that can help coordinate care of the student as they return back into the classroom setting while the brain continues to heal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

NFHS Free Concussion Course
[NFHSLearn |](#)
[Interscholastic](#)
[Education, Made Easy](#)

Arkansas Department of Education REAP Program
[Arkansas2021REAP.FINAL-Amended-2024.pdf](#)



Arkansas Activities Association

Sports Medicine Fact Sheet for Parents and Students

Page 4 : SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. The information presented below is to provide you with the knowledge you need to help the coach keep your child safe at practices and games.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST?

- Fainting or seizures during exercise
- Unexplained shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Dizziness
- Racing heartbeat
- Extreme fatigue

GUIDELINES FOR REMOVAL OF A STUDENT FROM ACTIVITY

- Every student must have a current pre-participation physical exam and have updated the cardiac questions per the approved [AAA Athletic Physical Form](#).
- Every coach and registered volunteer must receive training every three years on prevention of sudden cardiac death.
- Every athlete and parent must read and sign the AAA Sports Medicine Fact Sheet containing information on sudden cardiac arrest.
- Any athlete experiencing syncope (fainting), chest pains, shortness of breath that is out of proportion to their level of activity or an irregular heart rate should not return to practice or play until evaluated by an appropriate healthcare professional (MD, DO, APN, Certified Athletic Trainer).
- The referred athlete must be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to return to play/practice.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/is-your-school-prepared-to-handle-sudden-cardiac-arrest/>

SIGNATURES By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the attached AAA Sports Medicine Fact Sheet for Athletes and Parents. The Sports Medicine Fact sheet consists of 4 pages and addresses Heat Illness, Communicable Disease, Concussions, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. I also acknowledge and I understand the risks of injuries associated with participation in school athletic activity.

Athlete's Signature

Print Name

Date

Parent / Guardian Signature

Print Name

Date

*Updated January 2025