

## NYSPHSAA, Inc. BYLAWS and ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

These standards are the rules of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc. and apply to grades 9-12. **Athletes must meet all standards of eligibility for practice and competition.** "All schools agree to abide by the minimum eligibility rules adopted by the Central Committee in all interscholastic competitions." - NYSPHSAA, Inc.. Constitution, Article II. (2). They are effective August 1, 2008.

1. **AGE AND GRADE: Regulation of the Commissioner of Education:** A student shall be eligible for interschool competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until his/her nineteenth birthday. If the age of nineteen years is reached on or after July 1, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports. **NOTE:** Students may be eligible regardless of age or grade if they have been approved through the State Education Department's Selection/ Classification Program. The 15 year old below the 9th grade needs only to meet selection/classification maturity standards to be eligible at the high school level. (Duration of Competition, p. 46, 93)

***Reporting Procedure: All violations shall be reported to the League and Section.***

### 2. **AMATEUR:**

a. A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the pleasure of the activity and for the physical, mental, and social benefits derived from participation. When competing in non-NYSPHSAA sponsored events, an athlete forfeits amateur status in a sport by:

1. Competing for money or other compensation (allowable travel, meals, and lodging expenses may be accepted).

2. Receiving an award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by this Association. **NOTE:** Only awards or prizes having a monetary value of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) or less per competition will be approved by the Association. When honoring student-athletes for success in NYSPHSAA sponsored championship events, Boards of Education are encouraged to approve limited awards that are appropriate to high school level competition.

3. Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value (scholarships to institutes of higher learning are specifically exempted).

4. Signing a professional playing contract in that sport.

b. Instructing, supervising, or officiating in any organized youth sports program, recreation, playground, or camp activities will not jeopardize amateur standing. Receiving compensation for officiating shall not effect amateur standing.

c. A student who violates the above rule may apply to the league or to the designated body within that section for reinstatement one year from the date of the latest violation.

***Reporting Procedure: All violations shall be reported to the League and Section.***

3. **APPEAL PROCEDURE:** The NYSPHSAA, Inc. is an association of member schools. Therefore, appeals will only be entertained from schools, leagues and sections.

a. All questions of eligibility and all questions regarding the implementation of the rules and regulations of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. or of any of its subdivisions shall be referred to the league president for a decision unless the league provides for another method for reaching a decision. The league shall be guided by the constitution, bylaws,

rules, regulations, and sports standards of the league, the section, and the association. A school which does not belong to a league may apply to the section president for a decision. All appeals are to be in writing and are to be initiated at the league level. NOTE: While an appeal is being processed a student(s) may participate in practice sessions commencing from the date the appeal was filed.

It is provided, however, that all questions pertaining to general eligibility involving a Sectional activity shall be taken directly to the Athletic Council or its designee; and it is provided further, however, that during regional and state championship activity, all questions concerning the rules and regulations of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. and questions of general eligibility shall be referred to the Executive Director of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. or his or her designated representative for such contests if he or she is unavailable. Because of time constraints, the decision of the Athletic Council or the Executive Director, as the case may be, will be final with no right of formal appeal to the Appeal Panel or other administrative body. Any and all questions and/or protests as to game/meet rules or as to the conduct of the game or meet shall be heard and decided by the game/meet committee established by that Section or State Sport Championship Committee as the case may be; and all such decisions shall be final with no right of appeal.

b. Appeals from the decisions of league presidents and section presidents may be made to the Athletic Council which will review the evidence, may hear arguments, and shall have the power to affirm, reverse, or modify the decisions of the league or section president. The decisions of game officials shall be final unless the individual league or section has made provisions for review. In any event, the Appeal Panel will not review any such decisions.

c. An appeal from the decision of the Athletic Council may be taken to the Appeal Panel of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. which shall review the evidence, may hear arguments, and shall have the power to affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Athletic Council. Such decisions shall not be reversed or modified unless the Appeal Panel finds that:

1. The decision of the Athletic Council clearly is contrary to the evidence presented.

2. The facts found by the Athletic Council constitute a violation of the Association's Constitution, standards or rules, or Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, or

3. A procedural error affected the reliability of the information that was utilized to support the finding of the Athletic Council.

d. An aggrieved party shall be one or more member schools of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. and the notice of appeal shall be signed by the chief school officer of the schools involved. The aggrieved party must notify the Executive Director of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. of its intention to appeal to the Appeal Panel not later than fifteen (15) calendar days from the date the aggrieved party received written decision of the Athletic Council and submit a statement indicating whether the aggrieved party desires to submit its appeal in writing only or whether they desire to make oral argument by either telephone conference call or in person. A filing fee of \$200.00 must be received from the aggrieved party prior to the appeal hearing. The Executive Director of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. shall notify the parties of the date by which written presentation must be submitted and the date, place and time for any oral arguments.

A written brief shall contain: **1.** A table of contents, **2.** A concise statement of the nature of the appeal and the questions involved, **3.** A concise statement of the

facts with the supporting references to the transcript of any proceedings had or to a summary of the proceedings as submitted by the recording secretary if there be no transcript, 4. The arguments, which shall be divided into points by appropriate and distinct headings, 5. Exhibits, if any.

e. The Appeal Panel shall be comprised of three persons consisting of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. current past president, who shall serve as chairperson, one representative from the coordinators of a sectional appeals committee, and one representative from section executive directors / secretaries. Should a representative from any of these categories be unable to serve, the Executive Director will select a representative from the Central Committee. The Executive Director and NYSPHSAA, Inc. Counsel shall serve in a ex-officio capacity.

f. Expenses incurred by the Appeal Panel members shall be shared in the following manner: One-fourth from the NYSPHSAA, Inc., one-fourth from the section involved and one-half from the appellant. Expenses include all necessary and customary travel expenses, including, but not limited to mileage, lodging and meals.

g. If a section is involved in an appeal no representation shall be selected from that section.

h. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be the final administrative appeal through the NYSPHSAA, Inc. and shall be final.

i. Any member school which institutes an unsuccessful legal action or appeal before the Commissioner of Education to overturn, stay or enjoin an eligibility ruling or a rule or rules of the NYSPHSAA or its subdivisions will be liable for reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred by the NYSPHSAA, section(s) or leagues in defending against such action. Further, should the Association or its subdivisions be forced to initiate legal action to collect the aforementioned costs and attorney fees, the member school shall be additionally liable for the Association's reasonable costs and attorney fees resulting from the collection action and shall be deprived of all rights to participate in any post schedule championship conducted by the NYSPHSAA or its sections.

Any member school which does not make final payment of costs and fees by June 30 of that year shall be denied membership in the Association.

j. Eligibility Standards may be made more restrictive by individual sections. Any appeal involving a more restrictive standard shall not be heard by the Appeal Panel and the decision of the section shall be final. **NOTE:** If a school, League, or Section becomes a plaintiff or defendant in litigation based on the enforcement of its own rules, NYSPHSAA, Inc. rules, or the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, this Association offers consultative legal advisement. Requests for consultation are to be directed to the President or the Executive Director, who may refer the question to Counsel. The authorization for payment of legal fees for representation by this Association is limited to actions in which the NYSPHSAA, Inc. is the primary defendant or respondent. After the local action is completed, the Association may offer to appear amicus curiae during Appellant Review.

**4. APPROVED OFFICIALS:** Officials shall qualify through completion of the Officials' Five Point Program. Each approved official shall:

1. Observe the constitution and bylaws of their local and state officials organization.

2. Attend interpretation meetings and clinics of the local organization each year.

3. Give satisfactory evidence of proficiency in the mechanics of officiating and of competent performance related to the specific sport.

4. Pass the National Federation, State, or other approved rules examination.

5. Be listed with the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director.

**NOTE:** To insure quality competitive experiences, the selection and assignment of officials must provide priority to competent officials (those who have been trained and tested in the approved rules and regulations of the specific game to be officiated). (See OCF, p. 153-160)

5. **ASSUMED NAME:** Participating under an assumed name in any athletic contest shall make the student/athlete ineligible in that sport for one year from the date of the violation.

**Reporting Procedure:** *All violations shall be reported to the League and Section.*

6. **BONA FIDE STUDENTS: Regulation of the Commissioner of Education:** A contestant must be a bona fide student of the high school represented and must be taking at least four subjects including Physical Education. A foreign exchange student may be considered a bona fide student if all of these eligibility rules are satisfied. A student in an education program in two schools may represent only the home school. **NOTE:** A student in a shared services part-time or full-time program, taking the equivalent of four subjects including Physical Education, is considered as being registered in the home school. Exceptions for special cases must be approved by League and Section.

A student who satisfies all eligibility standards, enrolled in the equivalent of three subjects as well as meeting the Physical Education requirement, who has not completed requirements for graduation, may be enrolled in one or more college courses for advance placement. The student must be earning a minimum of three high school credits and Physical Education to be eligible.

For assistance in determining the eligibility of students enrolled in a GED program, please contact the NYSPSHAA office.

Students may only be selectively classified between member schools. Furthermore, to be eligible to be selectively classified into a member schools' athletic programs a student must be registered in that school district.

**COMBINING OF TEAMS -** The joining together of students from two or more member schools in the same district or close proximity to form a single team shall be permitted subject to the following conditions:

1. Permission must be obtained from their league and section on an annual basis.

2. Section approval must be reported to the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Committee.

**NOTE:** If a combined school team goes beyond sectional level competition their boys and girls grades 9-11 enrollment shall be combined for state level competition.

**Reporting Procedure:** *All violations shall be reported to the League and Section.*

7. **COLLEGE:** A student is no longer eligible to represent the school in that sport in that season if the student participates in practice or competition with or against any individual or team(s) representing a college that season.

**Reporting Procedure:** *All violations shall be reported to the League and Section.*

8. **DURATION OF COMPETITION: Regulation of the Commissioner of Education:** A pupil shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the ninth grade and prior to graduation, except as otherwise specified by the Commissioner's Regulations. A pupil enters competition in a given year when the pupil is a member of the team in the sport involved, and that team has completed at

least one contest. The eligibility for competition of a pupil who has not attained the age of 19 years prior to July first may be extended under the following circumstances.

(i) If sufficient evidence is presented by the chief school officer to the section to show that the pupil's failure to enter competition during one or more seasons of a sport was caused by illness, accident, or similar circumstances beyond the control of the student, such pupil's eligibility shall be extended accordingly in that sport.

***Appeals should be filed with the Section office.***

(ii) If the chief school officer demonstrates to the satisfaction of the section that the pupil's failure to enter competition during one or more seasons of a sport is caused by such pupil's enrollment in a national or international student exchange program or foreign study program, that as a result of such enrollment the pupil will be required to attend school for one or more additional semesters in order to graduate, and that the pupil did not enter competition in any sport while enrolled in such program, such pupil's eligibility shall be extended accordingly in such sport (see p. 46, 93).

***Appeals should be filed with the Section office.***

### 9. FOREIGN STUDENTS:

1. All foreign students who have been graduated from the secondary school system in their country are ineligible for the interschool athletic program.

2. Foreign Students' eligibility shall be determined under the requirements of **Standard #30 - TRANSFER.** (p. 105)

**NOTE:** If a foreign student has participated in an organized sports program in a particular sport, equivalent to or on a higher level than our high school programs, he/she is ineligible to participate in that sport for one year.

3. A bona fide foreign exchange student may be immediately eligible the first year in residence and **be limited to one year eligibility** provided the student (a) is a participant in an established foreign exchange program accepted for listing by the Council of Standards for International Travel (CSIET) and (b) complies with all State Education Department and NYSPHSAA, Inc. standards. Furthermore, there shall be no evidence that a student, school or other interested party has influenced the assignment of the foreign exchange student to a school for athletic purposes.

In addition to the aforementioned standards, the following criteria will be used to determine athletic eligibility for foreign exchange and international students.

1. Foreign Exchange Students - ***All Foreign Exchange Students must be reported to the Section office.***

a) A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the US, such student must be under the auspices of and be placed with a US host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the US Department of State. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her parents, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The foreign exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities. Those foreign exchange students who are directly placed are subject to the Transfer Rule. (p. 105)

b) A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family.

(i) Neither the school the student attends, nor any person associated with the school, shall have input into the selection of the student.

(ii) No member of the school's coaching staff or athletic director, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family.

c) The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the US State Department.

d) The foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the state high school association of which the school he/she attends is a member. ***All foreign exchange students must be reported to the Section office.***

2. Other International Students: ***All International students must receive a waiver of the Transfer Rule to be eligible to practice or compete.*** An international student who is not under the auspices of and placed by a CSIET listed exchange program must meet the following requirements in order to be considered for interscholastic athletics eligibility in any state:

a) The student must possess a current F-1 visa, issued by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service.

b) The student must provide to the principal of the school he/she attends an official untranslated transcript and a transcript that is translated into English, by an acceptable agent or agency, which indicated work taken in all grades in which the student was enrolled.

c) The international student must pay tuition to the high school he/she attends as prescribed in Section 625 of US Public Law 104-208.

d) No member of the school's coaching staff or athletic director, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the resident family for the student.

e) The international student must comply with all eligibility requirements set forth by the state high school association of which the school he/she attends is a member.

Noncompliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the international student ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any high school which is a member of the NYSPHSAA. ***All International students must receive a waiver of the Transfer Rule to be eligible to practice or compete.***

**10. HEALTH EXAMINATION: Regulation of the Commissioner of Education:** A student who may engage in interschool competition shall receive an adequate health examination and health history update when required, and may not practice or participate without the approval of the school medical officer.

**NOTE:** Physicals for participation in school sports may be scheduled at any time during the calendar year. The results of the physical shall be valid for a period of 12 months during the last day of the month in which the physical was conducted. Unless the medical examination is conducted within 30 days of the start of a season, a health history update is required. Any pupil whose safe participation is in question as a result of the health history interview, or injury, or prolonged absence must be requalified by the school physician prior to participation. If the 12 month period for the physical expires during a sports season, participants may complete the season as long as a health history was conducted prior to the season. For example, a physical conducted on August 1 would be valid through August 31. If a student plays beyond August (ex. football), the student may complete that sports season as long as an interval health history was conducted before the start of the season. Immediately following the last sanctioned tournament competition for that season, a new physical is required if the

student is going to play another sport. Sport season includes tryouts. **NOTE:** The Handbook Committee recommends that each incidence of prolonged absence should be reviewed individually by the coach and the athletic director, consulting with the school physician when necessary, and a reasonable amount of practice time and playing time be established based on the athlete's readiness for safe return to competition.

**11. INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS:** Member schools may sponsor contests for their athletic teams with foreign countries secondary school teams for the purpose of cultural exchange and competition under the following conditions:

a. League, Conference and Sectional schedules may not be altered to accommodate such a contest.

b. Teams with whom contests are scheduled must be comprised of players comparable in ages to our senior high school level.

c. All competitors on the New York State high school team must be eligible according to NYSPHSAA, Inc. regulations.

d. All contests must be scheduled according to appropriate sport standards.

e. No such competition may take place four weeks prior to the starting date of that sport season as established by the Section.

f. The number of organized practice sessions in preparation for international competition shall be restricted to the number required before a first contest in that sport.

g. The Section must approve the plans and the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director must be notified at least sixty days prior to the scheduled departure.

h. When hosting an international contest, sanctioning request forms must be initiated by the NYSPHSAA at the request of the member school. One application per state will be filed when a foreign team tours and plays more than one school.

i. When hosting an international contest, the contest must be conducted within the school's sport season as established by its Section Athletic Council and must be counted as one of the maximum number of contests. The hosting of a scrimmage with a foreign school's team does not require sanctioning. It is the school's responsibility to determine that the criteria listed in this section and Eligibility Standard 12; Interschool Scrimmage/Practice Session are satisfied.

j. A complete report, including a detailed financial statement, involving all phases of the competition shall be filed with the NFHS and the State Association within thirty (30) days following final competition.

National Federation Sanction is necessary for international competition. Forms for requesting this sanction are available from NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director, and must be filed 60 days prior to date of competition.

**12. INTERSCHOOL SCRIMMAGE/PRACTICE SESSIONS:** A scrimmage is an interschool practice session. In practice sessions/scrimmages: (a) both squads use the same field simultaneously with both coaches making corrections and giving instructions to players as they would during their own practice, (b) no official score is kept, (c) no definite time is set for scrimmage periods, (d) no admission is charged, (e) no spectators are permitted unless such is the usual plan whenever the squad has a practice. The use of officials would be permitted and encouraged whenever possible for the purpose of instruction regarding the rules and proper application of rules.

Football scrimmages shall be governed by the following: (a) no official score is kept, (b) no definite time is set or kept, (c) coaches are permitted on the field to provide instruction and make corrections, (d) different configurations governing possession

time and down and distance situations (than those normally used in a game) may be used to govern play, (e) unlimited time-outs and stoppages of play are permitted and encouraged for the purpose of both providing instruction and adequate rest periods, (f) the use of officials would be permitted and encouraged whenever possible for the purpose of instruction regarding the rules and proper application of rules, (g) no kickoffs are permitted, (h) punts and extra point kick attempts may involve live play until the ball is kicked. Punts may not be advanced and all fumbled punts and muffs will be blown dead immediately, (i) the total number of plays should be recorded to prevent an individual player from being involved in more than a maximum of 90 live contact plays during the entire scrimmage, (j) no admission may be charged, (k) the participation of student support groups such as cheerleaders, bands, kicklines, etc. are prohibited.

**13. INTERSTATE CONTESTS:** Sanctioning is a means of encouraging well-managed competition. The sanctioning program has the primary purpose of protecting the welfare of high school students. A secondary purpose of the sanctioning program is to protect the existing programs sponsored by member schools. Schools may obtain information regarding the sanctioning process and print Application for Sanction forms (NYSPHSAA or NFHS applications) from the NYSPHSAA website [www.nysphsaa.org](http://www.nysphsaa.org).

a. When schools schedule interscholastic contests with schools in other states, each school will observe its own State regulations and standards of eligibility.

b. No member school will engage in athletic competition, scrimmage and/or practice with an out-of-state school which is not a member in good standing of its respective state high school athletic association or has not been approved by the respective state association if the school is ineligible to join. Furthermore member schools will not compete in any interstate contest which is sponsored solely by an outside agency. For dual contests it is the school's responsibility to determine that these criteria are satisfied.

c. A member school wishing to host a contest involving an out-of-state school must file an application for Sanction with the NYSPHSAA, Inc. office for any contest involving four or more schools, or any contest involving three or more states. Timeline, application fee and application form information is available on the NYSPHSAA website, [www.nysphsaa.org](http://www.nysphsaa.org).

d. A member school planning to participate in an interstate contest involving four or more schools, or any interstate contest which is cosponsored by an organization other than a member high school, must give notice of entry to the NYSPHSAA, Inc. office so that the school may receive verification that the contest has been sanctioned. **NOTE:** Failure to comply with the above regulation may cause a team or individuals to be ineligible from that date of participation for the remainder of that sport season.

**14. MIDDLE OR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:** Member schools with students in grades 7, 8, or 9 have agreed to abide by the rules of our Modified Programs. Situations not covered in the Modified Rules will follow the high school standards.

**15. MIXED COMPETITION: Regulation of the Commissioner of Education.** Male and female pupils on interschool athletic teams. See p. 78 for details.

(a) Equal opportunity to participate in interschool competition, either on separate teams or in mixed competition on the same team, shall be provided to male and female students, except as hereinafter provided. In schools that do not provide separate competition for male and female students in a specific sport, no student shall be excluded from such competition solely by reason of sex except in accordance with the

provisions of subclauses (b.) and (d.) of this clause. For the purpose of this clause, baseball and softball shall be considered to constitute a single sport.

(b) In the sports of baseball, basketball, boxing, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, speedball, team handball, power volleyball where the height of the net is set at less than eight feet, and wrestling, the fitness of a given student to participate in mixed competition shall be determined by a review panel consisting of the school physician, a physical education teacher designated by the principal of the school, and if requested by the parents of the pupil, a physician selected by such parents. Such panel shall make its determination by majority vote of the members, and in accordance with standards and criteria issued by the department.

(c) Where a school provides separate competition for male and female pupils in interschool athletic competition in a specific sport, the superintendent of schools, or in the case of a nonpublic school or school system which elects to be governed by this clause, the chief executive officer of the school or school system, may permit a female or females to participate on a team organized for males. However, where separate competition is provided, males may not participate on teams organized for females. NYSPPHSAA NOTE: This clause is to meet the needs of the exceptionally talented girl.

(d) Where a school does not provide separate competition for male and female pupils in interschool athletic competition in a specific sport, the superintendent of schools, or in the case of a nonpublic school or school system which elects to be governed by this clause, the chief executive officer of the school or school system, or the section may decline to permit a male or males to participate on a team organized for females upon a finding that such participation would have a significant adverse effect upon the opportunity of females to participate successfully in interschool competition in that sport.

*The NYSPPHSAA requires that the names of girls and boys who participate on a team of the opposite sex be submitted to the league and section before any interschool contest in that sport. Teams with multiple representation of boys and girls must be declared either a girls team or a boys team by their schools, prior to the first competition.*

NOTE: Teams organized for one sex may only practice and compete against teams of that same sex. Furthermore, once an individual competes on a team for one sex during a season, he/she may not compete for or against a team organized for the other sex during that season. (Representation, p. 101)

**16. NATIONAL TEAM/OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS:** A student may participate as an individual as a member of a National Team or in an Olympic Development Program during the school year. To participate in NYSPPHSAA programs in that sport, individuals must meet the sports' standards.

**17. NON-FEDERATION MEMBER SCHOOLS:** No scrimmage or game shall be played with other than public and those private and parochial schools that belong to the New York State Federation of Secondary School Athletic Associations. Verification of membership may be secured from the NYSPPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director.

All other schools which are registered with the State Education Department shall apply for Friends and Neighbors status to be eligible to compete with NYSPPHSAA, Inc. member schools. Applications must be processed through the Sectional Athletic Council in which the school is located. The application shall contain the agreement to abide by the NYSPPHSAA, Inc. rules and will be signed by the applicant. The application, with an administrative fee of two hundred dollars, shall be forwarded

by the Section Secretary to the Executive Director of the State Association with recommendations and substantiating statements for or against approval. The State Executive Committee shall make the final determination. Approval shall only be for a period of two years at which time schools may reapply for Friends and Neighbors status. **NOTE:** 1. Friends and Neighbors schools may compete against NYSPHSAA, Inc. member schools only through the league level of play. 2. Friends and Neighbors schools are eligible to compete with NYSPHSAA, Inc. member schools in all sections excluding post-schedule contests. 3. The \$200.00 fee is payable every two years.

18. **OUTSIDE AGENCIES:** Cooperation is permitted with any organization, college, or university which may offer encouragement and/or the use of facilities for competition. An application form must be submitted to the Section Athletic Council prior to the planning of a contest. Approval may be given if these conditions are satisfied:

1. A school, league, section or the Association must cosponsor the activity.
2. Secondary school personnel shall be responsible for planning and for conducting the activity.
3. The contest shall be developed with due regard for health and safety standards as set forth by the Commissioner's Regulations, and policies and standards of the NYSPHSAA, Inc.
4. Insurance shall be provided which will protect the participants in case of injury and the organization or institution against liability.
5. The philosophy and standards which are to be followed shall be consistent with those listed in the NYSPHSAA, Inc. HANDBOOK.
6. Financial arrangements are to be clearly specified in the application for approval.

19. **PENALTIES:**

(a) If a school uses an ineligible student in any interscholastic contest, such contest shall be forfeited to the opposing schools. In individual sports, the use of an ineligible player would result in the contest being forfeited, however the performances and outcomes of the other individuals would stand.

(b) Procedures to address forfeitures during post schedule tournaments shall be as follows:

1. **Team Sports.** Participation by an ineligible player or team in any post schedule tournament game (sectional, intersectional, regional, semifinal or final) shall result in forfeiture of that game. At the time of discovery the school declared ineligible will be disqualified from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place. Schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not reenter tournament competition.

2. **Individual Sports.** Participation by an ineligible contestant in any post schedule tournament competition (sectional, intersectional or state championship) shall result in the forfeiture of that competition. The contestant will be disqualified from the tournament immediately and his/her last opponent will advance in their place. Individuals eliminated prior to the last opponent will not reenter the tournament competition.

(c) If an individual or team exceeds the maximum number of contests permitted, the penalty is team ineligibility from the date of violation for the rest of the season. When an athlete exceeds the maximum number of contests the level in which the student-athlete participated as an ineligible competitor will be affected.

(d) For any violation of eligibility or sports standards a school or a school authority may be censured, placed on probation, or suspended by the Section Athletic Council.

(e) *Consistent with good ethical standards the prompt reporting of the knowledge of an infraction shall be made to the proper authorities in writing.*

(f) *School Districts may appeal to the Section to gain relief from the prescribed penalty if the violation of eligibility standards resulted from circumstances out of the District's control.*

If a student is ineligible according to NYSPHSAA, Inc. Bylaws and Eligibility Standards or Commissioner's Regulations but is permitted to participate in interschool competition contrary to such rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school and/or the NYSPHSAA, Inc. and said injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed, or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified, any one or more of the following actions may be taken against such school in the interest of restitution and fairness to competing schools:

1. Require that individual or team records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligible student shall be vacated or stricken.
2. Require that team victories shall be forfeited to opponent.
3. Require that team or individual awards earned by such ineligible student be returned to the Association.

20. **POST-SCHEDULE:** No team, or individual student may represent its school in any post-schedule contest other than those conducted by school or State Association authorities in accordance with approved standards. **NOTE:** If contests are within the season established by the Section, within the maximum number allowed and conducted by school authorities, they are allowed.

21. **POST SEASON:** No team, or individual student, may represent its school in any post-season games, meets, or tournaments.

22. **PRACTICE SESSIONS: Athletes must meet all Standards of Eligibility to participate in practice.**

a. An organized practice in grades 7-12 is a session for the purpose of providing instruction and practice in physical conditioning activities, skills, team play, and game strategy designed expressly for that sport under the supervision of a qualified coach appointed by the Board of Education of the local school district. Such instruction and practice shall be held only during the season designated for that sport. **NOTE:** Athletes whose seasons are lengthened due to participation in NYSPHSAA Regional and Championship contests are allowed to count conditioning practices towards their new sports as follows: 1. sports with less than ten (10) practices for the individual before the first contest will be allowed to carry over three (3) days; 2. sports with ten to fifteen (10-15) practices for the individual before the first contest will be allowed to carry over four (4) days.

b. No student or team may be permitted to participate in school organized practice or play on seven consecutive days during the regular season. Specifically, during the regular season, physical and/or instructional activities related to the sport on seven consecutive days is prohibited. Only one practice session a day and only six days of a calendar week may be counted toward the total practice sessions required. A practice session conducted on the same day as a game cannot be counted to meet the minimum practice requirement to be eligible for that day's contest. All required practice sessions shall be organized and planned for a reasonable length of time and

shall include vigorous activity specific to the sport for the purpose of improving the physical condition of the players. Each of the required number of practices for an individual must include vigorous activity; however, practice sessions required for the team beyond those needed by the individual may be used solely for meetings, film review and similar activities. **NOTE:** Practice is considered an integral part of the interschool program in that sport. An individual must be eligible according to age and all other Eligibility Standards to participate in practices or competitions with the high school squad in that sport.

c. School sponsored activities conducted out of the sport season such as general conditioning, weight training, weight lifting, intramurals, recreation, open gyms, club activities and camps are permitted: 1. if such programs are not mandated by coaches or school personnel; 2. if such programs are available to all students.

d. Non school sponsored activities are permitted if such programs are not mandated by coaches or school personnel. *It is recommended that no school equipment be used for these programs as per State Comptroller Opinion 85-37.*

e. Upon returning from military training, student-athletes shall be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics once they have completed the required number of practices. Eligibility for participation will also include meeting all eligibility requirements imposed by the Commissioner of Education and NYSPHSAA such as, but not limited to, health examination, age, grade, etc.

f. Schools that have made arrangements with another member school to share the use of a practice facility may do so without violating the Scrimmage Regulation as long as the athletes/teams do not scrimmage before the required number of practices has been completed.

**23. PROFESSIONAL TRYOUTS:** No tryouts for, or practice, with professional teams and their affiliates, are approved except during the summer vacation. A student who participates in such a tryout is ineligible to represent the school in that sport. (see Amateur Rule, p. 90) *A school may apply on behalf of the student to their section for reinstatement one year from the date of the latest violation.*

**24. RECRUITMENT AND UNDUE INFLUENCE:** Recruiting and Undue Influence is defined as the use of influence by any person connected directly or indirectly with a NYSPHSAA school to induce a student to transfer from one school to another, or to enter the ninth grade at a member school for athletic purposes - whether or not the school presently attended by the student is a member of the NYSPHSAA.

a. The use of undue influence to secure a student for competitive purposes in a sport is prohibited. An infraction shall cause the student to forfeit eligibility in that sport for one year from the date of enrollment. The offending school shall be subject to provisions of Rule 19 (D).

b. Evidence of undue influence includes, but is not limited to, personal contact by coaches and sponsors in an attempt to persuade transfer, gifts of money, jobs, supplies, clothing, free transportation, admission to contests, invitation to attend practices and/or games, or free and/or reduced tuition.

**25. REPRESENTATION:**

a. A contestant, or athletic team, shall not represent a school except in conformance with all rules and regulations. It shall be the duty of trustees and boards of education to require that athletic activities be limited to competition between secondary school students.

To be eligible for sectional, intersectional or state competition, a team must have competed in six (6) school scheduled contests during the season. To be eligible for sectional, intersectional or state competition, a team must have competed in six (6) school scheduled contests which occurred on six different dates during the season. An individual is eligible for the team if he/she has been an eligible participant on a team in that sport in that school for a minimum of six (6) scheduled contests during the regular season. For football, a student must be an eligible participant for a minimum of three (3) contests. Contestants in individual sports (archery, badminton, bowling, cross country, fencing, golf, gymnastics, rifle, skiing, swimming, tennis, outdoor track, winter track and wrestling) must also have represented their school in six (6) scheduled contests during the season to be eligible. These required contests must occur on six different dates and must be concluded prior to the conclusion of the team's regular schedule. (Participation, p. 88)

*Section Athletic Councils may request in writing approval of the State Executive Committee to adjust the number of school scheduled contests required on an annual basis. The request is to be submitted prior to the governing board meeting. School districts may submit a written request to the Section for adjustment of contests for individual participants. Note: For the sports of golf and girls gymnastics, a waiver of the Representation Standard may be granted by the NYSPHSAA Executive Director when a student has qualified for participation in the current school year's NYSPHSAA championship event and has subsequently transferred to a NYSPHSAA member school. The athlete must meet all other eligibility standards, including transfer, to receive the waiver.*

b. All games, meets, and tournaments must be conducted by appropriate secondary school authorities.

c. Participation by a student in more than one sport in the same time division shall be determined by the Section Athletic Council.

d. Games and practice between students and adults (alumni or faculty) are not approved.

e. To avoid unfair advantage a student who elects to participate in an interschool sport may not represent a school in that sport in a subsequent season in that school year.

**26. SENIOR ALL-STAR CONTEST:** A senior all-star contest shall be any athletic contest for which admission is charged or donations accepted in which one or more of the competing teams is composed of one or more players who during the school year was a member of the high school team in the same sport, and whose participation in the senior all-star contest is based on outstanding performance as a member of the high school team.

a. The only senior all-star contests approved by the NYSPHSAA, Inc. are those approved by a section. These contests must be approved first by the Section in which the contest is to be held, by the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director, and reported to the Executive Committee.

b. Only seniors who have completed their secondary school eligibility in that sport may compete in these contests.

c. A contestant may participate in no more than one approved senior all-star athlete contest in the same sport during the school year.

d. All approved senior all-star athlete contests must be conducted within the approved sport season.

e. All application criteria established for the Senior All-Star Contest must be followed. The criteria and contest application shall be obtained from the Section Secretary or Association office.

27. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** The Association recognizes and appreciates that the influence and responsibility of the school administration with regard to good sportsmanship extends to all levels of competition. However, it must also be seen that the NYSPHSAA has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily. This standard applies to all regular season and post schedule play.

a. **Coach:**

1. Any coach excluded by a certified official from an interschool competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, is ineligible to coach any interschool competition in that sport until after the next previously scheduled contest at the same level (e.g. junior varsity, varsity, etc.) has been completed. In individual sports a multi-day contest is considered to be a contest. Disqualification from one season carries over to the next season of participation. The coach may not be present at the game site nor communicate in any manner during the contest with any person present at the site. **NOTE:** "Not being physically present at the site" means the disqualified coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet. (see Taunting, p. 89, Next Previously Scheduled Contest, p. 87)

Any coach:

1. Who receives a disqualification penalty in a sport shall not participate in the next regularly scheduled contest;

2. Who receives a second disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season shall not participate in the next two regularly scheduled contests; and

3. Who receives a third disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season will not be allowed to participate for the rest of the season. If the third ejection takes place in the last contest of the season (regular season or post schedule play), the Section Athletic Council will assess the penalty carrying over into the next season of participation.

2. A coach who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass or intimidate another person (e.g. official, another coach, player, fan) shall be expelled immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the section not to exceed one year from the date of the offense.

b. **Player:**

1. Any member of a squad ruled out of a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, including taunting, or for a flagrant foul shall not participate in that sport in the next previously scheduled contest with a member school or in NYSPHSAA tournament play. In individual sports a multi-day contest is considered to be a contest. The contest in which the athlete was disqualified must count in the total maximum number of contests permitted. Disqualifications from one season carry over to the next season of participation. (see Taunting, p. 89, Next Previously Scheduled Contest, p. 87)

Any player:

1. Who receives a disqualification penalty in a sport shall not participate in the next regularly scheduled contest;

2. Who receives a second disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season shall not participate in the next two regularly scheduled contests; and

3. Who receives a third disqualification penalty in the same sport in the same season will not be allowed to participate for the rest of the season. If the third ejection takes place in the last contest of the season (regular season or post schedule play), the Section Athletic Council will assess the penalty carrying over into the next season of participation.

2. Any member of the squad who strikes, shoves, kicks or makes other physical contact with the intent to annoy, harass or intimidate an official shall be expelled from the game immediately and banned from further participation in all sports for a period of time to be determined by the section not to exceed one year from the date of the offense. **NOTE:** Member of the squad includes player, manager, score keepers, timers, and statisticians.

c. **Official:**

1. Unprofessional conduct on the part of the official such as, but not limited to, taunting, baiting, use of profanity, shall be reported by a school administrator from the aggrieved school to the section executive director. A request will be made to the appropriate sport officials chapter to investigate the incidence and to report their action to the section in a timely manner.

28. **SPORTS SEASONS:** Section Athletic Councils, with the approval of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Committee, shall determine all sports seasons within the limits of the Commissioner's Regulations. **NOTE:** If a team competes in the same season in which a state championship (regional competition and beyond) is conducted as designated by the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Committee, then the team and its players are ineligible to compete in any other season in that sport in that school year.

29. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP CONTESTS:**

a. Contestants who have shown their proficiency in the sectional contests may be selected for a post-schedule contest. All participating teams and athletes must be approved by their Section to be eligible to compete in NYSPHSAA Regionals and State Championships. **NOTE:** Any student-athlete who has tested positive for the use of anabolic/androgenic steroids within the preceding six (6) months of a regional or state championship event may be required by the NYSPHSAA Executive Director to provide evidence of a negative test result for anabolic/androgenic steroids prior to participating in the event involved.

b. Plans for all state championship contests are to be submitted for approval to the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Committee (Constitution, Article V, [5]).

c. Policies or procedures for state championship contests shall be determined by the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Committee or Central Committee upon the recommendation of the State Championship Committee. Any awards or items presented to participants not provided by the Association, must receive prior approval. **NOTE:** No NYSPHSAA student athlete will be allowed to participate in any post schedule contests (regional, state, Federation) without a completed Code of Conduct document.

d. No raffles (50/50), and other games of chance, will be permitted at any post-sectional competition sponsored by the NYSPHSAA. Promotional activities may be permitted with the approval of the NYSPHSAA Executive Director.

e. If a physician is assigned and/or designated by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association or any of its subdivisions for post-schedule competition, that physician shall have the final decision-making authority concerning the entry/re-entry of an athlete to competition at the particular contest; however a participating

school may use its own physician for final decision-making if it provides a statement by the chief school officer stating the school agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the NYSPHSAA or any of its subdivisions from any claims or lawsuits brought against the NYSPHSAA or any of its subdivisions based on the decision made or advice given by the school district provided physician.

f. Each section shall determine and be responsible for the selection, methods of financing, travel, and supervision of its contestants in a state championship contest.

g. The State Sports Committee Coordinator shall submit complete plans and budget to the State Championship Committee. Financial reports, results, and requests for changes and improvements shall be submitted within 60 days after the event. The State Sports Coordinators shall be responsible for:

1. Conducting these contests according to the policies adopted by the Executive or Central Committees.

2. The selection of the Contest Director from the membership of the State Sports Committee, who shall submit plans and reports to the Coordinator to be forwarded to the Chairman of the State Championship Committee.

3. Reporting the results of each contest and submitting a financial report to the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director, prior to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

h. Dual Seasons: Approved state championship contests are to be held before the end of the season established for that sport. Only those sections conducting the specific sport during the season of, or prior to, the state championship are eligible to send representatives. A Section Athletic Council which votes to conduct a sport in a season other than that specified for the state championship may conduct a qualifying tournament for state championship competition during the selected season. Preparation for state championship competition in a subsequent season shall be limited to those individuals who qualified during the selected season of competition and the number of organized practice sessions shall be no more than or less than the number required before a first contest in that sport.

**30. TRANSFER:** (see Transfer, p. 89, 94) **NOTE:** The Transfer Rule will be enforced as written with no variations permitted.

a. A student in grades 9-12 who transfers, with a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) shall become eligible after starting regular attendance in the second school. A residence change must involve a move from one school district to another. Furthermore, when a student moves from one public school district to another public school district, for athletic eligibility the student must enroll in the public school district or in a private school within that district's boundaries of his/her parents' residency. The Superintendent, or designee, will determine if the student has met district residency requirements.

b. A student who transfers without a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) is ineligible to participate in any interscholastic athletic contest in a particular sport for a period of one (1) year if as a 9-12 student participated in that sport during the one (1) year period immediately preceding his/her transfer. Students who transfer from any school to the public school district of the residence of his/her parents (or other persons with whom the student has resided for at least six months) or a private school within that district's boundaries shall be exempt from the Transfer Rule. Such a transfer without penalty will only be permitted once in a high school career. *Schools*

*must submit the required transfer form to the Section office. Athletes are not permitted to practice before the form has been submitted. Athletes are not permitted to compete without approval.* NOTE: A student in a foreign exchange program listed by CSIET has a one year waiver of the Transfer Rule. If such a student elects to stay a second year he/she becomes a foreign student at the start of the school year with item (b) in effect.

**Exemptions to (b):** For athletic eligibility a student must enroll in the public school district or in a nonpublic school within that district's boundaries of his/her parent's residency.

1. The student reaches the age of majority and establishes residency in a district and can substantiate that they are independent and self supporting.

2. If a private or parochial school ceases to operate a student may transfer to another private or parochial school of his/her choice. Otherwise, a student must enroll in the public school district of his/her parents' residency.

3. A student who is a ward of the court or state and is placed in a district by court order. **Guardianship does not fulfill this requirement.**

4. A student from divorced or separated parents who moves into a new school district with one of the aforementioned parents. Such a transfer is allowed once every six months.

5. A student who is declared homeless by the superintendent pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 100.2. A student of a military employee who is transferred to an active military base may enroll in the non-public school closest to their residence and maintain eligibility if the student enrolls in a non-public school immediately following the change in residence.

*NOTE: It is provided, however, that each school shall have the opportunity to petition the section involved to approve transfer without penalty based on an undue hardship for the student.*

c. Transfer students trying out for sports before school opens in the fall shall register and be accepted by the principal of that school before the medical examination and the first practice. This shall constitute the start of the regular attendance for falls sports. NOTE: After approval by the school medical officer a student may practice immediately and must satisfy the specific Sports Standard according to the number of practice sessions required.

d. Practices at the previous school may be counted toward the minimum number of practices required provided the principal or athletic director of the previous school submits, in writing, the number and dates of such practices to the principal or athletic director of the new school.