



The Louisiana High School
Athletic Association
2024 — 2025
HANDBOOK

Who to Contact at the LHSAA

Responding to inquiries from member schools, officials and tournament managers is the LHSAA's top priority. Parents of student-athletes are asked to direct questions about eligibility or LHSAA regulations to a school administrator before contacting the LHSAA. If school administrators need assistance answering questions, the school administrator will contact the LHSAA.

LHSAA Main Phone: 225-296-5882

LHSAA General Email: beyondthegame@lhsaa.org

LHSAA Sanctioned Sports

Sport.....	Director/Assistant
Baseball.....	Michael Federico/Renee Ballard
Basketball.....	Karen Hoyt/S. Lacy Macdiarmid
Bowling.....	Michael Federico/Renee Ballard
Cross Country.....	Adam MacDowell/Alexis Hart
Football.....	Eddie Bonine/Kathie Smith
Golf.....	Eric Held
Gymnastics.....	Lee Sanders/Bryce Duhon
Indoor Track.....	Adam MacDowell/Alexis Hart
Outdoor Track.....	Adam MacDowell/Alexis Hart
Powerlifting.....	Lee Sanders/Bryce Duhon
Soccer.....	Michael Federico/Renee Ballard
Softball.....	Karen Hoyt/S. Lacy Macdiarmid
Swimming.....	Michael Federico/Renee Ballard
Tennis.....	Adam MacDowell/Alexis Hart
Volleyball.....	Karen Hoyt/S. Lacy Macdiarmid
Wrestling.....	Adam MacDowell/Alexis Hart

LHSAA Non-Sanctioned Sports

Sport.....	Director/Assistant
Bass Fishing.....	Adam MacDowell/Alexis Hart
Esports.....	Ethan Anderson

Eligibility and Transfer (School Administrators Only)

Eligibility Questions.....	Renee Ballard, Karen Hoyt
Foreign Exchange Students.....	Renee Ballard
Hardships.....	Renee Ballard, Kathie Smith
Homeschool.....	Renee Ballard
Same School Organization.....	Renee Ballard
Student Eligibility Online.....	Renee Ballard

Officiating

If you are calling about.....	Speak With
Clinics & Tests.....	Bryce Duhon
Digital Cards.....	Bryce Duhon
Service Awards.....	Bryce Duhon
Registrations/Records/Transfers.....	Bryce Duhon
Regulations.....	Lee Sanders
Rule Books.....	Bryce Duhon
State Tournament Assignments.....	Lee Sanders

Coaches Association

If you are calling about.....	Speak With
All-Star Events.....	Eric Held
Coaches Convention.....	Eric Held, S. Lacy Macdiarmid
Coaches Plaques.....	Eric Held
Coaching Cards.....	Eric Held
Lifetime Coaches Cards.....	S. Lacy Macdiarmid

Other LHSAA Areas

If you are calling about.....	Speak With
Accounting & Finances.....	Madison Watts
All-Academic.....	Renee Ballard
Annual Convention.....	Kathie Smith
ArbiterSports (Officials/Assigners).....	Bryce Duhon
Classified Ads.....	Eric Held
Coaching Education.....	Eric Held
Corporate Sponsorships/Contracts.....	Wes Baylor
Disqualifications.....	Lee Sanders
Executive Committee Meetings.....	Kathie Smith
Enrollments and Classifications.....	Michael Federico
Financial Reports (Tournaments).....	Madison Watts
General Questions.....	Front Desk
Hall of Fame.....	Karen Hoyt/Kathie Smith
Handbook (Constitution/Bylaws).....	Kathie Smith
Handbook Proposals.....	Kathie Smith
Insurance.....	Madison Watts
Internship (College).....	Front Desk
Job Postings.....	Eric Held
Licensing/Merchandise.....	Wes Baylor
Mailings.....	Renee Ballard
Marketing.....	Wes Baylor
Media, Radio & Television.....	Ethan Anderson
New School Membership Inquiries.....	Kathie Smith
Photos (from state tournaments).....	Ethan Anderson
Sportsmanship.....	Lee Sanders
Sports Medicine.....	Lee Sanders
State Tournament Media Credentials.....	Ethan Anderson
Tickets (State Tournaments).....	Madison Watts
Website (Members Only).....	Renee Ballard
Website (Public) & Social Media.....	Ethan Anderson

LHSAA Staff Contact Information

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Bryce Duhon.....	4209.....	bduhon@lhsaa.org
Madison Watts.....	4200.....	mwatts@lhsaa.org
Front Desk.....	4220.....	beyondthegame@lhsaa.org



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LHSAA Live App



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PREFACE

This handbook contains the constitution, bylaws, and other general information concerning the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (LHSAA). This handbook is published as a service to LHSAA member schools and constituents of the LHSAA. In 1920, when the founding fathers of the association drafted the LHSAA's initial set of rules, they adopted a process whereby the bylaws of the association could be changed; that process is intact today. The LHSAA belongs to its member schools, a collective body comprised of its membership.

During the school year, bylaws can be revised, deleted, and added. Any additions or changes to the constitution or bylaws are incorporated in the handbook and posted on the LHSAA website (www.lhsaa.org), making the online version the most up-to-date copy and shall be considered the official document of record. Changes approved by the Executive Committee under Bylaw 4.4.4 during the school year are reflected in red. If the changes made by the Executive Committee are ratified by principals at the annual convention in January, those changes are reflected in blue. All proposals passed by principals at the annual convention are reflected in green. If any editorial changes are required due to updates in the handbook, these changes will be reflected in purple.

All constitutional articles and bylaws have been adopted by the member schools through the legislative processes of the association as specified in the constitution. The articles and bylaws in this handbook have been adopted and are constantly under review by the principals of the association, the executive committee, and the LHSAA Executive Director and staff to ensure that the high school athletic programs in the association are conducted at a high and fair level of play and that they serve to support the educational mission of LHSAA member schools.

All dates are subject to change if the situation deems necessary.



2024-2025 LHSAA STAFF



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No Photo
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2024-2025 LHSAA STAFF



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ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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DIRECTOR OF ELIGIBILITY AND COMPLIANCE
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ADAM MACDOWELL
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Tennis, Wrestling)
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ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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2024-2025 LHSAA STAFF



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LHSCA DIRECTOR
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MADI WATTS
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FRONT DESK
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2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Ryan Gallagher
Class 5A
Districts 6-10
Vice President



Micah Coleman
Class 5A
Districts 1-5



Luke Dietz
Class 4A
Districts 1-5

No Photo
Available



Shane Smith
Class 4A
Districts 6-11



Lee Bellard
Class 3A
Districts 1-4

Brother Martin
4401 Elysian Fields
New Orleans, LA
70122

Natchitoches Central
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Natchitoches, LA
71457

Iowa
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Iowa, LA 70647

Franklinton
1 Demon Circle
Franklinton, LA 70438

Church Point
305 E. Lougarre St.
Church Point, LA 70525



Sharon Clark
Class 3A
Districts 5-9



Norman Picou
Class 2A
Districts 1-5



John Chewning
Class 2A
Districts 6-10

No Photo
Available



Alex Goodling
Class 1A
Districts 1-5



Stella Arabie
Class 1A
Districts 6-10

Sophie B. Wright
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New Orleans, LA
70115

Red River
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Coushatta, LA 71019

French Settlement
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French Settlement, LA
70733

Northwood-Lena
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Lena, LA 71447

Vermilion Catholic
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Abbeville, LA 70510



Billy Carter
Class B
Districts 1-4



Kristine Rountree
Class B
Districts 5-7

No Photo
Available



Jarrad Rivers
Class C
Districts 1-3

No Photo
Available



VACANT
Class C
Districts 4-7

No Photo
Available



VACANT
At-Large

Quitman
181 Wolverine Dr.
Quitman, LA 71268

Holden
30120 LA 441
Holden, LA 70744

Pleasant Hill
2601 W 2nd St.
Pleasant Hill, LA
71065



Sharilynn Loche
At-Large



Shannon Foolkes
At-Large
President



John LeBlanc
Non-Public Schools



David Federico
Class 1A
Past President



Vernon Travis
School Board Rep.

Richwood
5901 Hwy 165 Bypass
Monroe, LA 71202

Sam Houston
880 Sam Houston
Jones Pkwy.
Moss Bluff, LA 70611

Loyola College Prep
921 Jordan Street
Shreveport, LA
71101

Ecole Classique
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Metairie, LA 70006

Vernon Parish
201 Belview Rd.
Leesville, LA 71446



John Gullatt
Superintendents'
Association



Ken Bradford
State Dept. of
Education Rep.



Michael Silver
LHSOA



Mark Boyer
LHSAA Counsel

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Winnsboro, LA 71295

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Baton Rouge, LA
70802

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Alexandria, LA 71301

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Ben DiPalma
LHSADA



Frank Daggs
LHSCA



Brandon Brown
LHSCA

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New Orleans, LA
70122

East St. John
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Reserve, LA 70084



IMPORTANT DATES

HARDSHIP COMMITTEE

September 4, 2024

November 6, 2024

February 12, 2025

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 17 – 18, 2024

December 4 – 5, 2024

April 2 – 3, 2025

May 29, 2025

HANDBOOK COMMITTEE: **PRINCIPAL PROPOSAL MEETING**

September 12, 2024

HALL OF FAME 2024 INDUCTION CEREMONY

April 15, 2025

VIRTUAL AREA MEETINGS

January 21 – 23, 2025

ANNUAL CONVENTION

January 29 – 30, 2025

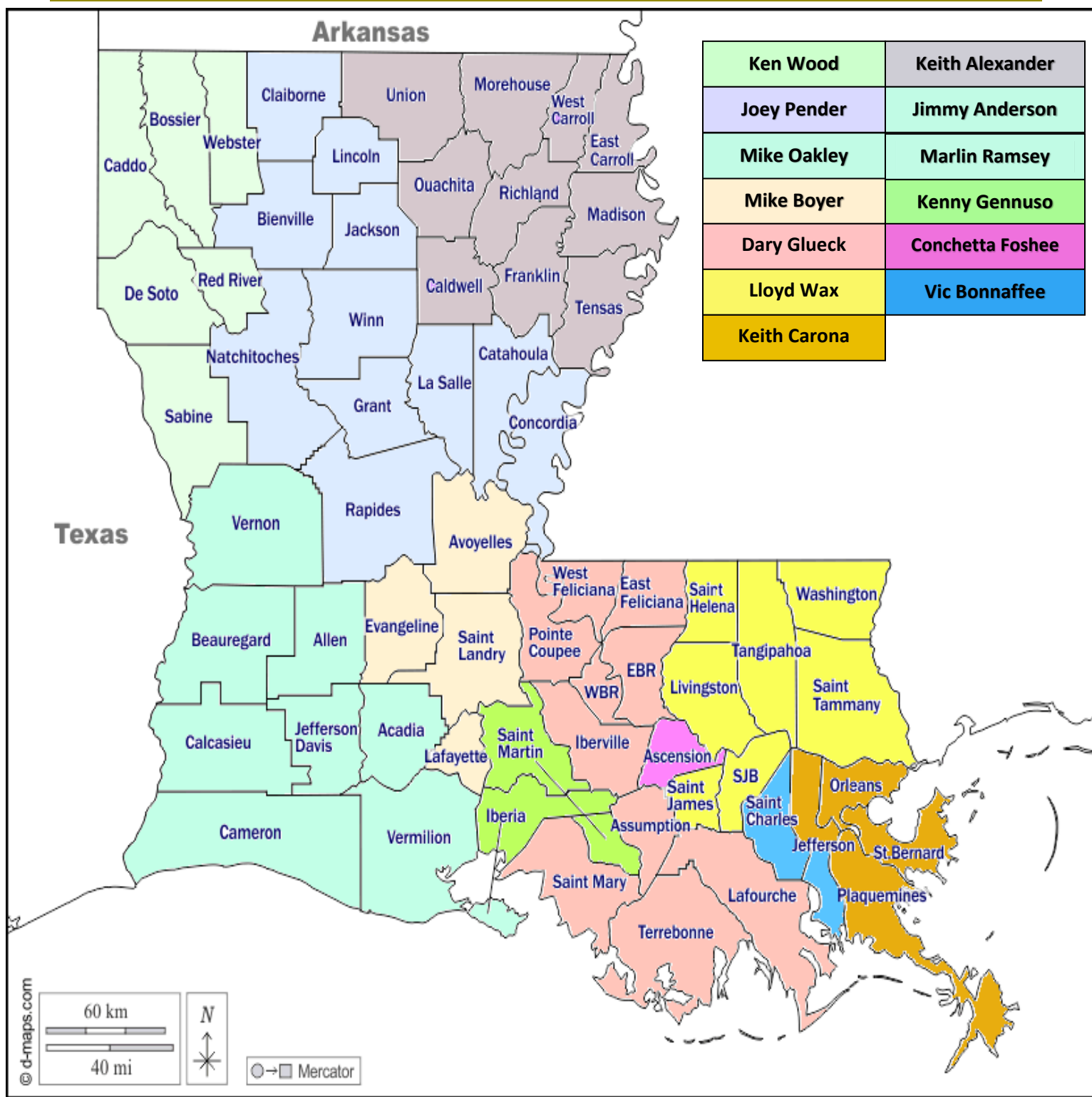


LHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

****All event dates and times subject to change****

Event	Dates	Location
Volleyball	November 14 - 16	University of Louisiana Lafayette (Lafayette, LA)
Cross Country	November 18	Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, LA)
Swimming	November 20 - 23	Spar Aquatic Center (Sulphur, LA)
Football	December 12 - 14	Caesars Superdome (New Orleans, LA)
Wrestling	February 14 - 15	Brookshire Grocery Arena (Bossier, LA)
Soccer	February 19 - 22	Southeastern University (Hammond, LA)
Indoor Track	February 22	Carl Maddox Field House - LSU (Baton Rouge, LA)
Girls' Basketball	March 3 - 8	Southeastern University (Hammond, LA)
Boys' Basketball	March 10 - 15	Burton Complex (Lake Charles, LA)
Powerlifting	March 26 - 29	TBD
Bowling	April 9 - 11	All Star Lanes (Baton Rouge, LA)/ Premier Lanes (Gonzales, LA)
Gymnastics	April 11 - 12	Baton Rouge Magnet High School (Baton Rouge, LA)
Tennis	April 28 - May 2	Multiple Locations - ULM (Monroe, LA)
Softball	May 2 - 3	Frasch Park (Sulphur, LA)
Golf	May 5 - 6	Multiple Locations (Lafayette, LA)
Outdoor Track	May 8 - 10	Bernie Moore Stadium - LSU (Baton Rouge, LA)
Baseball	May 13 - 17	McMurry Park (Sulphur, LA)

RULES COMPLIANCE



CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1: NAME

- 1.1 The name of the Association shall be the Louisiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as LHSAA). LHSAA is a private, non-profit corporation.
- 1.2 The LHSAA is a member in good standing of the National Federation of State High School Associations (hereinafter referred to as NFHS), and all rules of the NFHS and/or the LHSAA must be observed by all memberschools.
- 1.3 The Association's principal place of business and office shall be located in East Baton Rouge Parish.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE

2.1 **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) is to serve its member schools by providing unified and equitable administrative leadership within the realm of education-based athletics, founded on core values that foster the ideals of respect, responsibility, citizenship, and academic development for our student-athletes. The LHSAA strives to fortify the integrity of its member schools, across the state, by promoting the concepts of sportsmanship, integrity, excellence in academics, and life-long values as the principal foundations of Louisiana athletics.

2.2 **Core Values:**

This Association is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including for such purposes as the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and including the following:

1. Participation in school athletics is a privilege, not a right, for student-athletes who meet educational and citizenship standards.
2. Promote and educate our membership, coaches, parents, and interested parties that "FUN" is the primary reason student-athletes participate.
3. Protect and uphold academic priorities in alignment with our membership's educational standards.
4. Provide exemplary athletic oversight through timely, fair, consistent, and impartial regulatory rulings.
5. Assist, advise, and aid schools in organizing and administering interscholastic sports.
6. Operate with transparency that generates trust and with strict fiscal accountability.
7. Prevent the exploitation of member school programs by special interest groups.
8. Preserve, promote, and support the development of character, integrity, sportsmanship, and unity.

- 2.3 No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Article. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Association shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an association exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an association, contribution to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

- 2.4 The Association is vitally interested in the welfare of every boy and girl participating in its athletic contests. It is for the protection of their interests that the Association operates.

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

- 2.6 Standing committees of the LHSAA are:

Executive
Hardship

Executive Director Evaluation
District

Finance
Handbook

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The membership of the Association shall consist of Louisiana high schools that annually sign an LHSAA Membership Renewal Form, agree to conform to the rules and regulations of the Association, and pay membership dues according to their classification as adopted by the membership.
- 3.2 In matters pertaining to the athletic affairs of a school, the principal is responsible to the Association. All official relations with the school shall be through the principal. The member school principal shall be officially recognized by the LHSAA as the individual who is registered with the Association on the LHSAA Membership Renewal Form submitted annually by the school.
- 3.3 It shall be a school's responsibility to educate its student-athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on all LHSAA rules, including eligibility rules along with potential penalty rulings that could affect them. Additionally, a school shall be required to monitor its compliance with all LHSAA constitutional articles and bylaws.
- 3.4 Membership in the LHSAA in accordance with the above rules shall be available to both public and non-public schools.
- 3.5 APPLICATION
- 3.5.1 A non-member school desiring membership in the LHSAA may make a written application and shall supply the Executive Director's office with all requested information. To become a member of the LHSAA, the school applying for membership shall:
1. Be recognized and approved through the Louisiana State Department of Education (hereinafter referred to as LDE);
 2. Provide the Executive Committee with a true and accurate accounting of its student enrollment in all grade levels;
 3. Have its principal sign an agreement to abide by all LHSAA rules and regulations;
 4. Have a minimum of 75 actual students in the school in grades 9-12. Single-gender schools shall have a minimum of 38 students in grades 9-12. The total student population should be evenly distributed between each grade level 9-12. This enrollment shall be based on the school's October 1 enrollment as verified to the LDE in the school year in which the application is to be considered.
 5. Once membership application is approved the new member school must maintain a minimum of 75 actual students in the school in grades 9-12. If the new member school does not maintain the minimum number of 75 actual students after its two-year conditional basis, the school's membership will be revoked. *Exemption: All current LHSAA member schools that have been included in the previous last three (3) consecutive classifications and have met all minimum requirements per Classification Criteria Article 8.7 in the 2020-2021 Official LHSAA Handbook.*
- 3.5.2 Before a school can be admitted as a member of the LHSAA, its application shall be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Applications for membership shall only be considered by the Executive Committee during the spring Executive Committee meeting. A school shall not be allowed to join the LHSAA at any other time. A school shall be classified according to its enrollment. If accepted, a school's membership shall not become effective until July 1 of the next school year. A new school joining the LHSAA shall also be governed by the following requirements:
1. All new membership applications shall be accepted during the fall of a reclassification school year (odd number years). *Example: Applications shall be accepted between August-December 2025, and 2027.*
 2. A school may be admitted into the LHSAA on a conditional basis until the school is placed into a district. A new school can only be placed in a district in a reclassification year. During the conditional period, a school is subject to having its membership revoked if it is penalized for a flagrant rule violation or three other rule violations.
 3. Any school applying for membership shall have its administrators, athletic director, and head coaches, attend a mandatory meeting conducted by LHSAA officials that fully reviews and explains all eligibility rules and regulations of the Association. Any administrator, athletic director, or head coach who does not attend the mandatory meeting or who accepts one of the listed positions at the school during the one-year probation period shall be required to complete the online LHSAA Handbook Certification class or enroll, complete, and pass the LHSAA/NFHS Online Fundamentals of Coaching Course.

CONSTITUTION

4. All written contracts, schedules, and agreements to participate in an invitational tournament which shall also serve as a contract in all sports shall be signed by the school principal during this conditional period.
5. Upon being accepted for membership, a school shall pay dues based on its current year's classification.
6. During the conditional period, a school and/or student(s) shall not be considered for postseason play in any branch of athletics.

3.6 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- 3.6.1 Every school that was a member of the LHSAA the previous school year shall be required to complete and submit an LHSAA Membership Renewal Form to the LHSAA office no later than September 15 of each school year. The link to the membership renewal form can be found on the LHSAA Member Site. Failure to timely comply with this rule shall result in the school being fined \$100 and ruled ineligible for postseason play in all sports until the fine is paid and the renewal form is properly filed.
- 3.6.2 Membership dues for each school year are due September 15 of each school year. Schools failing to pay membership dues by this date shall not be considered for postseason play in any branch of athletics until dues and a ten percent penalty are paid. Dues can either be paid online or by check. Online payments can be accessed by visiting the LHSAA online payment site. LHSAA requires that a reserve fund of \$100,000 be set aside each year to fund LHSAA costs associated with third party arbitration. Every year the administration is to assign an arbitration assessment to each member school on an equal basis regardless of school size to allow for the reserve fund to begin each school year with \$100,000. The money shall be held in a restricted account and can only be used for expenses related to third party arbitration.
- 3.6.3 If a school withdraws from the Association or allows its membership to lapse by failing to renew its membership by the end of the school year, it shall not be permitted to rejoin the Association for a period of one calendar year.

3.7 SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP SITUATIONS

- 3.7.1 A new public school formed from an existing LHSAA member public school that wishes to remain a member of the LHSAA shall make written application and supply the Executive Director's office with all requested information. The following shall be the process for approval of the school's membership:
 1. The school's application shall be considered at the next regular scheduled summer meeting of the Executive Committee and must receive a majority vote of the Committee to be approved. If approved, the newly formed school's membership shall be effective immediately.
 2. The newly formed school shall compete in the classification of the existing LHSAA School and shall be eligible for postseason play upon acceptance of its membership.
 3. For its membership application to be accepted, the newly formed school must agree in writing to assume any outstanding financial obligations owed by the existing LHSAA member school and to honor any contracts the school may have.
 4. Upon being accepted, the school shall pay dues based on its current year's classification.
 5. The administrators, athletic directors, and head coaches of the school shall be required to complete the online LHSAA Handbook Certification class to fully review and study all eligibility rules and regulations of the Association.
- 3.7.2 The Executive Committee shall have the authority to approve the formation of cooperative athletic teams between two or more public high schools, neither of which shall have a grade configuration containing all four high school grades and one of which shall be a current LHSAA member school, under the following conditions:
 1. The schools are located on the same campus.
 2. The schools shall be limited to students in grades 9-12 only.
 3. The combined enrollment of all schools participating in the cooperative team, calculated in Article 8, Classification, shall be used to determine the cooperative team's classification;
 4. The participating schools shall establish a cooperative membership agreement that shall not exceed three years total.

CONSTITUTION

5. The governing boards of all schools participating in the agreement shall jointly submit an application to the LHSAA Executive Committee for approval of the cooperative membership agreement.
6. The cooperative membership agreement shall include:
 - a. Written approval from the district(s) in which the cooperative team is a member and/or in which the cooperative team will participate or, in the event the cooperative team will not be affiliated with a district, written approval from a minimum of seven schools in the cooperative team's classification.
 - b. A statement signed by all principals of all schools in the cooperative agreement that the name under which the cooperative team will compete shall be the name of the LHSAA member school that is a part of the cooperative team.
 - c. A statement signed by all principals of all schools in the cooperative agreement designating the name of the principal who will be responsible to the Association for all official business, including who will be the voting representative at all LHSAA meetings.
 - d. A statement expressing the reasons for the formation of the cooperative team.
 - e. Written assurance that the cooperative team will not limit participation opportunities for students in any of the cooperating schools.

3.8 DISSOLUTION - Upon the dissolution of the Association, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the parish in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 4: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4.1 The Executive Committee shall serve as the board of directors of the LHSAA.

4.2 COMPOSITION

REPRESENTING	NUMBER	TERM	METHOD OF SELECTION	RESTRICTIONS (Refer To)
LHSAA Classification (5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C) (two per class)	14	2 years	Elected in class meeting during annual meeting on alternating years	4.3.1
LHSAA At-Large (any classification)	2	2 years	Appointed by the Executive Committee on alternating years	4.3.2.1
	1	2 years	Appointed by the Executive Committee on even years	4.3.2.2
LHSAA Non-Public Schools (any classification)	1	2 years	Appointed by the Executive Committee on even years	4.3.2.3
State Department of Education	1	2 years	Appointed by State Superintendent of Education on even years	N/A
State School Boards' Association	1	2 years	Appointed by President of state school boards' Association on even years	N/A
State Superintendents' Association	1	2 years	Appointed by President of the state superintendents' Association on even years	N/A
Louisiana High School Coaches' Association (LHSCA)	2	Not to exceed 2 years	Appointed by LHSCA	4.3.2.4
Louisiana High School Athletic Directors' Association (LHSADA)	1	2 years	Appointed by LHSADA	4.3.2.5
Past President of the LHSAA	1	1 year	Automatic - Past President of LHSAA	N/A
Louisiana High School Officials Association (LHSCOA)	1	2 year	Appointed by the LHSCOA	N/A

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4.3 MEMBERSHIP RESTRICTIONS

- 4.3.1 Must be a member school principal; one member must represent the top half of the districts and one member must represent the bottom half of the districts in each class. In classifications with an uneven number of basic districts, for Executive Committee representation purposes, the upper half of the class shall consist of a minority of the districts and the lower half of the class shall consist of a majority of the districts. This numbering system shall be as follows:

<u># of Districts in a Class</u>	<u># of Districts in Upper Half</u>	<u># of Districts in Lower Half</u>
9	1-4	5-9
11	1-5	6-11
13	1-6	7-13
15	1-7	8-15

4.3.2 **At Large Members:**

1. Must be a member school principal from a minority race; one member must represent the top half of the districts and one member must represent the bottom half of the districts from the class in which he/she serves.
2. Must be a member school principal of the female gender. Shall represent the classification of her school.
3. Must be a member school principal of a non-public school.
4. Must be a member of the LHSCA Executive Council.
5. Must be a member of the LHSADA Executive Committee.

- 4.3.3 Executive Committee members are limited to serving three consecutive full two-year terms. Any individual who has exhausted his/her three consecutive terms on the Executive Committee shall be required to remain off of the Committee for one calendar year from the date his/her third term expires.

- 4.3.4 The unexpired term of any Executive Committee member changing classifications shall be completed for the year by that member, and the Association shall elect a new member at the next annual meeting.

- 4.3.5 In cases of death, resignation, leave of absence, or sabbatical leave as an elected member, an at-large member, or a non-public school member of the Executive Committee, the President shall appoint a member school principal from the appropriate category to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term.

- 4.3.6 Fifty percent of the Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

- 4.3.7 Members of the Executive Committee shall serve without compensation except for reimbursement of expenses incurred while performing necessary duties as a committee member.

- 4.3.8 The LHSAA shall pay the Executive Director's, three Executive Committee members', four Assistant Executive Directors', and when applicable, an additional three LHSAA staff members' expenses to attend the NFHS Annual Summer Convention each year. The rate shall be the IRS allowable rate per mile to and from the airport, airport parking, economy class round-trip airfare, single hotel accommodations, and up to \$50 per day expenses.

- 4.3.9 Executive Committee members shall attend at least two-thirds of the scheduled meetings and specially called meetings each year or be subject to removal.

4.4 POWERS

- 4.4.1 Fill vacancies by appointing officers to serve until the next LHSAA Annual Meeting.

- 4.4.2 Act for the Association on all matters during the interim of its annual meeting and meet as often as it is deemed necessary.

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- 4.4.3** Rule on problems affecting one classification through a sub-committee consisting of Executive Committee members of that class, the Association's President, and, if necessary, additional Committee members representing other classifications appointed by the President, in order to constitute a quorum.
- 4.4.4** Make special rules to affect the spirit of fair play and good sportsmanship. Any rules or changes in the Constitution or Bylaws made by the Executive Committee after the January annual meeting must be submitted to the membership for ratification at the next annual meeting. Only the LHSAA Membership can amend the Constitution as per Article 7.4.2. The actions of the officers and directors of the LHSAA for the calendar year are hereby ratified and adopted.
- 4.4.5** Regulate all financial expenditures. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to collect annual dues as provided in this constitution and levy fees and such other assessments on all schools participating in any sanctioned interscholastic athletics as shall be adequate to meet the total expenses involved in the conduct of such activity and such proportionate share of overhead as deemed necessary. Such dues and assessments shall be considered current funds of the Association and shall be used by the Executive Committee in financing various activities of the Association. The Executive Committee shall determine all necessary expenditures of money in conducting the affairs of the Association.
- 4.4.6** Constitute a board of appeals which may consider complaints or appeals based on a decision(s) of the Executive Director and interpret the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association. When such appeals are heard, it is the Committee's duty to determine whether the Executive Director correctly found the facts; determine whether the Executive Director correctly interpreted the Constitution and/or Bylaws of the Association; and determine whether the Executive Director correctly applied the Constitutional and/or Bylaw provisions to the facts of the case. The standard of review to be applied by the Committee is whether the Executive Director's decision was manifestly erroneous or clearly wrong. Using this standard of review, the Committee may either affirm the decision of the Executive Director or reverse the decision, in whole or in part, and/or remand it to the Executive Director for further action.
1. An appeal must be received, in writing, by the LHSAA within 15 days from the date of the decision being appealed.
 2. Any school requesting an appeal shall receive notice at least 24 hours prior to the appeal being heard by the committee.
 3. No member of the Executive Committee shall serve on the Committee if a case involves his/her school or parish.
 4. The decision of the Executive Committee is final in all appeals except matters pertaining to eligibility.
- 4.4.7** With regard to third party arbitration, the following rules shall apply:
1. The decision of the Executive Committee or Hardship Committee on a ruling regarding eligibility will become final 15 days after the ruling unless, within those 15 days, the school applies for third party arbitration. Only that portion of an Executive or Hardship Committee's decision determining whether a student is eligible, or ineligible may be submitted to a third-party arbitrator.
 2. When a school applies for third party arbitration, the Executive or Hardship Committee's decision will remain in effect until such time as the arbitrator's decision is rendered.
 3. The arbitrator shall be approved by the American Arbitration Association and the parties. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, the parties shall each select their preferred arbitrator, and the two preferred arbitrators shall select a different arbitrator to hear the matter.
 4. Arbitration shall be implemented only after all LHSAA remedies have been exhausted, including appeals to the Executive or Hardship Committee.
 5. The issue that the arbitrator shall decide is whether the Executive or Hardship Committee's decision was arbitrary, capricious, or contrary to substantiated evidence based on the information before the Executive or Hardship Committee at the time of the decision. As a result, the arbitrator shall not consider information that was not before the Executive or Hardship Committee at the time of their decision.
 6. Any decision or issue involving the Executive or Hardship Committee's decision as to a penalty for a school playing an ineligible student is not referable to the third-party arbitrator.

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7. Each party (that is, the school that applies for arbitration and the LHSAA) shall bear the cost of its own representation and other costs for presenting its case to the arbitrator.
8. The school applying for arbitration shall pay the initial fee to the arbitration association. Except as provided in Bylaw 4.4.7(7) above, the losing party shall bear the costs of the arbitration proceeding paid to the arbitration association. A member school seeking arbitration shall be required to deposit \$5,000 with the LHSAA to be held in trust. Should the member school prevail in arbitration, the initial fee and the deposit shall be refunded to the school. Should the LHSAA prevail, the LHSAA shall use the deposited amount to pay the arbitration association and any remaining deposited monies shall be returned to the member school. Should the cost of arbitration exceed \$5000, the school shall be invoiced for the additional cost. The invoice shall be paid within 30 days of the date of the invoice. Failure to pay in a timely manner shall result in the school being placed on restrictive probation and shall not be eligible for championship honors in all sports until the outstanding balance and a ten percent penalty are paid.
9. The arbitrator's decision shall be final and shall be non-appealable to any court.

4.4.8 The provisions of LHSAA's Constitution dealing with third-party arbitration and the provision of any LHSAA Bylaw providing third-party arbitration shall be in effect only while La. R.S. 17:176(F) is the law. Upon repeal of said act, or a court ruling that it is unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, or not applicable to LHSAA and/or its member schools, all provisions of the LHSAA Constitution and Bylaws dealing with third-party arbitration shall cease to be in effect. Any student declared eligible by third-party arbitration while La. R.S. 17:176(F) is law shall be honored and shall not be deemed as participating as an ineligible student-athlete.

4.4.9 Any new position, removal of a position, or change of a title or position of an employee is required to have the approval of the Executive Committee by a simple majority.

4.5 OFFICERS

4.5.1 Elective officers of the Association shall be a President and Vice President and shall be elected annually from the Executive Committee members by the Association at its annual meeting. Officers of the LHSAA shall serve as officers of the Executive Committee.

4.5.2 President: The Association's President shall serve no more than three years and should have served one year on the Executive Committee before holding office. The duties of the President include:

1. Preside over Association meetings and all Executive Committee meetings.
2. Call special meetings of the Association and Executive Committee.
3. Appoint a committee annually from the membership at-large to review the audit at the annual meeting and report its findings to the Association at that time.
4. Shall sign with the Executive Director all expenditure contracts for facility agreements and/or service contracts that exceed a term greater than one year and/or a dollar value that exceeds \$20,000. The contract shall also be reviewed by the LHSAA's legal counsel.

4.5.3 Vice President: The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and act for him/her.

4.5.4 Past President: The Past President shall act as the presiding member when both the President and Vice President are unable to preside at a meeting of the Executive Committee. If he/she is unable to preside at the meeting, the Executive Committee shall appoint a committee member to preside at the meeting.

4.5.5 Secretary-Treasurer: The Executive Director shall serve as the Secretary-Treasurer and shall be bonded. The duties of the Secretary-Treasurer include:

1. Collect and disperse the Association's revenues.
2. Maintain a complete set of accounting records. Accounting records shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America as applicable to non-profit organizations. The records shall be audited by an independent auditing firm employed by the Executive Committee.

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3. The auditing firm shall be selected from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's approved listing of audit firms doing business in Louisiana. The auditing firm shall conduct the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to non-profit organizations.
4. Each year, the Secretary-Treasurer shall forward a copy of the LHSAA audit report as presented by the firm engaged to audit the LHSAA to the Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to its January meeting. The reporting package shall include the independent accountant's report, the financial statements reported on, notes to the financial statements, any supplemental schedules, and any management letter reporting issues related to the internal control structure of the Association and/or compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
5. Make a copy of the audit available to all Association members.
6. Each year after the membership approves the audit at the January meeting, the Executive Director shall provide a copy of the LHSAA's most current audit to all individuals and organizations on its distribution list for information purposes.
7. Sign all LHSAA checks. All LHSAA checks shall be countersigned by one of the Assistant Executive Directors.
8. Employ a business manager to assist in the maintaining of the accounting records.

4.6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to the media and public unless the Committee votes to close the meetings. The Executive Director or his/her assistant shall give appropriate notice of the meetings to the media that have expressed interest in attending LHSAA meetings in a manner in which he/she deems appropriate.

ARTICLE 5: ADMINISTRATION

5.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- 5.1.1 The Executive Committee shall employ an Executive Director with an administrative background and an interest in and knowledge of, high school athletics. He/she may be appointed for a contractual term of four years. He/she shall be responsible to the Executive Committee in the performance of duties delegated to him/her by the Committee.
- 5.1.2 The Executive Director of the LHSAA shall have five years' experience as [an administrator and/or](#) a school principal, ten years' experience as a faculty coach, seven and one-half years' experience as a school faculty coach and principal, or three years' experience as an assistant to the Executive Director.
- 5.1.3 Extension of the contractual agreement between the LHSAA Executive Committee and Executive Director shall be contingent upon a satisfactory yearly performance review conducted by the Executive Director's Evaluation Committee.
- 5.1.4 The duties of the Executive Director include:
 1. Keep proper records and files on matters pertaining to the Association.
 2. Make rulings regarding eligibility whenever requested.
 3. Interpret and enforce the Association's rules, prescribing penalties for infractions of the rules.
 4. Promote a high level of sportsmanship among schools, athletes, and the general public.
 5. Direct and assist with the planning and supervising of district play, state playoff and tournaments.
 6. Serve as advisory officer to the Executive Committee.
 7. Update handbook annually.
 8. Investigate written complaints against member schools and report findings to affected schools.
- 5.1.5 A verbal opinion or statement by the Executive Director or his/her staff is not official. In order to receive an official ruling on any matter, the issue must be presented in writing to the Executive Director.

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5.2 ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(S)

- 5.2.1** The LHSAA Executive Director may employ four Assistant Executive Directors.
- 5.2.2** The Assistant Executive Director(s) may be appointed for a term to coincide with but not to exceed that of the Executive Director's term. Extension of the contractual agreement with the LHSAA shall be based upon a satisfactory yearly performance review conducted by the Executive Director and the results of the performance review shall be reported to and received by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall set the salary of the Assistant Executive Director(s) with the Finance Committee's oversight.
- 5.2.3** Assistant Executive Directors of the LHSAA shall have an administrative background with a minimum of three years' experience as a high school principal and/or administrator, seven years' experience as a high school faculty coach, or five years' experience as a high school principal and high school faculty coach or any combination of above and any applicable experience approved by the Executive Director and Executive Committee.
- 5.2.4** The Executive Director shall define the duties of the Assistant Executive Director(s).

5.3 VACANCIES

- 5.3.1** If a vacancy occurs on the LHSAA administrative staff, a member of the Executive Committee cannot apply for the position without first resigning from the Executive Committee.
- 5.3.2** If a vacancy occurs on the LHSAA administrative staff, the following process will be followed:
1. The LHSAA shall notify all member schools via email and electronically on the LHSAA website and advertise to fill this vacancy for a period of four weeks.
 2. The LHSAA shall compose a cover letter and application form to be used.
 3. If the vacancy being filled is for the position of Executive Director, the President shall appoint a sub-committee from the Executive Committee to review and screen applications. The Executive Committee shall interview the applicants for the Executive Director's position recommended by the screening sub-committee and shall hire an Executive Director after the interview process is completed.

ARTICLE 6: DISTRICT AFFAIRS

- 6.1** The district committee is composed of all principals of the district, one of whom shall serve as chairperson. The Executive Director shall be notified in writing of the name of the chairperson by May 30 of each year. Districts that fail to name a district chairperson by the May 30 deadline shall be notified by the Executive Director or his/her designee that the district shall have 20 days to comply or the Executive Director or his/her designee shall name the school principal who shall serve as the district chairperson.

6.2 DUTIES AND RESTRICTIONS

- 6.2.1** Led by its chairperson, the district committee shall conduct all district business.
- 6.2.2** Meetings to schedule district games in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball shall be given in writing by the chairperson to all members of the District Committee at least ten days prior to the meeting. Member schools shall declare in writing at the scheduling meeting their intentions to compete for district honors. Teams participating for district honors also agree to abide by all legally adopted district bylaws, rules, schedules, and minutes. This written declaration must be received by the LHSAA in order for schools to be eligible for consideration on the playoff brackets.
- 6.2.3** District bylaws, rules, schedules, and minutes are binding when adopted and signed by a majority of the member principals of a district. District bylaws and rules may not supersede LHSAA rules. The district chairperson is responsible for providing each member school within the district a copy of the bylaws, rules, minutes, and schedules. The chairperson shall maintain district files containing copies of all legally adopted bylaws, rules, minutes, and schedules.
- 6.2.4** District committees do not have the power to establish financial agreements between district member schools. All financial agreements between district member schools, other than admission prices, should be determined by the two schools involved after the district has established a schedule.

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- 6.2.5** Each district in basketball, baseball, soccer, softball, and volleyball shall determine the method used to select its automatic qualifying teams.
- 6.2.6** District chairpersons shall report the automatic qualifiers in their respective districts to the LHSAA Assistant Executive Director of the respective sport by the deadline(s) established in the “Important Dates” section of each sport.
- 6.2.7** The district committee is empowered to certify the automatic qualifying teams in all sports to represent the district or may name a three-member certification committee to certify these teams. Failure of the district committee or the certification committee to name automatic qualifying teams in a district by the given date (as established for each classification) shall void the representative of that district. If the automatic qualifying teams elect not to play, the district committee or the certification committee may select the next team in line, or select teams in order of district standings, until one is found to represent that district in the playoffs.
- 6.2.8** Teams certified by the district shall notify the LHSAA by the established deadline for the naming of the representatives. If a school has automatically qualified from a district for postseason play and fails to report this information to the LHSAA within the deadline for reporting district qualifiers for postseason play in that sport, it shall be assessed a \$100 fine. The school shall be in compliance with this rule if its place in the district is reported by the district chairperson.
- 6.2.9** If a school must drop a sport, its scheduled games become null and void if the season has not started and none of its games shall count for or against any team for postseason play. If the team drops the sport after the season starts, all results up to the point of dropping remain as wins and/or losses and are included in power rankings. The remaining scheduled contests shall be counted as forfeitures unless a school requests, in writing, to remove that game from their playing schedule to schedule another contest.
- 6.2.10** Failure of a district member to play a scheduled district game, in any sport, shall be considered a forfeit subject to approval of the district committee. Before a district game forfeit can become official, it shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the district’s principals. All principals in the district shall be afforded an opportunity to participate in this decision. In order for a district contest to be forfeited, (in cases in which the officials do not declare the contest a forfeit), the district chairperson shall poll the principals of all the district schools. If a simple majority votes for the contest to be a forfeit, then the contest shall stand as a forfeit. If a simple majority votes that the contest shall not be a forfeit, then the contest shall be rescheduled and played or declared a nocontest.
- 6.3** **APPEAL OF DISTRICT COMMITTEE’S DECISION**
- 6.3.1** Any school may appeal a district committee’s decision to the Executive Director and/or the Executive Committee. The deadline for such appeals shall be at the time designated under the wildcard selection rule of each sport. In appeals involving a possible violation of Association rules and regulations by a school that has been certified as an automatic qualifying team, the deadline shall not apply.
- 6.3.2** In compiling a state playoff bracket in a sport, if a school plays an ineligible student and the violation is reported more than ten days before the final regular season playing date, the Executive Director may take the following action:
1. Rule a forfeit for each contest in which the ineligible student participated.
 2. Notify the district chairperson of the forfeits in order for him/her to determine if necessary adjustments must be made in certifying the state playoff qualifying teams from the district if the forfeits involve district contests.
 3. After being notified by the district chairperson, make the necessary adjustments in placing teams from the district on the bracket in that classification.
- 6.3.3** In compiling a state playoff bracket in a sport, if a school plays an ineligible student and the violation is reported after the final regular season playing date and before the first playoff game, the Executive Director may take the following action:
1. Rule a forfeit for each contest in which the ineligible student participated.
 2. If district forfeits result in the team failing to qualify for the playoffs in the place that it won after district play, remove the team from the state playoffs and do not replace the team on the bracket.
 3. Rule a “bye” in the position that the team occupied on the bracket.
 4. Charge the team that was scheduled to play the forfeiting team in the first playoff round with a “home game” if the team was scheduled to play at home or with an “away game” if the team was scheduled to travel.

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ARTICLE 7: BUSINESS MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

7.1 GENERAL

- 7.1.1 LHSAA meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the Executive Committee.
- 7.1.2 Special meetings may be called by the Association's President ~~and~~ or must be called within 60 calendar days upon the written request of at least 50 percent of the member schools. If at least 50 percent of the membership has not supported, in writing, the initial request officially submitted to the LHSAA to call a special meeting, the request will be declared null and void.
- 7.1.3 Each member school principal shall represent his/her school at LHSAA meetings. Voting at the annual meeting is restricted to high school principals. An approved emergency may include, but is not limited to, death, illness, medical and/or health-related issues in the immediate family (proof may be required) and unavoidable extenuating circumstances (full explanation shall be required). School-related business and travel to other professional organizational meetings shall not qualify as an approved emergency. In the absence of the principal due to an emergency that has been approved by the Executive Committee, the principal may appoint a voting designee. The designee shall be an assistant principal who meets the requirements of a full-time administrator as listed in Section 3, Bylaw 3.3.1 or the school's designated athletic director who meets the requirements in Bylaw 3.3.1.3 and 3.3.1.4 and meet the following additional criteria:
1. Be a current, registered member of the LHSADA.
 2. Have a minimum of five years high school coaching and/or athletic director experience.
 3. Be in compliance with Bylaw 3.1.5, LHSAA Handbook Certification, including renewal.
- In addition to these requirements, it is strongly recommended that every athletic director attend the LHSADA annual conference and work toward completion of the national certification through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association (NIAAA).
- 7.1.4 A school that does not participate in a sport shall not have voting rights on legislation dealing with that sport.
- 7.1.5 A school shall have voting rights on legislation regarding playoffs only in which it competes – select or non-select.
- 7.1.6 To receive approval of a voting designee, the principal shall submit a Request for Approval by the Executive Committee found on the LHSAA website to the LHSAA at least 24 hours prior to the annual business meeting. If approved, credentials shall be assigned and presented before entering the voting area. Voting representatives shall be given identification for fulfilling the duties of member schools.
- 7.1.7 In order to conduct official business in a class meeting, a quorum of at least 25 percent of the principals of that classification shall be present at the meeting.
- 7.1.8 In order to conduct official business in a general business meeting of the Association, a quorum of at least 25 percent of the member principals must be present at the meeting.

7.2 ANNUAL MEETING

- 7.2.1 The LHSAA Annual Meeting shall be scheduled in January of each year.
- 7.2.2 A member school principal may submit written proposals to the LHSAA for consideration at his/her class meeting or the general business session of the annual meeting no later than August 31 each school year. Only proposals timely submitted shall be presented at class meetings or at the general business session of the annual meeting. The principal proposing a rule change must appear before the Handbook Committee to present his/her proposal prior to the Winter Executive Committee meeting date or the proposal will not be considered for vote at the annual meeting. No amendments to the Constitution can be proposed from the floor at the annual meeting. Prior to any author-principal appearing before the Handbook Committee, the LHSAA shall release to membership, or post to the LHSAA website, a copy of all proposals submitted.
1. If a member principal writes a proposal to be voted on by the member principals in January and that proposal is deemed unconstitutional or any other reason given that would prohibit the proposal from being added to the Annual meeting agenda, the handbook committee must/shall give an explanation to the principal in writing, why the proposal was deemed unconstitutional. The Handbook Committee shall give guidance to the principal so the proposal will be deemed constitutional. This would allow member principals to submit proposals where the member principals could vote to approve or disapprove the proposal.

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- 7.2.3 In order for a motion to be considered, the principal proposing a rule change shall be present to represent his/her motion, otherwise it shall be tabled until the next annual meeting.
- 7.2.4 The Executive Director and Executive Committee shall meet after August 31 each school year and arrange the agenda for each class meeting and the general business session, adding to the agenda any proposals of the Executive Director or the Committee.
- 7.2.5 The LHSAA shall make available a copy of the annual meeting agenda to each member school at least 15 days prior to the date of the annual meeting.
- 7.2.6 All proposals passed at the annual meeting become effective July 1.
- 7.2.7 The Executive Committee shall decide if matters concern one class, one division, and one sport, select or non-select sports, or the entire Association. This determination shall be made for each rule proposal prior to the annual meeting.
- 7.2.8 Classifications shall hold individual class meetings during the annual meeting. Any matter pertaining to one classification shall be addressed in its class meeting preceding the general business session. Class meeting reports shall be submitted by the chairperson of each classification.
- 7.2.9 Matters pertaining to the Association as a whole shall be voted on by members present at the general business session.
- 7.2.10 A school changing its class as a result of reclassification shall be allowed to participate and vote in its new classification at the annual meeting in a reclassification school year.

7.3 **Robert's Rules of Order, Revised**

- 7.3.1 Shall be used as the authority on questions of procedure not specifically stated in the LHSAA Constitution and Bylaws.

7.4 **Procedures to Amend**

- 7.4.1 To amend the Constitution, it shall take a two-thirds vote of the members of the membership who are present and vote at the Annual Meeting, at which a quorum is present.
- 7.4.2 To amend the Bylaws, it shall require passage by a majority of the members who are present and vote at the annual meeting, at which a quorum is present.
- 7.4.3 Any regular or special meeting of the LHSAA shall be open to the press and public unless the Executive Committee votes to close the meeting to the press and public. However, all principals of LHSAA member schools shall be entitled to attend any regular or special meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE 8: CLASSIFICATION

8.1 **PURPOSE**

- 8.1.1 Membership classification shall be applied for administration and competition purposes. A school may not participate in a classification below that mandated by its enrollment. Enrollment is based on the Louisiana Department of Education's October 1st enrollment numbers.
- 8.1.2 The official titles of the LHSAA classifications shall be Class 5A, Class 4A, Class 3A, Class 2A, Class 1A, Class B, and Class C.

8.2 **CHANGES**

- 8.2.1 Classification and districting shall be changed in odd years to become effective in even years. *Note: The [2025-2026](#) school year is a classification and districting year.*
- 8.2.2 Changes in classification and districting shall be made at regular two-year intervals.

8.3 **ENROLLMENT CALCULATION**

- 8.3.1 In a classification year, a school's classification shall be based on its October 1 total enrollment in grades 9-12 of the current school year as reported to the LDE. Schools shall enter their October 1 enrollment figures as submitted to the LDE on the LHSAA Members' Only website. School enrollments reported on the LHSAA Members' Only website shall be considered official for classification purposes.

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- 8.3.2** A school's classification enrollment shall include all students in grades 9-10-11-12. Each student shall be counted as one (1) regardless of the percentage of hours enrolled.
- 8.3.3** A student enrolled in a special program approved by the local educational authority that may be assigned to another school for all or a portion of the day shall be counted at the school where the student's permanent records are on file. A member school may petition the Executive Committee for special consideration for a reduction in enrollment numbers when that school has a unique situation that could affect the enrollment numbers enough to impact classifications. In order for the petition to be considered, the member school shall submit a written request to the LHSAA by 9:00 a.m. on the day before the first classification meeting in a classification year. The member school principal shall be in attendance and prepared to address the Executive Committee on the day of the first classification meeting.
- 8.3.4** For schools with less than four (4) grades, the enrollment figure shall be increased by 1.40 for each grade that does not exist at the school.
- 8.3.5** Figures shall be doubled for all-boy or all-girl schools. However, the 7th and 8th grade students added to the classification enrollment numbers under the note of Bylaw 1.22.1(3) shall not be included in the figure that is doubled.
- 8.3.6** Schools that report inaccurate and/or false enrollment information shall be penalized under the provisions of Bylaw 5.11.13.
- 8.4** **UNCLASSIFIED SCHOOLS** - A school that has been declared an unclassified school because it failed to meet classification requirements shall:
1. Be allowed to remain a member of the LHSAA.
 2. Be required to pay membership dues for the classification in which its enrollment causes it to be placed.
 3. Not be placed in a district in any sport.
 4. Be ineligible for postseason play in all sports.
 5. Comply with LHSAA constitutional articles and bylaws.
 6. Be allowed to participate in the legislative processes of the Association, excluding the classification meetings held in conjunction with the annual meeting.
 7. Be allowed to return to classified status the next classification year if it adheres to all of the classification requirements that accompany the classification process.
- 8.5** **ENROLLMENT CORRECTIONS** - No requests for corrections shall be accepted by the Executive Committee once the LDE has certified the enrollment numbers and the numbers have been received by the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- 8.6** **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CLASSIFICATION RESPONSIBILITIES**
- 8.6.1** The Executive Director and his/her staff shall meet in even years to classify and district schools.
- 8.6.2** The Executive Director's duties include the following:
1. Conduct meetings to classify and district schools.
 2. Verify the classification enrollments of all schools.
 3. Divide classifications.
 4. Place schools in proper classifications.
 5. Schedule classification meetings after noon on the day of the first meeting.
 6. Adopt a final plan for the division of schools, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.
 7. Consider schools' requests to compete in certain districts (baseball, basketball, football, outdoor track and field, softball, and volleyball).
 8. Place schools in districts in baseball, basketball, football, outdoor track and field, softball, and volleyball subject to approval of the Executive Committee.
 9. Number districts within classifications, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.
 10. Adopt a final plan for the districting of schools, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.
 11. Adopt a final classification plan, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

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8.7 CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

8.7.1 Once classified, a school may choose to compete for postseason play in any classification higher than that based on its October 1 enrollment certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3-Enrollment Calculation. If a school chooses to compete for postseason play in any higher classification, it must do so in all sports. The declaration shall apply for the two-year classification intervals. The school shall make a written request to play in a higher classification no later than 48 hours prior to the 1st meeting.

8.7.2 Divisions involving two or more classifications may be created by the Executive Committee to provide competition in certain sports. The Executive Committee shall place schools in districts on an annual basis, if necessary.

8.7.3 Schools that compete in football shall be classified every two years according to the one-fifth principle for each class. Non-football schools, below the lowest Class 2A School, shall be classified according to the one-half principle.

8.7.4 Schools Competing in Football:

1. Football schools shall be divided into five equal or nearly equal classes.
2. Counting to achieve equal fifths shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest football school enrollment.
3. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a classification shall play in the lower classification.
4. In a classification year a school which was a non-football school the preceding year but desires to participate in varsity football the coming season shall notify the Executive Director in writing by October 15 of that school year.
5. If a school fails to timely declare to participate in the sport of varsity football, it shall not be allowed to participate in the sport of football at any level for the first year and at the varsity level during the second year of the new classification school years. The school shall not be considered a football school for classification purposes.
6. A school officially declaring in writing to field a varsity football team for the first time shall be required to post a \$10,000 bond with the LHSAA prior to being classified a football school. The bond shall remain in effect for the first two years that the school fields a varsity football team and shall be distributed to schools with signed contracts, should the school cancel the scheduled varsity game(s) for any reason. The Executive Director shall determine how the bond money will be distributed to the school(s) affected by the cancellation of a scheduled game.

8.7.5 Non-Football Schools below Class 2A:

1. Classes B and C co-ed schools shall be divided into two equal or nearly equal classes. Afterwards, Classes B and C all-girl schools shall be placed in the appropriate classes according to their enrollments.
2. Counting co-ed schools with enrollments that are lower than the lowest Class 2A school shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest non-football school enrollment.
3. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a classification shall play in the lower classification.

8.7.6 Non-Football (includes all-girl) Schools above Class 1A: Non-football schools (including all-girl schools) with higher enrollments than the largest Class 1A school shall be classified according to their enrollments after football schools have been divided.

8.8 CLASSIFICATION MEETINGS

8.8.1 All classification meetings shall be open to the press and public unless the Executive Committee votes to close the meeting. All classification meetings shall be at all times open to the principals, athletic directors and coaches of all member schools. A total of three meetings may be held to classify and district schools. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to modify the classification meetings if deemed necessary.

8.8.2 First Meeting:

1. The Executive Director shall set a date, time, and place after the first Monday in November.
2. Schools' enrollments shall be verified, and classes and divisions shall be divided according to the LHSAA Constitution.
3. A committee appointed by the President of the Executive Committee shall be present at this meeting to verify the division of schools, place schools that opt to play up in classification and/or division in the proper classification and/or division and hear appeals on classification matters.
4. Final submission of all school enrollment numbers shall be October 15th.

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8.8.3 Second Meeting:

1. After the first meeting, the Executive Director and their staff shall send out a proposed districting plan to member schools.
2. The Executive Director shall set a date, time, and place for the second meeting to occur approximately two weeks after the first meeting.
3. School principals shall be allowed to attend the meeting and address the Executive Director and his/her staff to voice their approval of the plan or appeal the placement of their school in the second proposed plan.
4. After hearing oral presentations and/or reviewing written responses/recommendations to the proposed plan, the Executive Director, his/her staff, and the classification committee members shall evaluate and revise the districting plan, if necessary and feasible.
5. After the second meeting, the Executive Director and his/her staff shall send out a proposed districting plan to member schools. The plan that is sent to the schools at this time will be the final plan that will be submitted to the Executive Committee at the third meeting.

8.8.4 Third Meeting:

1. The Executive Director shall set the date, time, and place to occur approximately two weeks after the second meeting, if necessary.
2. At the third meeting, a principal shall have an opportunity to appeal the placement of his/her school in the districting plan to the Executive Committee if that principal has submitted a written request to appear before the Executive Committee. The written request shall be received and processed by the Executive Director's office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date.
3. Once everyone is given the opportunity to be heard, the Executive Committee shall possess the authority to certify the entire districting plan. However, at no point in the classification process may a new districting plan be voted on and passed by the Executive Committee without the proposed districting plan being sent out to member schools before the third meeting.

8.8.5 FINAL PLAN - Upon final approval by the Executive Committee of the division and districting of schools, the plan shall become final and the Executive Committee shall not meet again to address districting matters unless two-thirds of the Committee members make written requests to meet again. Unless it is placed on the agenda of the annual meeting by the Executive Committee, the classification plan shall not require either ratification or rejection by the Association's membership. If a vote on the classification and districting plan is required, the plan shall be presented to the membership at the next LHSAA annual meeting.

8.9 CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS

- 8.9.1** School consolidation occurs when two or more member schools merge to form one school.
- 8.9.2** If two or more schools consolidate and one school is an LHSAA member in good standing, the newly formed school, upon payment of dues, shall become a member and be eligible for postseason play.
- 8.9.3** If a school(s) in a lower classification(s) consolidates with a school(s) in a higher classification, the consolidated school shall compete in all LHSAA sports in the classification of the highest classified school at the time of the consolidation. The consolidated school shall fulfill all schedules and contracts of the school in the highest classification in all sports. When the consolidated school begins official operations as one school, all schedules, and contracts of the school(s) in the lower classification(s) shall become null and void in all sports.
- 8.9.4** If two or more non-football schools are consolidated before the beginning of a school year and their enrollment causes them to be placed in a higher classification, they shall be moved to that classification and placed in a district immediately.
- 8.9.5** If schools consolidate during a sports season and the consolidation is not addressed in the Constitution, the Executive Committee shall have full power to allow the schools involved to complete the schedule(s) of the school(s) before the consolidation.

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8.10 CREATION OF NEW SCHOOLS

8.10.1 When a school system creates a new high school that affects the enrollment of students from an existing LHSAA school(s), the classification status of the LHSAA school(s) shall be addressed as follows:

1. If a new school is officially created by a school system after the school classification and districting plan has been finalized by the Executive Committee, the enrollment of the LHSAA school shall be the same as reported to the LHSAA on its official LHSAA Classification Enrollment Form for the classification year.
2. If a new school is officially created by a school system and the new school is scheduled to open the same school year or the next school year before the school classification and districting plan has been finalized by the Executive Committee, the Committee shall:
 - a. Allow the LHSAA school(s) to subtract the exact number of students in grades 9-12 that will attend the new school(s) from its classification enrollment as reported to the LHSAA on the LHSAA Classification Enrollment Form.
 - b. Place the LHSAA school(s) using its adjusted enrollment in the proper classification(s) without changing classification divisions in adherence to the one-fifth or one-half principle.
 - c. Prior to the school classification and districting plan being finalized by the Executive Committee, require the LHSAA school(s) to present a signed statement by the school system superintendent verifying the exact number of students, grades 9-12, that will be taken from the respective LHSAA school(s) and assigned to the new school.
 - d. Require the LHSAA school(s) principal(s) to appear before the Executive Committee at one of the classification meetings to request the Executive Committee accept its adjusted enrollment.
 - e. Require the LHSAA school(s) to be represented by the school system superintendent or assistant superintendent when it appears before the Executive Committee to have the Committee accept its adjusted classification enrollment.
 - f. Possess the authority to refuse to accept the LHSAA school's adjusted enrollment if it does not adhere to the applicable rules contained in this article.

ARTICLE 9: FINANCES

9.1 FINANCING METHODS

9.1.1 **Membership dues** (applies to all schools)

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>DUES</u>
5A	\$1050
4A	\$900
3A	\$750
2A	\$600
1A	\$450
B	\$375
C	\$300

9.1.2 **Football Playoff Games** (bi-district through semifinals): ten percent of gross ticket receipts before payment of officials' fees and other deductions to be paid within 30 calendar days of the event.

9.1.3 **Basketball Playoffs** (bi-district through quarterfinals): five percent of gross ticket receipts before payment of officials' fees and other deductions to be paid within 30 calendar days of the event.

9.1.4 **Soccer Playoffs** (bi-district through semi-finals): five percent of gross ticket receipts before payment of officials' fees and other deductions to be paid within 30 calendar days of the event.

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9.1.5 Entry Fees for Other State Championship Events (Fees are payable by school check to the LHSAA)

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>PAID</u>
Bowling	\$40 per team	State Playoffs
Cross Country	\$10 per person	State Meet
Golf (Boys)	\$10 per person	Regional Tournament
Golf (Girls)	\$10 per person	Regional Tournament
Gymnastics	\$15 per person	State Meet
Swimming	\$15 per person	State Meet
Tennis	\$15 per person	Regional Meet
Wrestling	\$15 per person	State Tournament

9.2 OTHER FINANCES

9.2.1 Building Dues: A new school joining the Association shall be required to pay \$1,500 in building dues. Building dues are due September 1 and are delinquent after November 1. Schools failing to pay building fund dues by this date shall pay a ten percent penalty. *A school may pay its dues in one payment or annually over a three-year period.

9.2.2 LHSAA/LHSCA Pass Processing Fee: \$5.00 per card fee shall be assessed each school for each LHSAA/LHSCA card issued.

9.2.3 Insurance: The Association requires that students who participate in interscholastic athletic competition be adequately insured for all accidents, including lifetime catastrophic medical insurance, injuries, and emergencies and that medical aid is immediately available at all contests.

ARTICLE 10: PLAYING RULES FOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

10.1 Unless otherwise adopted, the rules governing the various high school sports, as published by the NFHS, shall be the rules governing high school athletics in Louisiana. These rules are known as the National Alliance Rules.

10.2 The following contest rules have been adopted by the membership for sports competition in the LHSAA: SPORT CONTEST RULES

Baseball	NFHS Baseball Rules
Basketball (Boys & Girls)	NFHS Basketball Rules
Bowling (Boys & Girls)	United States Bowling Congress Rules
Cross Country (Boys & Girls)	NFHS Cross Country Rules
Football	NFHS Football Rules
Golf (Boys & Girls)	United States Golf Association (USGA) Rules
Gymnastics (Boys & Girls)	United States of America Gymnastics (USAG) Rules
Powerlifting (Boys & Girls)	Technical Rules of the La. High School Powerlifting
Association Soccer (Boys & Girls)	NFHS Soccer Rules
Softball (Girls)	NFHS Fast-Pitch Softball Rules
Swimming (Boys & Girls)	NFHS Swimming Rules
Tennis (Boys & Girls)	United States Tennis Association (USTA)
Rules Track & Field (Boys & Girls) - Indoor/Outdoor	NFHS Track & Field Rules
Volleyball (Girls)	NFHS Volleyball Rules
Wrestling	NFHS Wrestling Rules

10.3 WAIVER OF RULES

10.3.1 School representatives shall not, even by mutual agreement, waive and/or modify any part of the contest rules adopted or specified in this article or any applicable LHSAA constitutional articles or bylaws.

10.3.2 Contest officials shall not waive or modify any part of the contest rules adopted by the LHSAA nor any LHSAA constitutional articles or bylaws.

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ARTICLE 11: RESPONSIBILITY

- 11.1** The superintendent, principal, coach or other designated representative of a school or school district shall be responsible for the following:
1. The conduct of those associated with his/her school at both home and away athletic events/activities.
 2. The courteous treatment of visitors to their school during a game or contest.
- 11.2** The school shall be held responsible for any acts of violence instigated by school officials, students, or partisan fans.
- 11.3** The school administration has the responsibility to educate student-athletes, coaches and other appropriate persons regarding Association regulations that could affect them and shall monitor compliance with such regulations. Lack of knowledge of any Association bylaw or article on the part of the school, the student and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall not be considered sufficient cause for setting aside a rule.
- 11.4** An annual security plan shall be kept on file with the school prior to the first athletic event and must be adhered to at all events.

PHILOSOPHY: Eligibility is the privilege of participating in interscholastic athletics attained by complying with all minimum standards established for student-athletes that are cooperatively determined by member schools through the LHSAA Bylaws. A student-athlete's participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right that is obtained by adhering to the uniform minimum standards adopted by the membership. Uniform standards are limitations governing eligibility that are a necessary prerequisite in interscholastic athletics because they protect the integrity of the interscholastic program; they protect the opportunity of qualified student-athletes to participate; they help to ensure competitive equity among member schools; they encourage academic achievement by student-athletes; and they promote the health and well-being of the student-athlete.

- 1.1 **APPLICATION OF RULES** - All eligibility rules shall apply to all students participating in interscholastic athletic competition in all sports at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, or freshman teams). An ineligible student shall not dress out in uniform; however, with the principal's permission, he/she may sit on the team's bench during any interscholastic athletic contest (game or scrimmage).
- 1.2 **OFFICIAL RULING REQUEST** - If a student's eligibility is in question, a principal may ask the Executive Director for an official ruling on the player's eligibility. All required information must be provided by the school for all fall sports potential participants during weeks 5 through 11 of the NFHS calendar; for all winter sports potential participants during weeks 16 through 22 of the NFHS calendar and for all spring sports potential participants during weeks 27 through 33 of the NFHS calendar, which at the time of the request and shall be true and accurate for a ruling request is submitted to be processed. A principal may ask for an eligibility ruling on a player from his/her own school or from another school one time during a school year, per student. Official eligibility ruling requests shall be made on the LHSAA Members Only website. Only written rulings or rulings issued through an automated email from the LHSAA Members' Only website are official. Verbal rulings or opinions are not official. Once a principal officially requests an eligibility ruling or a bona fide change of residence investigation on a student from his/her school, the student shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation at all levels of play in all LHSAA sports until an official ruling has been issued by the Executive Director. If a request for an eligibility ruling is made beyond the aforementioned eligibility ruling window, and time does not permit its consideration before a game, the games he/she played in shall be forfeited to the opposing team and other penalties shall be imposed on the offending team. If upon sufficient evidence it appears that a player is ineligible, the Executive Director shall ban the player from further competition until he/she may become eligible. The games he/she played in shall be forfeited to the opposing team and other penalties may be imposed on the offending team.

Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions Start and End Dates

	ERR Submission Begins	ERR Submission Ends
Fall Sports (Volleyball, Cross Country, Swimming, Football)	Monday, August 5, 2024 NFHS Calendar Week 5	Saturday, September 21, 2024 NFHS Calendar Week 11
Winter Sports (Wrestling, Soccer, Indoor Track, Girls' and Boys' Basketball, Powerlifting)	Monday, October 21, 2024 NFHS Calendar Week 16	Saturday, December 7, 2024 NFHS Calendar Week 22
Springs Sports (Bowling, Gymnastics, Tennis, Softball, Golf, Outdoor Track, Baseball)	Monday, January 13, 2025 NFHS Calendar Week 28	Saturday, March 1, 2025 NFHS Calendar Week 34

- 1.2.1 If a school is dissatisfied with an eligibility ruling made by the Executive Director, the principal may appeal the decision to the Executive Committee. The appeal should be submitted in writing within 15 calendar days of the ruling. While the Executive Director's ruling of ineligibility on a student is appealed to the Executive Committee, the student on whose eligibility on appeal is pending shall not participate in any athletic contests until his/her case is ruled on by the Committee. The Committee ruling is final unless a school applies for third-party arbitration in compliance with Rule 4.4.7 of the Constitution. When a school applies for third-party arbitration, the Executive Committee's decision will remain in effect until such time as the arbitrator's decision is rendered.
- 1.2.2 The arbitration procedure is set forth in Bylaw 4.4.7 of the Constitution.

- 1.3 BONA FIDE STUDENT AND ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS** - A student-athlete shall be a bona fide student of his/her school. He/she shall be enrolled in and attending an LHSAA school on a regular basis and taking the required number of subjects which shall be recorded on the student's official transcript unless the student is a special education student who is not pursuing a high school diploma or a student in the 8th grade or below. A student shall not be a graduate of a high school or secondary school or the recipient of an equivalency diploma. If a student has not enrolled in and attended a school in the first 11 days of the school semester at any school, he/she is ineligible to participate in the first 30 days of his/her attendance in that semester. A student in a home bound program shall not be considered a bona fide student of an LHSAA member school unless he/she is enrolled in the member school and his/her grades are transferred and recorded on the student's official school transcript.
- 1.3.1** The LHSAA has jurisdiction over member schools consisting of grades 9-12. Schools having fewer than four high school grades (9, 10, 11, and 12) may use students above the 8th grade level from any junior high school in the same school attendance zone. The principal of the senior high school is responsible for verifying that these students meet all eligibility rules. A high school with first-year 9th grade students shall be considered a four-grade high school. The LHSAA shall recognize the grade configuration a member school submits to the Association on its LHSAA Membership Renewal form submitted annually by the school. The grade configuration submitted shall be consistent and shall coincide with the grade configuration reported on all forms submitted annually to the LDE. If a member school reports to the LHSAA that it does not contain a 9th grade or below in its grade configuration, for interscholastic athletic purposes, the principal of grades 10-12 shall not have interscholastic athletic jurisdiction over any grades below the 10th grade. If an LHSAA school does not contain a 9th grade, in order for eligible 9th grade students to participate on any of its LHSAA teams, the 9th grade shall be under the jurisdiction of an individual who is not an assistant principal or faculty member of the LHSAA school and not the LHSAA principal. If the school has on file a written statement signed by one or both parents that the above rule has been read and explained to them, a student from a junior high school above the 8th grade choosing to participate in athletics at a senior high school shall not, after participating in any interscholastic contest with that school, transfer to another senior high school in that attendance zone and be eligible for athletics until he/she has been enrolled there for one calendar year.
- 1.4 LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY** - Upon entering the 9th grade, a student shall be eligible for competition on high school athletic teams only during the ensuing eight consecutive semesters or terms of 90 days unless Section 1.22 of the Bylaws applies. The Louisiana cumulative record shall suffice as evidence of the date of entry into the T9/9th grade. Proof of entry into the T9/9th grade shall be available to the LHSAA within 24 hours, if requested.
- 1.5 REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF STUDENTS**
- 1.5.1** No student shall be eligible for interscholastic competition until his/her name with all required information has been submitted online to the LHSAA each school year. Prior to the first interscholastic contest (scrimmage, jamboree, or regular season game) of each sport each year, each student shall be properly and completely registered and submitted on the LHSAA Members' Only website before the student is allowed to participate. Proper and complete registration of each student shall include the correct date of birth and last four digits of the student's social security number or the Louisiana Student Secure ID, once registered with the LHSAA, a unique LHSAA code will be assigned. Only the school principal, using his/her assigned username and password, can submit students for eligibility. At the time a student is submitted online, the school must have a completed eligibility folder on the student as outlined below.
- Students must be registered and submitted before participation in a scrimmage, jamboree, or regular season contest, whichever occurs first. After a student is registered and submitted for the initial sport, he/she participates in, the student must be added and resubmitted to the roster of each additional sport he/she participates in during the school year. A student shall meet all eligibility requirements in all sports at all levels of competition to participate in scrimmages, jamborees, and contests throughout the year. Eligibility rosters in all sports do not have to be exchanged between schools unless the exchange requirement is adopted by the district. It shall be the school's responsibility to verify and certify that each student is eligible under all LHSAA's eligibility rules. Email verification from the Executive Director's office that a school's online student eligibility has been received and registered does not assure that the student(s) registered online is eligible under all LHSAA rules.

- 1.5.2** Schools shall maintain an individual folder or electronic file on each student-athlete in a centrally located place in the school to be determined by the principal. A school failing to adhere to all required rules and/or failing to have all required eligibility forms properly completed, signed, and maintained in the school's files shall be subject to the penalty. Each folder shall contain the following required eligibility documents:
1. Legal proof of birth as required (Bylaw 1.6)
 2. Completed and properly signed LHSAA Medical History Form (Bylaw 1.7)
 3. Current Medical Examination Form (Bylaw 1.7)
 4. Completed and properly signed LHSAA Interscholastic Athletic Participation Form (Bylaw 1.8)
 5. Completed and properly signed LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract (Bylaw 1.9)
 6. Official copy of grades (final grades from previous school year for first semester or mid-term grade for second semester) (Bylaw 1.10)
 7. An official copy of the student's transcript (Bylaw 1.10)
- 1.6** **AGE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS** - A student becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation if he/she has reached his/her 19th birthday before August 1 of that school year. If he/she becomes 19 on or after August 1, he/she is eligible for the remainder of the school year, if he/she meets all other eligibility rules. The principal shall have on file at all times sufficient evidence of the legal birth of each student-athlete and evidence of the student's entry into the 9th grade. Proof of birth shall be available to the LHSAA within 24 hours, if requested. Evidence of legal birth date shall be established by one of the following:
1. A legal copy of a birth certificate.
 2. An official record of birth from the Bureau of Vital Statistics.
 3. An official notification of birth issued by the state, parish or county health unit.
 4. An official passport.
 5. A hospital certificate signed by a physician and/or the hospital administrator.
 6. Legal adoption papers issued by a court.
 7. Official records verifying proof of birth issued by the Department of Welfare.
 8. Official immigration and naturalization papers issued by the United States Department of Immigration and Naturalization.
- 1.6.1** Any birth certificate issued within one year of birth shall be accepted as final proof of age of a student. If a protest or question arises as to the age of the student, a delayed birth certificate based on information filed with the Bureau of Vital Statistics more than one year subsequent to the date of birth will not be accepted as final proof of the correct date of birth. The eldest age given on any eligibility list, or the eldest age shown by school records, may be used as a basis of eligibility until proof otherwise is submitted and accepted by the Executive Director or the Executive Committee.
- 1.6.2** The penalties for failure to have proof of age in the school files as required in Bylaw 1.6 shall be as follows:
1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each legal proof of age document not on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
 2. A student in violation of this rule shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until the required proof of age is provided to the LHSAA. A school shall have 24 hours to provide legal proof of age to the LHSAA.
 3. If legal proof of age cannot be provided within the 24-hour time period, the student shall have participated as an ineligible student and the school shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.11.3.
 4. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
 5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

- 1.7 MEDICAL HISTORY EVALUATION AND EXAMINATION** - To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, all students shall have his/her parent(s)/guardian properly complete and sign an LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form and pass a medical examination administered by a licensed physician, a licensed nurse practitioner in collaboration with a licensed physician, and/or a licensed physician's assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician prior to the first time he/she practices or participates in a sport at an LHSAA school. A copy of a current, properly completed and signed medical history and medical examination form shall be on file at a school for every student-athlete at all times.
- 1.7.1** Once a student passes the initial medical examination and completes an LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form as required in Bylaw 1.7, he/she shall annually pass a medical screening or medical examination administered by a licensed physician, a licensed nurse practitioner that is in collaboration with a licensed physician, and/or a licensed physician's assistant under the supervision of a licensed physician and shall update the LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form. The Medical History Evaluation form is valid for 13 months from the date in which it is performed.
- 1.7.2** The penalties for failure to have the required LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form(s) for all students completed, properly signed, and maintained in the school files are:
1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each LHSAA Medical History Evaluation Form not completed, properly signed, and on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
 2. A student in violation of this rule shall not be ruled ineligible for this infraction unless he/she has not taken and passed a medical examination but shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until this form is completed and a copy submitted to the LHSAA. The completed form must be uploaded prior to the athlete's participation.
- 1.7.3** The penalties for failure by a student(s) to take and pass a medical examination:
1. The school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport if the medical exam has been taken but is not in the student's file for a maximum of \$500 per sport.
 2. If the student(s) has failed to take and pass the required annual medical exam, the student(s) shall be ruled ineligible, and the school shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.11.3.
 3. The student(s) shall be withheld from team practices and further interscholastic athletic participation until he/she has passed the required medical examination and written documentation is provided to the Executive Director.
- 1.8.1 ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM** - Schools shall be required to provide all students who participate in any LHSAA sanctioned sport at any level of play with a copy of the LHSAA Athletic Participation/Parental Permission Form. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, prior to the first time a student practices or participates in a sport at an LHSAA school, the LHSAA Athletic Participation/Parental Permission form must be properly completed and signed by the student's parent(s) or guardian. Schools shall be required to keep the properly completed and signed form on file at the school for the entire time the athlete is a bona-fide student at the school. The penalties for failure to have the required LHSAA Athletic Participation Form(s) for all students completed, properly signed, and maintained in the school files shall be:
1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each LHSAA Athletic Participation Form not completed, properly signed, and on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
 2. A student in violation of this rule shall not be ruled ineligible for this infraction but shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until a copy of this form is completed and submitted to the Executive Director. The completed form must be uploaded prior to the athlete's participation.
- 1.9 General requirements for conduct of student; conduct of other; penalties of violation** - A student who represents a school in any sanctioned sport must be of good moral character as determined by the principal of the school. The student shall comply with any standards concerning discipline adopted by the school he or she attends or school district in which he or she resides and shall not engage in conduct that discredits the pupil or school. Conduct that discredits the pupil or school includes, without limitation:
1. A violation of any training or disciplinary rules of the school or school district or a team at the school.
 2. The use or possession of any tobacco or alcoholic beverages or any controlled substance, unless in accordance with a lawfully issued prescription for the controlled substance and the commission of any act that violates a law or regulation of this State or the Federal Government.

- 1.10 ABUSE AND/OR MISUSE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES** - Each member school shall develop and implement a substance abuse/misuse policy including procedures for chemical testing of student-athletes. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics, prior to practicing or participating in a sport at an LHSAA school, a student-athlete and his/her parent(s)/guardian shall sign the LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract developed and distributed to all schools by the LHSAA. Once signed, the LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract shall remain in effect for the remainder of the student-athlete's eligibility. Schools may also have the student and parent/guardian sign a school issued form in addition to the LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract. Schools shall be required to keep the signed form on file at the school.
- 1.10.1** The penalties for failure to have the required LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract(s) for all students completed, properly signed, and maintained in the school files shall be:
1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each LHSAA Substance Abuse/Misuse Form not completed, properly signed, and on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
 2. A student in violation of this rule shall not be ruled ineligible for this infraction but shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until a copy of this form is completed and submitted to the Executive Director. The completed form must be uploaded prior to the athlete's participation.
- 1.11 SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS** - To be eligible under the scholastic rule, students, other than special education students who are not pursuing a diploma, enrolled in high school subjects (grades 9-12) shall meet all scholastic requirements. Individual schools or school systems may set higher, but not lower, scholastic requirements for interscholastic athletic participation. All subjects/units passed shall carry Carnegie units which shall be recorded on the student's transcript and include all credits/grades earned in any method of remediation and/or distance learning courses approved in Bulletin 741 of the LDE.
1. The LHSAA will only recognize multi-Carnegie credit for a single course title when a multi-credit course has a dedicated course code assigned by the Louisiana Department of Education, is recorded on the student transcript, and instructional minute requirements for awarding the Carnegie credit(s) have been met pursuant to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education's Bulletin 741.
 2. Dual enrollment courses must be posted on a student's high school transcript if the course(s) are to be used in determining scholastic eligibility.
 3. Eligibility requirements for special education students not pursuing a high school diploma can be found in Bylaw 1.11.15
- 1.11.1 First Semester Eligibility:** To be eligible for the first semester of the school year, a student shall have earned at least six (6) Carnegie credits from the previous academic-year (fall, spring and summer), which shall be listed on the student's transcript and shall have earned at least a "C" average as determined by the Local Education Authority within their Pupil Progression Plan when considering all "graded" subjects.
- 1.11.2 Second Semester Eligibility:** To be eligible for the second semester of the school year, a student must enroll in and successfully pass the number of courses which will allow him/her to earn a minimum of 3 Carnegie credits for the first semester. *Note: This can be accomplished by earning any combination of Carnegie units. Six (6) one-half (.5) Carnegie credits will meet this requirement.*
- 1.11.3 Promotion into High School:** Promotion from the 8th grade into the 9th grade for the first time shall fulfill the scholastic requirements. All subjects passed must be recorded on the student's transcript and Carnegie units must be shown on the transcript. The student's transcript shall include all credits/grades earned and attempted in traditional, credit recovery, distance learning courses and/or summer school classes delivered in accordance with Bulletin 741 of the LDE.
- 1.11.4** Students who take dual enrollment courses must have those courses posted on their high school transcripts in order to be used to determine athletic eligibility.
- 1.11.5** Seniors who have accumulated 20 or more units must take the number of courses which will allow them to earn 2 Carnegie units per semester. None of the courses taken shall be subjects/units that the student had previously taken and passed. These courses may include dual enrollment college courses that have been recognized by the LDE and/or the Louisiana Board of Regents. Under the 4x4 block system a senior must be enrolled in a minimum of courses which will earn him/her 2 Carnegie units per semester in order to be eligible to compete.

- 1.11.6** A senior who has earned 20 units must earn a minimum of 4 half Carnegie credits or a total of 2 Carnegie credits at the end of the first semester. Seniors will not be penalized for taking more than the minimum number of courses that they need to meet this requirement. In order to maintain eligibility in the second semester, seniors must be enrolled in enough courses which will earn them at least 4 half-Carnegie credits or a total of 2 Carnegie credits.
- 1.11.7** Failure to have the required official transcript or report card for all student-athletes as per Bylaw 1.5.1 in the school files:
1. A school shall be fined \$50 per student, per sport for each official transcript or report card not on file with the school not to exceed \$500 per sport.
 2. A student in violation of this rule shall not be ruled ineligible for this infraction but shall be withheld from further team practices and interscholastic athletic participation until the student-athletes official transcript and report card are submitted to the Executive Director. The transcript and report card must be uploaded prior to the athlete's participation.
- 1.11.8** **Determining Grade Point Averages:** The grade point average shall be determined by dividing the total number of subjects/units attempted [unless they are repeating a class](#) toward graduation into the total number of grade points earned by a student.
1. For the purpose of determining a student's GPA, the point value of each grade is as follows:
A = 4 points B = 3 points C = 2 points D = 1 point F = 0 points P = D
 2. Do not round off numbers when computing a student's GPA.
- 1.11.9** **Block Scheduling:** The following process shall be used to determine the scholastic eligibility of students enrolled in schools that schedule classes for one full unit of credit during one semester of classes.
1. In determining the scholastic eligibility of a student at the end of the first semester of a school year, a subject's Carnegie unit value shall be multiplied by two when calculating the number of subjects a student passed.
 2. In determining the scholastic eligibility of a student at the end of the school year for the first semester of the next school year, a subject's Carnegie unit value and the grade point earned in that subject shall count as earned (no multiplication allowed).
- 1.11.10** **Grade Corrections:**
1. For a grade correction to be accepted for eligibility purposes for the first semester of a new school year, it shall be corrected by the first day of the school year for the school.
 2. For a grade correction to be accepted for eligibility purposes for the second semester of a school year, it shall be corrected by the 7th school day following the end of the grading period for the first semester.
 3. It shall not be permissible to give a second examination in order to make a student eligible unless required by an approved school system pupil progression plan.
- 1.11.11** **Incomplete Grades:** If a student fails to remove an "incomplete" grade in a course within 15 school days of the official end of the first semester or within 15 days of the official school year, the grade shall be considered a failing grade in that course for scholastic eligibility purposes.
- 1.11.12** **Repeating Subjects:** Unless it is necessary to improve a GPA for a school year, a student shall not repeat any subject that he/she has already passed. If a subject is repeated, this shall be accomplished through LDE policy. *Interpretation: When the association added a GPA to its scholastic rule, a rule was passed to allow students to repeat a subject(s) they had already passed if they were repeating the subject(s) to improve their GPA. This is the only time a high school student (grades 9-12) may repeat a subject he/she has already passed and count it for eligibility purposes.*
- 1.11.13** **Change in Scholastic Eligibility for Second Semester:** The date a student's eligibility status changes for the second semester shall be on the seventh calendar day following the end of the grading period of the first semester. A student shall then become eligible/ineligible for the second semester based on the student's first semester grades. A student who was ineligible for the first semester because of the scholastic rule shall become eligible for the second semester on the seventh calendar day following the end of the grading period of the first semester. A student who will become ineligible for the second semester because of the scholastic rule shall become ineligible on the seventh calendar day following the end of the grading period of the first semester. *Exception: For schools completing the first semester on the day immediately prior to the Christmas holiday period, the official end of the grading period for these schools shall be the first day that teachers officially return to school following the holiday period. The next calendar day shall be the date a student shall become eligible/ineligible for the second semester.*

- 1.11.14 Special Education Students:** Special education students other than those classified as "gifted and talented" shall be eligible if they meet the provisions of the present rule. This rule's purpose is to make athletic programs accessible to students; however, once a student reports for a sport, he/she, like any other student, is subject to earning a place on the team. Special education students shall be evaluated every three years for eligibility purposes. A student shall be placed in a special education program for at least two-thirds of a given semester in order to establish eligibility for the next semester. A regular education student who fails to establish scholastic eligibility shall not become eligible as a special education student until he/she has established eligibility for one entire semester.
- 1.11.15** Special education students working toward a Career Diploma for LAA1 or high school certification of completion: Special education students identified and placed according to state regulations, by virtue of the design of their IEP, who may or may not earn the necessary Carnegie units, shall meet the following requirements: (These are the current students who are alternatively assessed under Louisiana Connect or are pursuing a high school certificate of completion pursuant to a specialized individual education program (IEP).) A statement of assurance form shall be completed on each such special education student, including those whose exiting pathway falls under Jump Start Alternate Pathway (Louisiana Connect.) The student's participation in interscholastic sports shall be monitored at regular reporting periods to assure satisfactory progress in the student's individual education program (IEP). This form shall be signed by the student's parent(s)/guardian, teacher, and principal and attached to the IEP on an annual basis. A student shall make satisfactory progress through performance and attendance in the student's IEP goals at the end of a semester to be eligible for the entire next semester.
- 1.11.16 Special education students working toward a high school diploma:** When a special education student takes enough Carnegie unit subjects to meet the basic requirements of the LHSAA's scholastic rule, his/her scholastic eligibility shall be determined as follows: (1) To be eligible for the first semester of the school year, a student shall have earned at least six (6) units from the previous year which shall be listed on the student's transcript, including any special education subject(s), and shall have earned at least a "C" average as determined by the Local Education Authority when considering all "graded" subjects; (2) To be eligible for the second semester of the school year, a student shall pass at least six (6) subjects from the first semester, including any special education subject(s).
- 1.11.17 Earning Credit Through Non-Traditional Means:** Carnegie units and grades earned in state approved subjects taken through non-traditional means such as, but not limited to, summer school, credit recovery, virtual school, distance learning, etc. may be used for scholastic eligibility under the following provisions:
1. The non-traditional course shall meet all guidelines as outlined in Bulletin 741 including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Courses that are taught through distance learning, online, credit recovery, etc. shall be comparable in length, content, and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting.
 - b. The instructor and the student shall have ongoing access to and regular interaction with one another for purposes of teaching, evaluating, and providing assistance to the student throughout the duration of the course.
 - c. Evaluation of the student's work shall be conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the high school's established academic policies.
 - d. The course shall be acceptable for any student and the school's policies for such courses shall be followed consistently for both student-athletes and non-athletes with no exceptions made for student-athletes.
 - e. The student's work (e.g., exams, papers, assignments) shall be made available for evaluation and validation upon request; documentation shall be on file to verify that the credit was earned. Failure to include the proper documentation shall not allow the course to be included in the total credits needed to be eligible.
 2. If the subject is repeated, this shall be accomplished through LDE policy.
 3. The non-traditional course shall count as a Carnegie unit or one-half unit. In order for the non-traditional online course to count toward scholastic eligibility, the student shall complete the entire coursework with a passing grade/percentage to receive a Carnegie unit. In order to receive one-half unit, the student shall complete a minimum of one-half of the online coursework with a passing grade/percentage.

4. In order for a non-traditional course that is taken during the second semester or over the summer months to be considered for scholastic eligibility for the first semester of the succeeding school year, the student shall complete the course prior to the 8th week of the NFHS calendar.
5. In order for a non-traditional course to be considered for scholastic eligibility for the second semester of the school year, the student shall complete the course no later than the final date of the marking period of the first semester.
6. If a student is repeating a subject by means of a non-traditional course that he/she took during the preceding semester or preceding school year, the subject the student took during the regular school year shall not be used in determining the student's GPA if the school elects to count the grade earned by a non-traditional course.
Example: A student takes six subjects during the regular school year and passes all of them except science and math. The student repeats the same math course in a non-traditional course and passes it. The school may discard the math grade and course the student took during the regular school year and divide by six subjects when determining the student's GPA.
7. If a student is taking a subject in a non-traditional course that he/she did not take during the preceding school year, the new subject shall be added to the subjects pursued during the regular school year when determining the student's GPA. Example: The same student in the previous example elects to take typing in a non-traditional course in an attempt to gain scholastic eligibility; he/she did not take typing during the regular school year. The school shall divide by seven subjects when determining the student's GPA.
8. A student who is eligible at the end of the regular school year shall not become ineligible by attempting a non-traditional course.
9. A school that allows a student-athlete to attempt a non-traditional course free of charge or at a reduced fee (if a fee is normally charged) shall be in violation of the recruiting violation rule.
10. A person or organization connected with the school that pays the non-traditional course fees for a student-athlete (if a fee is normally charged) shall be in violation of the recruiting violation rule.
11. Students placed in transitional 9th grade shall not be included in the high school graduation cohort during their first year on the high school campus, but they are still eligible to graduate in four years. Any student that has been classified as a 9th grade transitional student and does not graduate in four years shall not be eligible for athletic participation in his/her fifth year of high school. A transitional 9th grade student shall also not be eligible for hardship consideration during his/her fifth year of high school.

1.12 RESIDENCE

- 1.12.1 School districts or attendance zones designated by the public-school boards, the federal courts, or the LHSAA shall be used in determining the eligibility under the transfer rule. School bus routes shall not be used in determining eligibility under this rule.
- 1.12.2 LHSAA non-public, university laboratory, and charter schools shall be bound by the same parish public school districts or attendance zones that have been designated by the parish public school boards, Federal Courts or the LHSAA for the traditional public high school physically located in their area.
- 1.12.3 A student shall be considered as enrolled in a high school when he/she has officially enrolled in and attended at least one class in that school.
- 1.12.4 Once a student establishes eligibility at a school through attendance for at least one calendar year, he/she shall remain eligible for as long as he/she continues to attend that school regardless of where his/her parent(s)/guardian reside unless this eligibility is negated by another section in this residence and school transfers rule such as in the bona fide move section or the foreign exchange student section.

- 1.13 SCHOOL TRANSFERS - A student shall be considered a transfer student if he/she, after establishing eligibility in a school, changes attendance to another school for any reason. A student will be considered as establishing eligibility when he/she has attended at least one class period or prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, jamboree, or regular season game). A student is considered to have transferred whenever the student changes from that school in which the student was enrolled to any other school regardless of whether the school in which the student transferred or to which the student transfers is public or non-public, member or non-member or whether the high

schools are with the same school athletic attendance zone. If a student transfers schools, he/she shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at any level of play in all sports at the receiving school until he/she has officially withdrawn from the latter school. A transfer student must have been eligible to represent his/her former school academically as well as eligible under any district, school or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred to be considered for interscholastic athletic eligibility.

1.13.1 The eligibility of the student-athletes of the newly formed school shall be as follows.

1. Any student residing inside the attendance zone of the newly formed school, who has been in attendance at the existing school for at least the preceding calendar year, shall be immediately eligible at the newly formed school.
2. Any student residing outside the attendance zone of the newly formed school, but who has been attending the existing school for at least the preceding calendar year, prior to the newly formed school's admittance in the LHSAA, shall be immediately eligible. Otherwise, the student shall be ineligible until he/she has attended the newly formed school for one calendar year from the date of enrollment in that school.
3. Any student who has been in attendance at the existing LHSAA school, who chooses to transfer from the newly formed school shall be immediately eligible at the school he/she first attends in his/her home attendance zone provided he/she has never attended an LHSAA school in that zone. In the latter case, if he/she has attended an LHSAA school in his/her home attendance zone, he/she shall be immediately eligible only at the LHSAA school he/she had first attended in his/her home attendance zone.
4. Bylaw 1.13.3(6) shall not apply to the newly formed school; in regard to Bylaw 1.13.3(6), the newly formed school shall not be considered a new school.

1.13.2 **Completion of a Sports Season:** If a transfer takes place during the sport season in which the student has participated in at least one scrimmage, jamboree or regular season interscholastic contest at the sending school, the student shall be ineligible in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season in the receiving school. This rule would not apply to a student who has been deemed to have made a bona-fide move of a distance of fifty (50) miles or more based on the distance from school to school. Under no circumstances would a transfer be eligible at the receiving school once the sport's season is more than 60% complete.

1.13.3 **Transfers Within the Athletic Attendance Zone:** If at any time a student transfers from one member school to another member school in the same attendance zone, the student shall become immediately ineligible for [varsity athletics](#) for a period of one calendar year from the date of enrollment/attendance in the second school. [Students not in their senior year shall remain eligible for sub-varsity athletics.](#) The student may be eligible at his/her school of first choice in the attendance zone. A transfer student will be ineligible for a period of one calendar year at the new school unless he/she transfers under one of the following exceptions:

1. Majority to Minority Transfer as written into a federal court desegregation order.
2. Transfers from Academically Unacceptable Schools pursuant to the Louisiana School and District Accountability System.
3. Homeless Students as defined by the Federal McKinney-Vento Act that go through the hardship appeal process and are approved through the Hardship Program.
4. **Non-Member Schools:** A student, who has been attending a non-member school, may be immediately eligible at the LHSAA school of his/her first choice should he/she elects to attend an LHSAA school in his/her athletic attendance zone.
5. **School Closure/Suspension:** In the event a member school closes or is suspended from membership in the LHSAA, all students who have been in attendance at the member school for at least the preceding calendar year, may be eligible at a member school of their choice in the same athletic attendance zone of the school closing. When a school is closed and legally merges with another member school, all students who have been in attendance at the school that closes for at least one calendar year may be immediately eligible at the latter school.
6. **New Member Schools:** A student who has already attended a member school in that athletic attendance zone may be granted a new option when a "new" member school is added to that athletic attendance zone. This choice shall be afforded only at the beginning of the first year the "new" school is in operation in the athletic attendance zone.

1.13.4 Outside the Athletic Attendance Zone: Any student who attends a school outside his/her athletic attendance zone shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic **Varsity** athletics, **but will be eligible for sub-varsity** at that school for a period of one calendar year from his/her first day of attendance unless he/she transfers under one of the following exceptions:

1. A **first-year 7th, 8th, or 9th grade** student **not in their senior year** who is transferring outside his/her athletic attendance zone shall be eligible to participate at the sub-varsity level. **only if the student has attended the first day of school.**
2. The student continuously attended the entire 7th and/or 8th grades at a middle/junior high school of that same member school **or school system located outside of his/her athletic attendance zone.** The school shall be required to register and certify the student's eligibility status on the Members' Only website.
3. **Students who have been accepted into a program and attend the school at the first opportunity (9th grade), should be granted full participation after verification of acceptance. Students should meet all requirements of acceptance into the program.**
4. **Bona-fide Move:** A student and his parent(s) make a bona-fide change of residence as defined in Bylaw 1.14 of the LHSAA Bylaws.
5. **Currently Active Military**
6. **Homeless:** A student declared homeless and enters a school as an "unaccompanied youth" under the conditions of the McKinney-Vento Act must go through the hardship appeal process and be approved through the Hardship Program to become eligible for interscholastic competition.
7. **On-Staff Faculty Coach or Administrator:** The LHSAA shall honor the transfer across athletic attendance zones to a student whose parent(s) is an on-staff full time faculty **teacher**, coach or an on-staff full-time licensed athletic trainer (as defined by LSBME, title 46, subpart 3, chapter 57, subchapter a) or an on-staff full-time administrator. A **teacher**, coach or athletic trainer must provide verification that he/she has been an on-staff full time faculty **teacher**, coach, **or athletic trainer** for a minimum of three previous school years. The transfer of the student shall occur at the first opportunity to attend after the **teacher**, coach or administrator is hired.
8. Once a student has established athletic eligibility at a school outside his/her athletic attendance zone, that school shall become the student's school of eligibility and a subsequent transfer to another member school without a corresponding bona-fide move, unless returning to first school of choice in the student's home attendance zone, shall cause the student to become ineligible for a period of one (1) calendar year from the date of his/her attendance/enrollment in the school.

1.13.5 In all transfer cases, the receiving school shall have the parents/guardians complete an LHSAA Residence Eligibility form. This form is designed to help the school when considering a student's eligibility. The student must actually be attending the school before the Residence Eligibility Form is utilized. Providing false or misleading information on this form may result in a penalty to the student or school or both. A copy of this form must be retained on file by the receiving school. Only the following guardianships are recognized by the LHSAA:

- a. Ward of the Court or State
- b. Death or Incarceration
- c. Homeless

1.13.6 In all transfer cases involving two LHSAA member schools, the principal of the receiving school (school to which the student transfers), and the sending school (school from which the student transferred), must complete an LHSAA Principal's Concurrence Form. This form shall be initiated by the receiving school principal and provided to the sending school principal using a valid, registered email address listed on the contact portion of the LHSAA's Members' Only for completion by the sending school principal. Concurrence online with the transfer by both principals is required but does not guarantee or assure eligibility. The LHSAA reserves the right to investigate any transfer and make a ruling on the student's eligibility. A student shall not participate in an interscholastic contest until the transfer form is fully executed by both principals and is on file in the office of the receiving school. The receiving school has the burden of proof should the eligibility of a transfer student come into question. Providing false or misleading information on this form may result in a penalty to the student or school or both. The deadline to return the Principal's Concurrence Form to the receiving school principal is ten (10) days. Failure to timely complete the LHSAA Principal's Concurrence Form shall result in the school (sending and/or receiving) being fined \$100.

- 1.13.7 Transfers from Academically Unacceptable Schools:** A student, who is enrolled in and attends or is assigned to attend a traditional public school or the traditional curriculum of a dual-curriculum public school that received a letter grade of “F”, or any variation thereof, for the most year pursuant to the Louisiana School and District Accountability System (academically unacceptable) and transfers to enroll in and attend classes at a member school that has been classified by the same school system as an academically acceptable school that is physically located outside of the student’s home attendance zone if there is no other school in that zone, may be immediately eligible at the latter school provided the transfer is officially executed within the first 11 school days of the year.
1. During his/her eight semesters in high school, a student may be allowed to make only one transfer from an academically unacceptable school in his/her home attendance zone to an academically acceptable school under this rule. Should the student transfer to and enroll in and attend one class in a second academically acceptable school at any time, the student shall be ineligible not only at the second academically acceptable school, but also at the first academically acceptable school for a period of one calendar year from his/her enrollment date.
 2. If the student returns to, enrolls in, and attends one class at the school he/she has been attending in his/her home attendance zone, he/she shall be ruled immediately eligible at that school, if that school was the school of first choice, and shall not be allowed another choice at an academically acceptable school for immediate eligibility consideration under Bylaw 1.26.1.
 3. The application of Bylaw 1.26.1 shall not provide that student with a second choice of schools in his/her home attendance zone or any other attendance zone.
 4. Bylaw 1.26.1 shall not apply to a student who transfers to another school that has been classified as an academically unacceptable school by the school’s state school system or a school that has not been classified by its school system.
 5. If the academically acceptable school to which the student from the academically unacceptable school transferred to is later classified as an academically unacceptable school by its state school system, the student shall be given a new choice at an academically acceptable school under Bylaw 1.26.1 or may remain and retain eligibility at the school that the student was attending before it was re-classified as an academically unacceptable school.
 6. It shall be a violation under the Recruitment Rule for anyone connected with an academically acceptable school to contact a student at an academically unacceptable school for athletic purposes.
- 1.13.8 Foreign Exchange Students:** A foreign exchange student attending an LHSAA school through an approved program of student cultural exchange (as provided below) shall become eligible immediately for a period of one calendar year under the Residence and School Transfers Rule when he/she meets the requirements in the following rules. These rules shall not apply to a foreign student who has been attending a high school in any state prior to becoming a foreign exchange student.
1. The foreign exchange student is attending the LHSAA high school through and by a program of foreign student educational and cultural exchange for Private Sector Programs and/or Rotary International Exchange Programs approved by the Academic and Government Programs Division of the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The organizations designated to administer such high school foreign student cultural exchange visitor programs shall be posted on the LHSAA Members’ Only website.
 2. The foreign exchange student is living with a host family to which the student was assigned by the approved foreign student cultural exchange program.
 3. The host family for the foreign exchange student maintains its sole residence in the athletic attendance zone of the LHSAA school to which the student is assigned and attends.
 4. Neither the husband nor wife of the host family or any other adult member of the family shall be a head coach, assistant coach (faculty or non-faculty), administrator, faculty member, or other employee of the school to which the foreign exchange student is assigned and attends.
 5. The foreign exchange student shall not be attending the LHSAA school for the primary purpose of participating in high school sports.
 6. The foreign exchange student shall not have been recruited for athletic reasons by anyone connected with the LHSAA school.
 7. The foreign exchange student shall not have attended another high school in this state or any other state of the United States prior to becoming a foreign exchange student.

8. The school shall be limited to only one foreign exchange student at the varsity level in each sport during a season and shall be the same student initially registered with the LHSAA in that sport.

1.14 BONA FIDE CHANGE OF RESIDENCE - Under the residence and school transfers rule, a bona fide change of residence (move in good faith) shall occur when a student's parent(s)/guardian, or another household he/she has been residing with for at least the past calendar year, abandons their former home as a residence and makes a permanent move into a home that is their sole residence in another school district/attendance zone. The LHSAA shall conduct only one investigation of a bona fide change of residence for a student. A change of residence shall be made with the intent that it is permanent. Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residence depends upon the facts of each case, but in order for a change of residence to be considered bona fide, each of the following facts shall exist:

1. Under no circumstances can a family have two legal residences for eligibility purposes under the bona fide change of residence rule.
2. The original residence shall be abandoned as a residence. It shall be either sold, in the process of being sold, rented or disposed of as a residence.
3. It shall not be used as a residence by any relative of the student.
4. If the original residence is not in the process of being openly advertised for sale or rent, the family shall have the utilities disconnected in this residence.
5. All personal belongings, household goods, and furniture, appropriate to the circumstances shall be removed from the residence, unless the original residence is rented furnished, and a legal lease agreement shall state exact furniture/items to remain in the residence.
6. The mailing address shall be changed, and ~~the telephone~~ utilities shall be disconnected from the previous residence.

1.14.1 When a bona fide change of residence is made, the student may be eligible at the LHSAA school of first choice in the attendance zone that the new residence is located. Under the residence and school transfers rule, when a bona fide change of residence is made, the student may remain at the LHSAA school he/she has been attending and shall retain his/her eligibility, if he/she has been in attendance at the school for at least one calendar year.

1.14.2 A change of residence for the purpose of creating interscholastic athletic eligibility shall not be considered a bona fide change of residence and the student shall be declared ineligible at all LHSAA schools for one calendar year.

1.14.3 If a bona fide change of residence is made and the student's parent(s)/guardian establish another residence outside of the school's attendance zone (other than the original residence), the student shall become immediately ineligible at that school until he/she has been in attendance for one calendar year from the date of enrollment. If the parent(s)/guardian move back to the original residence before the student has been in attendance at the school for at least two calendar years, he/she shall become immediately ineligible until he/she has been in attendance at that school for two calendar years from the date of the move back to the original residence.

1.14.4 A student who has been residing with a household other than his/her own for at least the past calendar year shall be eligible at an LHSAA school if the household makes a bona fide change of residence into the school's attendance zone. The student shall remain eligible at the school if the family moves out of the zone after the student has been in attendance at the school for at least one calendar year. If the household makes a bona fide change of residence into another school zone at any time, the student shall be ruled immediately eligible at an LHSAA school in that zone if he/she moves with the household.

1.14.5 If a student has been ruled ineligible under the residence and school transfers rule by the Executive Director, the LHSAA shall not honor a bona fide change of residence for immediate eligibility purposes by the student's parents or a household with whom the student has been living for at least the past one calendar year during the same school year.

- 1.14.6 Bona Fide Move Investigation:** The principal of the receiving school may request that the Executive Director conduct an investigation to determine if the change of residence meets the requirements of this rule. Requests shall be made in writing before an investigation can be conducted. The LHSAA shall conduct only one investigation of a bona fide change of residence for a student upon the request of the receiving school. If the investigation reveals that a bona fide change of residence has not been made, the student shall be ruled ineligible until he/she has been in attendance at the school for one calendar year. A change of residence shall not be considered a bona fide change of residence if false information is given to the LHSAA investigator conducting the investigation. The LHSAA shall not honor a bona fide change of residence investigation request until the student has been officially enrolled in and attended classes for at least 11 school days at the school requesting the investigation and has officially withdrawn from his/her former school. In conducting the investigation, the LHSAA shall not honor a bona fide change of residence for the purpose of immediate interscholastic athletic eligibility if:
1. It is claimed that the change of residence was made because the receiving school is academically superior or provides a safer environment than the sending LHSAA school and/or the LHSAA school physically located in the student's home attendance zone.
 2. A student's parents are living separate and apart for marital reasons unless one of the student's parents has filed a petition of divorce in a court of law.
 3. A student who has been expelled from another LHSAA school for the length of the expulsion.
 4. A student's parent(s) is/are retained as a non-faculty coach at the school.
- 1.15 CUSTODY WHEN PARENTS LIVE SEPARATE AND APART** - If a student's parents (including step-parents) live separately and apart, the student's eligibility, under the Residence and School Transfers rule, shall be determined by the following rules. This section shall also apply to parents who have never been legally married. Verification or proof that the individuals are the natural father and mother shall be required.
- 1.15.1** If permanent legal custody by a court of law has not been granted, the student shall remain eligible only in the zone in which the student's parents have been residing prior to their separation. If both of the student's parents move to a residence outside of the attendance zone in which the student has been attending an LHSAA school, the student shall be eligible in the attendance zone of the parent's residence he/she first resides with when the parents initially separate. After that time, the student shall not be eligible with the other parent unless the other parent is awarded legal custody of the student through a court of law.
- 1.15.2** If permanent legal custody by a court of law has been granted, the student shall be eligible in the athletic attendance zone of the parent's residence who has been awarded legal custody. For purposes of this rule, a notarial change of custody does not constitute a legal change of custody.
- 1.15.3** If joint custody has been granted, the student's eligibility shall be determined as follows:
1. In the athletic attendance zone of the parent's residence who has been named the domiciliary parent or in the athletic attendance zone of the parent whose residence has been declared by the court as the student's domicile residence.
 2. If neither parent has been named the domiciliary parent nor if the domicile residence of the student has not been declared in the custody plan and one parent remains in the athletic attendance zone where the student has been attending school, the student's eligibility shall be with the parent who did not move. If neither parent has been named the domiciliary parent or the domicile residence of the student has not been declared in the custody plan and both parents of the student move to a residence outside of the athletic attendance zone in which the student has been attending a member school, the student may be ruled eligible in the athletic attendance zone of the parent's residence he/she first resides with when the parents initially separate.
 3. After that time, the student shall not be eligible with the other parent unless the other parent is awarded legal domicile custody of the student through a court of law. If this happens, Bylaw 1.14.4 shall apply.
- 1.15.4** The granting of any type of legal custody or any change of legal custody shall not be effective under the Residence and School Transfers Rule until a period of 45 calendar days from the date the awarding of custody has been signed by a judge.

- 1.15.5** A student who turns 18 years of age while living with one parent, when his/her parents are living separate and apart and is eligible in the zone where that parent resides, changes his/her residence to that of the other parent shall be eligible. These circumstances would have required a change of custody by court order if the student had been below 18 years of age. The student shall be eligible in the zone he/she now resides with the parent who would have obtained a change of custody by court order, if the student had been below the age of 18. The Executive Director's office shall have the power to investigate such a move to verify it was made under circumstances that would have required a change of custody by court order if the student was below the age of 18. Only one such change of residence, after reaching the age of 18, shall be allowed. The student shall be ineligible in any new district after the second or subsequent change of residence. Proof of the date of change of custody must be provided to the school and the student shall become eligible 45 days from the date of change of custody.
- 1.16** **COURT ORDERS** - For eligibility purposes under the transfer rule (Bylaw 1.12), the LHSAA shall not honor legal custody or guardianship granted to a person who is not the student's parent(s) unless both parents are deceased. Adoption of a student shall not be honored for eligibility purposes under the School Transfers Rule until one year after the adoption.
- 1.16.1** A student whose chain of attendance has been negated by a court order may, upon the withdrawal of the court order, return to the school at which he/she was eligible prior to the court order. The student shall retain his/her eligibility at the school provided he/she has not attended another school after the court order became final and was presented to the student's parent(s)/guardian.
- 1.16.2** **Ward of the Court or State**: A student declared a ward of the court or state and who is placed in a home by the court shall be ruled immediately eligible at a member school in the athletic attendance zone in which the home is located, provided the student's case is investigated and approved by the Executive Director.
- 1.17** **EMANCIPATION** - Under the Residence and School Transfers rule (Bylaw 1.12), a student who is emancipated by age or marriage or by the court shall be considered as having the same residence as his/her parents.
- 1.18** **BOARDING SCHOOLS** - A student attending a boarding school which is housed in an LHSAA member school may not become immediately eligible if they do not reside in the school athletic attendance zone.
- 1.19** **SPECIAL SCHOOLS** - All eligibility rules, except the age rule, shall be waived in the case of Louisiana State School for the Deaf and State School for the Visually Impaired of Baton Rouge.
- 1.20** **DUAL CURRICULUM, AND RECOVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT (RSD) PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS**
- 1.20.1** A student who transfers to a RSD public high school with school board, court approval and/or state statutes shall be eligible to represent the RSD public high school in athletic competition immediately if the transfer is at the beginning of the school year at the lowest grade level offered by the school. If entry occurs grade level above the lowest grade level offered in the school or after the beginning of the school year, the student shall be ineligible at the RSD public high school for one calendar year. *Interpretation: The lowest level of entry offered by a school refers to the first opportunity the student has to attend the RSD public high school at the beginning of the school year or upon transferring into the school system if this occurs after the start of the school year.*
- 1.20.2** A student who transfers from a dual-curriculum high school or RSD public high school may return to the first high school he/she attended in his/her home zone and shall become eligible immediately. In the event the student has not attended a high school in his/her home zone, he/she shall become eligible at the first high school he/she attends in his/her home zone.
- 1.20.3** It shall be a violation of the recruiting rule for any individual connected with a RSD public high school to contact a student for athletic purposes.
- 1.20.4** It shall be a violation of Athletic Recruiting for any individual connected with a dual curriculum school to contact a student who does not reside in the school's traditional attendance zone for athletic purposes.

- 1.21 ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION OF HOME-SCHOOL STUDENTS** - A student who is enrolled in a home-school program approved by BESE in accordance with R.S.17:236.1 shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities at a member school provided:
1. The home-school student shall meet all other standards and requirements applicable to a student participating in the athletic activity, including but not limited to tryouts, practice time, codes of conduct and student discipline, physical exams, proof of age, permission forms, waivers, required paperwork, fees, and transportation arrangements excluding requirement for enrollment and attendance at the member school.
 2. A home-school student shall be subject to the same residency or attendance zone requirements as other students participating in the athletic activity.
 3. The student's parent or legal guardian shall make a written request for the student to participate in interscholastic athletic activities to the principal of the school providing the activity. Such request shall be made no later than the first 11 days of the school year. A home-school student, who is a member of a school team, shall be included in the school's October 1 enrollment count for the purposes of and as it applies to athletics.
 4. The principal of the school providing the athletic activity shall approve or disapprove such written request within 30 days after receipt by the principal of all information and documentation requested by the principal from the student or the student's parent or legal guardian, or both. A request for information and documentation by the principal shall be limited to information and documentation that is required of other students relative to participation in the athletic activity. The decision by the principal to approve or disapprove the written request for the student to participate shall be final. No person, individually or on behalf of any other person, shall have a cause of action arising from a denial by a principal of participation by a home-school student in interscholastic athletics at the school.
 5. After a decision is made by the principal to approve a request for the student to participate, the student then shall participate in any tryouts for such activity at the same time and in the same manner as other students who want to participate in the same activity. Participation shall be defined as the opportunity to try out for a position on the team as with any other student at the school, even if eligible, no student is guaranteed participation, only the opportunity to try out for a position on the team.
 6. The student shall submit documentation from BESE that the student is in an approved home-school program.
 7. The student shall meet academic standards required of other students to participate in the athletic activity. A student shall not be allowed to receive scholastic academic credit as a home-school student at the same time he/she is earning Carnegie units while attending an LHSAA member school. The student shall submit a copy of his/her transcript showing units of study completed or in progress, the grades earned for such study, and his/her cumulative grade point average. The means used to determine that the home-school student meets such standards shall be agreed to by the principal of the school offering the sport and the parent or other person responsible by law for the school attendance of the home-school student. Such means may include those provided for in R.S. 17.236.1(D). The agreement shall occur prior to the home-school student being permitted to participate in the sport, and scholastic eligibility (GPA, grades) shall be verified by the member school's principal at the same time all other students are verified for athletic participation.
 8. The student shall meet conditions applicable to students at the school relative to having any required insurance coverage either by participating, if otherwise eligible, in insurance programs offered through the school or school system or by providing for such insurance coverage in another manner.
 9. A home-school student's participation at a state-approved non-public school shall be at the sole discretion of the governing authority of the non-public school. If participation is permitted, the governing authority shall determine the terms and conditions of any such participation at the school.
 10. A student who has been enrolled in a public or non-public school during the school year in which the student begins home-schooling shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities during the remainder of that school year nor during the following school year whether enrolled in home-school or enrolled in a public or non-public school.
 11. Any home-school student who provides or on whose behalf others provide any false representation, documentation, or verification of the student's qualifications for the purpose of meeting eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be ruled ineligible to participate and shall be subject to the same penalties as other students as provided by the association.

12. A school determined to be knowledgeable of any false representation, documentation, or verification of a home-school student's qualifications for the purpose of meeting eligibility requirements to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be subject to penalties as established by the LHSAA for use of an ineligible student-athlete.
13. A Code of Conduct/Discipline Agreement must be signed by the home-school student, the student's parents, and the principal of the school. A copy of the agreement shall be kept on file at the school. The home-school student shall adhere to the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as required of the students at the member school in which the home-school student is participating.
- 1.21.1 A home-school student who is ruled ineligible shall not be allowed to appeal his/her ineligibility through the LHSAA Hardship Program.
- 1.21.2 Home-school students shall be registered on the LHSAA Members' Only website by the member school only once during the school year and shall be registered as soon as the acceptance process is completed but not later than October 1 each year. The student's registration shall be updated for each additional sport in which the student participates. Failure to timely register the home-school student(s) online shall result in the school being penalized in the following manner:
 1. If the violation is reported by the offending school, the school shall be fined \$100 for each contest in which the unregistered student participated up to a maximum of \$1,000 per student.
 2. If the violation is not reported by the offending school, the school shall be fined \$200 for each contest in which the unregistered student participated up to a maximum of \$2,000 per student.
 3. The offending school shall be placed on administrative probation for up to one calendar year from the date of the penalty ruling.
 4. In the case of multiple violations in a sport, the school shall be subject to being placed on restrictive probation and ruled ineligible for district and/or postseason play in which the unregistered student(s) participated.
 5. The school may receive other penalties to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
- 1.22 **STUDENTS IN 7th and/or 8th GRADES** - A member school shall not allow a student in the 7th and/or 8th grade to practice or play with any of its school teams at any level in any sport unless that grade is under the official jurisdiction of the principal of the member high school as recognized by the State Department of Education. Under no circumstances shall any student below grade 7 participate in any LHSAA sanctioned sport at any level (varsity or sub-varsity).
 - 1.22.1 A student in 7th and/or 8th grade who participates on a high school team shall meet the same eligibility requirements as a high school student, excluding the scholastic rule.
 - ~~1. Seventh (7th) grade students who are registered to participate in LHSAA sanctioned athletics shall be eligible for competition on high school athletic teams during the ensuing twelve (12) consecutive semesters or terms of 90 days.~~
 - ~~2. Eighth (8th) grade students who are registered to participate in LHSAA sanctioned athletics shall be eligible for competition on high school athletic teams during the ensuing ten (10) consecutive semesters or terms of 90 days.~~
 3. Students who attend schools with shared attendance zones regardless of being registered with a member school as 7th or 8th graders, shall make their school of choice as 9th graders and are immediately eligible at that school of first choice. *NOTE: Any 7th and/or 8th grade student who is registered and submitted by a member school on the Members' Only website for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years shall be included in the school's 2022 classification enrollment numbers.*
 - 1.22.2 Promotion from the 6th grade into the 7th grade or the 7th grade into the 8th grade for the first time shall fulfill the scholastic requirements rule. Promotion into the subsequent grade shall be in accordance with the approved local Pupil Progression Plan.
 - 1.22.3 For a student to be ruled eligible for the second semester of the school year, he/she must pass at least three-fourths of the subjects taken during the first semester.
 - 1.22.4 First-year 8th grade students who take and complete the necessary requirements as outlined by the State Department of Education to receive Carnegie units of credit toward graduation prior to entering the 9th grade shall not have their eight consecutive semesters of high school eligibility affected. ~~if they proceed to the 9th grade the succeeding semester or school year. First year 8th grade students who take and complete Carnegie unit subjects which count toward high school graduation will begin their ensuing eight consecutive semester of eligibility if they repeat the 8th grade.~~
 - ~~1.22.5 Second year 8th grade students who did not take and earn Carnegie units toward high school graduation during their first year in the 8th grade shall begin their ensuing eight consecutive semesters of eligibility if they repeat the 8th grade and take and complete Carnegie unit subjects which count toward high school graduation.~~

~~1.22.6 Encouraging students or establishing an academic program that facilitates students who have successfully completed the academic requirements set fourth for passing the 6th, 7th and/or 8th grade level to repeat one or more of these grades for athletic purposes by a school administrator, an athletic director, a coach or anyone connected with the athletic program of an LHSAA member school shall be prohibited. It shall be a violation of this rule for a student athlete who has successfully completed the established academic requirements for passing the 6th, 7th and/or 8th grade to be encouraged or assisted in any manner to repeat one or more of these grades for athletic purposes. A school, student, school administrator, athletic director and/or coach found to be in violation of this rule shall be subject to disciplinary action depending upon the severity of the violation as provided in the bylaws.~~

1.23 SUSPENSION - A student suspended/expelled from one school shall be ineligible for athletic competition at another school until he/she presents written clearance from the school he/she has been suspended/expelled. A suspended/expelled student shall not participate in athletic contests during the length of the suspension/expulsion. *Interpretation: If a student has been suspended/expelled from school for disciplinary reasons, he/she shall be ineligible to participate or dress out with his/her school team while he/she is under suspension/expulsion.*

1.24 GENDER EQUITY IN COMPETITION - Interscholastic competition shall be permitted in all LHSAA recognized boys' and girls' sports. Boys and girls shall meet the same eligibility requirements to compete in interscholastic athletic events. In order to promote as many athletic opportunities as possible for members of the female gender, if a school offers a boys' interscholastic athletic team but does not offer a girls' interscholastic team in a sport, girls in that school may play on the boys' team in that sport.

1.24.1 Whenever a school provides a girls' team in a particular sport but not a boys' team in that sport, the boys shall not play on the girls' team unless athletic opportunities in the total sports program for boys in that school have been limited in comparison to the athletic opportunities in the total sports program for girls in that school.

1. In order for a boy to play on a girls' team under these circumstances, permission must be secured from the Executive Director of the LHSAA, and the name of the boy playing on the girls' team along with clear and convincing evidence that athletic opportunities for boys in the total sports program in that school have been limited in comparison to athletic opportunities in the total sports program for girls in that school shall be submitted to the Executive Director's office prior to the boy playing on the girls' team.
2. If a girl plays on a boys' team and there is a girls' team in that sport at that particular school, she is considered an ineligible player and the penalties for playing an ineligible player shall apply to the boys' team in the school and, in addition, the school shall forfeit participating in the girls' playoffs in that same sport.
3. Boys' rules shall be used when girls play on boys' teams. Girls' rules shall be used when boys play on girls' teams where permission has been granted by the Executive Director in accordance with this rule.

1.25 MAINTAINING AMATEUR STATUS - An amateur athlete is one who takes part in one or more branches of athletics for the sake of the sport alone, without receiving or expecting to receive any financial remuneration of any form. No student shall, at any time, receive any salary or financial compensation, except actual expenses. A student who signs an athletic contract for any kind of pay shall be ineligible for further high school athletic participation in the LHSAA. Acceptance of a college grant-in-aid is acceptable and not a violation of this rule. The following acts shall be considered violations of the amateur rule:

1. Competition or exercise in any sport under an assumed name.
2. Directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefit in consideration of, or as a reward for, participating in any sport, in any public competition or exhibition, or disposing of prizes for personal gain.
3. Directly or indirectly receiving pay or financial benefit in consideration of, or as reward for, appearing in person at any competition, exhibition, or exercise in sports, other than officiating or instructing in a recognized recreation program.
4. Participation by a student, during the school year, in any public competition or exhibition as a team member or against a team consisting of one or more members who are professionals or former professionals in some sport, without having obtained consent, in writing, from the principal of the school he/she attends before participating.

1.25.1 Students may officiate or serve as instructors in recreational sports as part of regular recreation programs and receive financial remuneration for these services during the entire year. Students may receive pay as lifeguards at swimming pools during the summer months.

- 1.25.2** If a student violates Bylaw 1.24 and returns any financial remuneration that he/she received to the applicable source prior to a penalty ruling being issued to his/her school and can document its return to the Executive Director's satisfaction, the student's eligibility shall be reinstated. Once a penalty ruling is issued to the school, the above rule shall not be applicable.
- 1.26** **HARDSHIP PROGRAM** - Prior to July 1 each year, the President shall appoint a sub-committee of six member and two alternates from the LHSAA Executive Committee to review and rule on the potential hardship situations of students ruled ineligible by the Executive Director. After the Executive Director considers requests for hardship rulings, this Hardship Committee shall serve as the appeal board to review the Executive Director's decision(s) made in the original rulings on hardship requests. The committee shall hear and consider each case on an individual or class action basis and shall render a decision based on the merits of each separate case. No case shall have precedential value. The purpose of the hardship rule shall be to provide fairness. The decisions of the Hardship Committee shall be final and, effective July 1, 2011, there shall be no further appeal to the Executive Committee. If a school seeks review of the decision of the Hardship Committee on a student's eligibility to a third-party arbitrator, the procedure be the same as provided under Constitutional Bylaw 4.4.7. If there is no application for third party arbitration, the decision of the Hardship Committee is final, and there shall be no further appeal to the Executive Committee.
- 1.26.1** The condition(s) causing a student not to meet the eligibility requirement(s) shall be involuntary, unforeseeable, uncorrectable, and create a unique situation concerning the student's educational, emotional, or physical status that exists and is beyond the control of the school, the school system, the student, and/or his parent(s) or guardian(s). The condition(s) shall create a situation that the school, student, or parent(s) could not have reasonably been expected to comply with the eligibility rule involved and is not specifically addressed by a written expectation to the basic eligibility rule(s) in question. When reviewing requests for hardship consideration, race, gender, or religion shall not be a factor in granting an exception to the eligibility rule in question.
- 1.26.2** The Executive Director and/or Hardship Committee shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule on a student-athlete when, in his or the Committee's opinion, the rule fails to accomplish the purpose for which it was intended or when the rule causes an undue hardship on the student with the exception of the eligibility rules regarding the age rule, proof-of-age rule, undue influence rule, amateur rule, independent teams rule, medical examination, and/or interscholastic competition for boys and girls rule which shall only be appealable to the Executive Committee. Ordinary cases of ineligibility shall not be considered as being a reason for hardship.
- 1.26.3** In no case shall the Hardship Committee review any ineligibility imposed upon a student who is under penalty for participating as an ineligible student or who is under penalty due to a ruling made by the Executive Director or by an LHSAA sportsmanship committee because of an unsportsmanlike act he/she committed. Such a request shall be made to the Executive Committee.
- 1.26.4** In reaching a decision on a request for relief under the hardship rule, the Executive Director and/or the Hardship Committee shall operate under the following guidelines:
1. Loss of eligibility in itself shall not be considered a hardship situation. Hardship conditions causing ineligibility shall be the basis on which the waiver of the rule is considered.
 2. To be considered a hardship condition, the student's situation shall be totally different from those which exist for the majority of the students who are confronted with similar situations and choices.
 3. Academic or athletic deficiencies in a school's curriculum or extracurricular athletic program shall not create hardship conditions.
 4. Injury, illness, or accidents which cause the student to fail to meet one of the basic eligibility requirements may be a possible cause for hardship consideration. Inability to participate due to illness, injury, or other medical reasons shall not be considered hardship conditions except in those cases where ineligibility exists because the student was unable to attend or prohibited from attending school for a prolonged length of time due to medical treatment.
 5. Lack of knowledge of any eligibility rule on the part of the school, the student, and/or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall not be considered sufficient cause for setting aside the effects of a rule.
- 1.26.5** Requests shall be considered by the Hardship Committee three times a school year without cost to the school. The dates of the Hardship Committee meetings shall be published in the LHSAA Handbook and Calendar. The meeting dates for the current school year shall be:

1. Wednesday of the 9th calendar week (September 4, 2024)
2. Wednesday of the 18th calendar week (November 6, 2024)
3. Wednesday of the 32nd calendar week (February 12, 2025)
4. The President shall be authorized to order one additional hearing to be conducted during the school year.

- 1.26.6** All meetings of the Hardship Committee shall be closed to the media and public unless the Executive Committee or the Hardship Committee vote to open the meeting.
- 1.26.7** Application for hardship consideration shall be made in writing using the official LHSAA Hardship Application, signed by the school principal, and contain all the facts pertaining to the case, including sufficient data, information, and documentation making it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. Consideration shall not be given to any application that is not accompanied by the required/requested documentation. The application shall contain a letter from the school principal and a letter from the parent(s) or guardian(s), each explaining in detail the reason(s) for requesting consideration of a waiver of an eligibility rule(s) under the hardship rule. The application shall be ~~either hand delivered to the LHSAA office or~~ emailed to the LHSAA and must be received in the LHSAA office at least 5 days prior to the meeting dates. A copy of the application and all accompanying documentation shall be kept on file by the applying school. The inclusion of false information/documentation with the application may result in severe penalties to the school.
- 1.26.8** In cases involving medical questions, the request for an exception shall be accompanied by the statement(s) of two or more qualified medical experts explaining in detail the medical aspects of the case. When requesting an additional semester(s) of eligibility due to medical reason (illness/injury), the student shall be required to prove that he/she did everything possible to comply with the scholastic rule to progress toward graduation from high school at the rate expected of other students in his/her class.
- 1.26.9** In cases involving legal questions, copies of official records of court action shall be attached.
- 1.26.10** Any hardship application seeking waiver of a rule based on a claim that the student athlete is disabled within the meaning of the Americans with Disability Act and is entitled to an accommodation under the Act which would require the waiver of an eligibility rule shall state the specific disability and why the student athlete is entitled to a waiver of the rule. Before the 1st hardship committee meeting of each year, the Executive Director shall prepare a list of medical doctors and other health care professionals to serve as a panel of experts. The expert may or may not be a psychiatrist or psychologist, but all experts on the panel shall have experience in evaluating disability within the meaning of Americans with Disability Act. When a particular hardship application for a waiver due to an entitlement of accommodation under ADA is made, the Executive Director shall choose from the list one or more of the experts to submit the documentation supporting a claim of disability and the application to the expert(s) for an opinion on whether the student-athlete is disabled within the meaning of ADA and whether he meets the requirements for accommodation and whether such an accommodation would include waiver of the eligibility rule in question. In considering the hardship application, the Executive Director and the hardship committee shall give great weight to the expert's opinions.
- 1.26.11** In cases involving the Residence and School Transfers Rule, the principal of the sending school may write a letter in support of the request, and the principal of the receiving school shall write a letter explaining the transfer and citing other important information that may be taken into consideration by the Executive Director and/or Hardship Committee; there shall be no evidence of recruiting for athletic purposes.
- 1.26.12** In cases involving the scholastic rule (Bylaw 1.10), a current, official copy of the student's cumulative folder showing all scholastic and attendance data since entry into the 9th grade for the first time shall be attached to the appeal. Requests for exceptions to the scholastic rule, since it is also affected by state law, shall also be subject to the approval of BESE.
- 1.26.13** In cases involving the eight consecutive semesters rule (Bylaw 1.4), a current, official copy of the student's cumulative folder showing all scholastic and attendance data since entry into the 9th grade for the first time shall be attached to the appeal. A request for an additional semester(s) of eligibility because of academic remediation improvement and/or achievement alone shall not be a basis for waiving the eight consecutive semesters rule. When the eight consecutive semester rule is in question, the hardship application must be submitted during the 7th or 8th semester of the student's eligibility not after he/she has completed eight consecutive semesters. In the case of appeals

for an exception to the eight consecutive semester rule, the student in question must personally appear before the Hardship Committee to present his/her appeal and must present the LHSAA with acceptable proof of age. Consideration shall not be given to any application involving the eight consecutive semester rule when the student requesting the waiver actually participated in four athletic seasons of any sport. In cases involving financial hardship, documented proof of a significant loss of income and/or a significant increase in expenses shall be required. Loss of financial aid exclusively does not constitute a financial hardship. Documentation shall include a written description outlining the circumstances that led to the financial hardship and appropriate documentation which may include but is not limited to the following:

1. Evidence of loss of income or change in financial obligations (not self-imposed)
2. Family W-2 forms and pay stubs showing year-to-date earnings
3. Notarized statement from parent(s)
4. Statement from employer, attorney, accountant, social services or other professional with knowledge of the circumstances
5. Tax returns for past two years
6. In cases involving federal desegregation, a student ruled ineligible shall not have his/her case appealed through the hardship program until he/she can provide the Executive Director with written documentation to verify that he/she has exhausted his/her remedy of relief through the school/local school system and/or the federal court system.

1.26.14 Hardship Hearing Procedure

1. A request for a hearing of the Hardship Committee must be received in writing by the LHSAA.
2. In all cases, the principal of the school shall be present at the hardship hearing to present the case. Other school system personnel, including the principal, shall be allowed to appear before the committee. The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be present at the hearing. As an advisory officer to the Executive Committee, the Executive Director shall be present at all Hardship Committee hearings and shall be afforded an opportunity to explain his/her ruling and provide the committee with information relative to the case.
3. Persons representing appeals shall be business like in their presentations and shall refrain from socializing with members of the committee.
4. Any party who wishes to bring an attorney to an LHSAA hearing is required to notify the LHSAA office 48 hours in advance if any legal counsel will be accompanying the family or school at the hearing. This notification is necessary so that legal counsel for the LHSAA can also be present at the hearing.
5. Each group appearing before the Hardship Committee shall be afforded a maximum of 10 minutes to verbally submit their case.
6. Committee members shall have the right to ask questions of individuals appearing before the committee.
7. Appeals from individuals from the same school involving the same rule(s) may be considered "class action" and may be heard at the same time by the Hardship Committee.
8. No member shall serve on the committee when a case involves a student from his/her school, LHSAA district, or parish.
9. A simple majority of the members assigned to the Hardship Committee shall be present at the hearing in order to constitute a quorum.
10. All decisions made by the Hardship Committee shall require a majority vote.
11. An appeal to the Hardship Committee shall result in an automatic motion to waive the eligibility rule(s) in question.
12. If the hardship is denied, the school shall be billed for the cost of the LHSAA attorney to attend the hearing.

1.26.15 Once a student is granted a hardship ruling to a member school, that school shall become the student's school of eligibility and a subsequent transfer to another LHSAA member school without a corresponding bona-fide move shall cause the student to become ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of his/her enrollment in the school.

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

2.1 RECRUITING VIOLATIONS

- 2.1.1** Recruitment of students or attempted recruiting of students for athletic purposes, regardless of their residence, is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of these Bylaws and is expressly prohibited.
- 2.1.2** "Athletic recruiting" is defined as the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an LHSAA 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.
- 2.1.3** Recruiting for athletic purposes is not only a violation by the student who has been recruited but is also a violation by the school and/or the school personnel who recruited the student. It is a violation to recruit for athletic purposes regardless of a student's age or grade level. If proof is established that a school has secured an athlete under any of the conditions set forth in this section, the principal shall be required to appear before the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to answer the allegations against his/her school and the student(s) may be ineligible to participate in athletics, not to exceed four calendar years.
- 2.1.4** 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.
- 2.1.5** A student transferring from one member school to another shall be ruled ineligible for one calendar year from the date of enrollment because of "undue influence" if:
 - 1. It is determined that a coach, including non-faculty, of the receiving school coached an out-of-school team and/or club, AAU, or any similar organization as determined by the Executive Director on which the athlete played; or it is determined the coach, including non-faculty, at the receiving school acted as a private athletic instructor for the transferring athlete, regardless of whether the coach was paid for his/her services and/or expertise; or
 - 2. It is determined the transferring student played on an out-of-school team made up of a simple majority of students from the receiving school; or
 - 3. A student transfers to a new school within one calendar year of the relocation of his/her coach, including non-faculty, to that school.
 - 4. Bylaw 2.1.5 (1-3) shall be enforced even in the event the student made a bona-fide move into the receiving school's attendance zone.

2.2 GUIDELINES

- 2.2.1** Evidence of undue influence or special inducement of a student or the parents or guardians of a student by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an LHSAA school includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - 1. Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable considerations such as free or reduced tuition during the regular school year and/or summer school.
 - 2. Offer or acceptance of room, board, clothing, or financial allotment for clothing.
 - 3. Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
 - 4. Offer or acceptance of 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. Offer or acceptance of a residence.
 - 6. Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents' or student's housing, vehicles or other items.

7. Offer or acceptance of cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates or coupons.
8. Offer or acceptance of gifts of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items.
9. Offer or acceptance of loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind.
10. Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any school connected person.
11. Offer or acceptance of a privilege(s) not afforded to other students.
12. Offer or acceptance of payment for moving expenses of parent(s) or assisting parent(s) with a move.
13. Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship.
14. Offer or acceptance of free admission to LHSAA interscholastic athletic events in which the school is participating where an admission is being charged.
15. Offer or acceptance of payments of fees to take the ACT and/or SAT examinations.
16. Offer or acceptance of payments of fees to attend and participate in sports camps as individual participants.
17. Offer or acceptance of 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.

2.2.2 Other inducements or attempts to encourage a prospective student to attend a school for the purpose of participating in athletics, even when special remuneration/inducement is not given, shall be a violation. It shall be a violation for a school to offer and/or grant special favors, privileges or inducements 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.

2.2.3 The following individuals shall be considered school-connected:

1. Employees of the school, including but not limited to the principal, assistant principal(s), athletic director(s), guidance counselor(s), faculty coaches, and teachers.
2. Non-faculty coaches (paid or voluntary) 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.

- 2.2.4** 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/he relatives instead should be immediately referred to the school employee responsible for registrations or admissions.
 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 or 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 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.

2.3 ACADEMIC RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

- 2.3.1** A school may conduct an academic recruitment program designed to attract students to the school based upon its total educational and extracurricular (athletic and activities) programs. A school must not use an academic recruitment program as a disguise for athletic recruiting.
- 2.3.2** No member school or anyone acting on behalf of a member school shall give a speech, slide, film, or tape presentation, or distribute any written material which implies that a school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of other member schools or implies that it would be advantageous for a prospective student-athlete to participate in athletics at that member school as opposed to any other.
- 2.3.3** In the enforcement of this rule, member schools shall be responsible for any violation committed by a person associated with the school including principals, assistant principals, coaches, teachers, other staff members, students, members of organized alumni associations, booster groups, quarterback clubs, or other similar organizations acting at the direction of the school.
- 2.3.4** Any presentation conducted as part of a school's academic recruitment program must promote the school's overall educational program and may include its extracurricular programs. Any mention of the school's interscholastic athletics program must be limited to a listing of the interscholastic sports sponsored by the school and to a description of the school's athletic facilities. It is understood that the presentations and activities of all persons involved in the school's academic recruitment program must avoid any references to the school's athletic program that might pressure, urge or entice a student to attend that school for purposes of athletic participation. All such presentations and activities must be in keeping with the general spirit of the rules prohibiting athletic recruiting and such recruitment programs must be designed to present the overall educational and extracurricular programs of the school and not be a subterfuge for recruiting students for athletic purposes.

2.3.5 General recruitment programs permissible under this rule shall be carried out under the following guidelines:

1. Member schools may present speeches, slides, films, tapes, or other similar programs to students at elementary, junior high, or middle schools with grades below the 9th from which the member school can normally expect enrollment as long as they have the principal's permission and the presentations are designed to attract students to attend the school and are based on overall educational programs and not solely for the purpose of recruiting prospective athletes. Any mention of athletics in said speeches, films, slides, tapes, or other such presentations or in any written materials distributed at such presentations shall be limited to listing the various interscholastic sports the school participates in and a description of the athletic facilities available at the school.
2. Member schools may conduct an open house, but information distributed at the open house or in advertisements for the open house concerning the school's athletic program shall be limited to listing the various interscholastic sports the school participates in and to a description of the school's facilities. No information distributed at a school's open house, through any speech, written material, film, slide, photograph, or other material shall imply that the school's athletic program is better than another school's athletic program or that it would be advantageous for a prospective student-athlete if he/she participates in athletics at that school as opposed to some other.
3. It shall be a violation for any individual connected with a school to visit a school and contact a student(s) who attends a school physically located outside of the attendance zone of the school that the individual is connected for any reason without the express permission of the student's school principal.

2.4 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

2.4.1 If tuition is charged, it must be paid by parents, legal guardian, or other relative. If a parent, guardian, or other relative secures a loan for payment of tuition, it must remain an obligation of the parent, guardian, or other relative to repay the principal and interest in full with no exceptions. Schools that charge tuition may administer school-based financial assistance programs for students who attend those schools. Financial assistance is defined as funds from various sources that are administered and provided by a school to students to pay or assist in paying costs directly related to their education at the school. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student's athletic interest, potential or performance.

2.4.2 School administered financial assistance provided by a school must be administered by the school; meaning that the school, through an established process that conforms to this policy, makes the final determination of the student who is to receive the assistance and the amount of assistance to be given. No student-athlete may accept financial assistance from any other person, business or organization unless it is received from one upon whom the student-athlete is naturally or legally dependent.

2.4.3 **Criteria for Providing School-based Financial Assistance:** Financial assistance must be based entirely on financial need. The amount of financial assistance for which a student is determined to qualify must meet the same guidelines of financial assistance which are provided to each and every student who qualifies for financial assistance. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student's athletic interest, potential or performance. Financial assistance based even partially on a student's athletic interest, potential or performance shall be prohibited. In order to determine the basis for need, effective January 2015, all schools awarding financial aid shall use an LHSAA-recognized agency as approved by the Executive Committee. The use of any unapproved agency shall render the student ineligible.

2.4.4 **Work-Study Programs:** A work-study program in which students receive financial assistance from a school in exchange for labor performed by the student for the school may be operated as follows:

1. The school must limit participation in the work-study program to those students who have been independently determined to have a need for financial assistance.
2. The school must maintain a complete written description of the work-study program and the process for determining the students who are chosen for participation.
3. The school must maintain detailed records regarding each student who participates in the work-study program. These records must include a description of the job(s) performed by the student, documentation of the hours worked by the student, and the amount of financial assistance given the student in exchange for his/her labor.
4. Athletic department staff members and other representatives of the school's athletic interests cannot supervise only student-athletes in work-study programs.

- 2.4.5 Records Relating to Financial Assistance:** The school must keep detailed records of school-based financial assistance provided to each student. This includes the report of the student's financial need as determined by the school's financial aid guidelines. The school must make all records available to the Executive Director or his/her designee for inspection upon request. Failure to provide records upon request shall render the student(s) ineligible for participation in any athletic contests until the records are made available. Member schools that award financial aid shall complete the LHSAA Financial Assistance Records Form and remit to the LHSAA signed by the principal of the school by September 15 each year giving the following information:
1. Number of students in grades 9-12 enrolled in the school.
 2. Number of students in grades 9-12 receiving financial aid.
 3. Number of students in grades 9-12 participating in LHSAA athletics.
 4. Number of students in grades 9-12 participating in LHSAA athletics receiving financial aid (The names of the students receiving financial aid may be requested).
 5. Number of students in grades 9-12 in school who are male and number who are female.
 6. Number of students in grades 9-12 receiving financial aid who are male and number who are female.
 7. Total dollar amount of financial aid that has been awarded to students in grades 9-12.
 8. Total dollar amount of financial aid that has been awarded to students in grades 9-12 participating in LHSAA athletics.
- 2.4.6 Contact Initiated by Prospective Student:** When a school employee, athletic department staff member, or representative of a school's athletic interests is contacted by a student who does not attend that school and/or any of his/her relatives, about the school's interscholastic athletic program or attending the school, the school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the school's athletic interests must immediately refer the student and/or his/her relatives to the appropriate school personnel who have the responsibility of registering and admitting prospective students. No school employee, an athletic department staff member, nor representative of the school's athletic interests may suggest to or promise a prospective student or any of his/her relatives that any part of the student's costs of attending the school may be reduced, waived or paid for, or that financial assistance may be granted for any reason.
- 2.4.7 Involvement of Athletic Personnel in Administration of Assistance Program:** Active athletic coaches, other than a principal, are prohibited from sitting on the school's financial assistance committee or otherwise play any role in the process of deciding which students receive financial assistance or the types or amount of assistance they will be given.
- 2.4.8 Assistance Based on Criteria Other Than Need:** A school that provides financial assistance to students based on any criteria other than financial need must make an annual report to the LHSAA Office. The report shall include:
1. The name of each student-athlete who is receiving such assistance;
 2. The criterion upon which the assistance is based (must have no relationship to athletic interest, potential or performance);
 3. The amount of the assistance; and
 4. The source of the funding (e.g. foundation, private donation, etc.) for the assistance.
- 2.4.9 Contributions by Donor:** Funds that are donated to schools by persons, businesses and organizations may be given as financial assistance to students provided the decision as to how the funds are allocated rests exclusively with the school. It is not permissible for a donor to contribute funds to provide financial assistance for a particular student-athlete.

- 3.1 ADMINISTRATION/SPORTSMANSHIP** - Principals, coaches, other faculty members, students, and spectators are expected to exemplify the highest principles of sportsmanship and ethics of competition in all interscholastic athletic relationships.
- 3.1.1** The principal and his/her designee of each school involved in an athletic contest/event shall be responsible for:
1. The conduct of school officials representing his/her school.
 2. The conduct of his/her team personnel competing.
 3. Supervising the conduct of the spectators connected with his/her school attending an athletic contest/event.
 4. The sports medicine aspects of competition as it relates to his/her team.
- 3.1.2** The principal and his/her designee of the home/sponsoring school shall be responsible for the overall management and administration of each athletic contest/event, including:
1. Preparing facilities for play, taking safety precautions and providing security.
 2. Supervising the conduct of his/her coaches, players, support groups, spectators, and school's representatives at the contest.
 3. The security and well-being of the contest/event officials from the time they arrive at the contest/event until they have departed from the contest/event site.
- 3.1.3** The principal and his/her designee of the visiting team is responsible for supervising the conduct of his/her coaches, players, support groups, spectators, and school's representatives at the contest.
- 3.1.4** Member schools are required to have an on-site administrator and/or athletic director who has attended and completed an in-service on the transfer and other eligibility rules. Such on-site personnel are required to attend a renewal every three years. Failure to comply shall result in the school being fined \$500 and may result in the school being declared ineligible for postseason play in all sports.
- 3.1.5** All newly appointed principals and athletic directors shall successfully complete the LHSAA Handbook Certification Course within three months of being named to the position. All new first-time head coaches shall successfully complete the LHSAA Handbook Certification course prior to the first day of practice of the sport in which they have been named head coach. This rule does not apply to someone who has previously served in one of these capacities at a member school.
- 3.1.6** No alcoholic beverages shall be sold or consumed at any LHSAA athletic event.
- 3.2 SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS**
- 3.2.1** When an unsportsmanlike incident occurs prior to, during, or after any interscholastic contest, the school principal and head coach of both or all schools involved in the contest shall be responsible for filing a written report to the LHSAA on all sportsmanship problems or misconduct occurring in connection with the contest, including acts of coach and/or player unsportsmanlike conduct, within 48 school working hours after the contest. Contest officials involved in the contest shall be charged with the same responsibility.
- 3.2.2** Sportsmanship violations reported to the Executive Director shall be investigated and if necessary, a Sportsmanship Committee shall convene to hear and consider the allegations. A Sportsmanship Committee shall consist of at least three members appointed by the Executive Director. Its membership shall include Executive Committee member(s), the Executive Director, and/or the Assistant Executive Directors.
- 3.2.3** If the principal of the school that is charged with the violation and the alleged offender(s) are willing to accept responsibility for the allegations, and the other involved schools and/or parties concur, the violation may be referred to the Executive Director to render a summary sportsmanship ruling. An involved school and/or party who disagrees with the Executive Director's ruling may request that the alleged violation be referred to a Sportsmanship Committee.
- 3.2.4** After hearing and evaluating the reports of schools and/or involved parties, the Sportsmanship Committee shall have the power to take such actions as it deems necessary, including suspension of the offending school(s) from membership in the association for one calendar year. Schools involved shall have the right to appeal this ruling to the Executive Committee.

- 3.2.5 In sportsmanship incidents involving spectator criminal misconduct, such as assaults on a school official(s) and/or a contest official, the offended school and/or contest official(s) are advised to consider pressing charges in a court of law against the offender. If charges are not filed by the school, the school(s) shall be responsible for effectively addressing the unsportsmanlike incident.
- 3.2.6 Schools and/or individuals judged to be responsible for sportsmanship violations may be penalized under Section 5, "Penalty Code". The Executive Director and/or the Sportsmanship Committee is authorized to warn, place on probation, suspend from competition or participation, for a period of time, a player or coach disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 3.2.7 Possession, with or without a permit or other authority, of firearms or other dangerous weapons including, but not limited to, rifles, shotguns, pistols, revolvers, knives, nightsticks, or black-jacks or other such weapons are prohibited at athletic contests in which an LHSAA member school is a participant. Violation of this rule by a contest participant, coach, assistant coach, fan, or other person affiliated with one of the participating schools shall subject the person and the school to disciplinary actions and penalties in Section 5, "Penalty Code". If contest or other school officials discover the violation of this rule, they may suspend the start or the continuation of the contest until the person who is in violation of the rule has removed the firearm or other dangerous weapon from the contest arena. Authorized law enforcement officers attending any athletic contest are exempt from these provisions, provided the uniformed law enforcement officer(s) are not coaches or otherwise participating in the contest.

3.3 FACULTY COACHES

- 3.3.1 A faculty coach of an athletic team shall be employed by the school's school board and shall be assigned coaching duties by the board or the school principal. The individual shall hold the position of teacher, administrator, athletic director, dean of students, librarian, or school counselor or a combination of these responsibilities on a full-time basis by the school system. In all cases, the individual shall be required to be physically present and work at his/her school(s) during the entire school day during the school's normal hours of operation. The normal hours of operation shall be considered the time the school begins classes for the school day until the actual end of the school day for the majority of regularly enrolled students. This individual's name shall be submitted as a school administrator or guidance counselor on its annual school report submitted to the LED for the current school year. Each category of individuals who can serve as a faculty coach is further defined in the following bylaws. Only individuals meeting the requirements specified can serve as a faculty coach at a member school in the sports of football and boys' and girls' basketball.
 1. Full-time administrator: A school administrator shall be defined as a full-time, on-site administrator at a school/school system who has an applicable master's degree in educational leadership or the endorsement of principal-ship (or has been a faculty coach for at least five years) and meets the applicable administrative provisions published in Bulletin 741 (Public and Non-public) as adopted by the BESE for public and non-public schools. This individual's name shall be submitted as a school administrator on its annual school report submitted to the LDE for the current school year. *Exception: All administrators serving in official capacity at any member school prior to July 1, 2022 are exempt and are not required to earn a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership.*
 2. Full-time teacher: A teacher shall be defined as a full-time, on-site employee of the school or school system who teaches at least three classes per a day and is assigned as the teacher in-charge of students in a class at his/her assigned school. This individual shall hold at a minimum, a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited university or college and meets the applicable administrative provisions published in Bulletin 741 (Public and Non-public) as adopted by the BESE for public and non-public schools.
 3. Full-time athletic director assigned teaching duties: shall be eligible to coach at the school provided he/she is a full-time, on-site employee of the school or school system and meets the requirements of a full-time teacher.
 4. Full-time athletic directors not assigned teaching duties: shall be eligible to coach at the school provided he/she has a valid teaching certificate issued by the LED or has an applicable master's degree in educational leadership and meets the applicable administrative provisions published in Bulletin 741 (Public and Non-public) as adopted by BESE for public and non-public schools. A school shall be limited to one full-time athletic director for boys' sports and one full-time athletic director for girls' sports that may serve as a faculty coach. Any exceptions to the above criteria must be approved in writing by the LHSAA Executive Committee.

5. A full-time dean of students, librarian, counselor, or other administrative liaison/teacher leader such as a director, master teacher, or instructional coach not assigned to teaching duties: shall be eligible to coach at the school provided he/she has a valid teaching certificate issued by LED. The individual shall hold at a minimum, a bachelor's degree from a regional accredited university or college and meets the applicable administrative provisions published in Bulletin 741 as adopted by the BESE for public and non-public schools. The school shall be limited to one full-time Dean of Students for the boys, and one full-time Dean of Students for the girls.

3.3.2 An individual who previously met the requirements of an LHSAA faculty coach in a school system and who takes a school-system-approved sabbatical leave for professional improvement or maternity/paternity leave shall meet the intent of the faculty coaches' rule provided he/she continues to meet the requirements set forth in the sabbatical program.

3.3.3 A coach shall be allowed to participate in coaching spring football practice if he is employed by the school board for the next football season.

3.4 NON-FACULTY COACHES

3.4.1 Non-faculty coaches are defined as any coach at a member school who does not meet the qualifications of faculty coach. All non-faculty coaches shall be required to meet the provisions of the LHSAA Non-Faculty Certification Program in order to serve as an assistant coach in any sport at any level or as a head coach in those sports listed in Bylaw 3.4.4.

3.4.2 The following individuals do not meet the qualifications of a faculty coach and shall be required to meet the provisions of the LHSAA Non-Faculty Certification Program cited in Bylaw 3.7:

1. An individual who serves as a substitute teacher hired on a day-by-day basis.
2. School system-certified teacher's assistant/aide or paraprofessional.
3. Full-time college students.
4. A college or university teacher in a school system that also includes an LHSAA laboratory school(s) shall not serve as a faculty coach at any LHSAA school in that system unless he/she teaches at least three classes per day on an everyday basis at the college or university.

3.4.3 A school shall not allow non-faculty coaches to serve as the head coach in the sports of football and boys' and girls' basketball. With written permission from the principal, non-faculty assistant coaches shall be allowed to serve as the head coach and faculty representative of a sub-varsity squad in these sports.

3.4.4 A school shall be allowed to use certified non-faculty coaches as the head coach in the sports of baseball, bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, powerlifting, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, indoor/outdoor track and field, volleyball and wrestling.

3.4.5 A school shall be allowed to use certified non-faculty coaches to serve as an assistant coach in all sports at any level.

3.4.6 A school shall be limited to five non-faculty coaches per sport and not more than 30 non-faculty coaches' total per school year excluding football and limited to six non-faculty coaches in football. A school will be limited to not more than 30 non-faculty coaches per school year unless the school has six non-faculty football coaches and then they will be limited to not more than 31 non-faculty coaches for the year.

3.4.7 A coach shall not be allowed to be registered with more than one member school per school year.

Exceptions: 1. A faculty coach assigned by the superintendent to coach at more than one school in the same school system may be registered at more than one member school per year with the Executive Director's approval.

2. A coach shall be allowed to register with more than one member school per school year provided the schools are opposite single gender schools.

3.4.8 Retired coaches shall be considered non-faculty coaches and shall be included in the number of non-faculty coaches allowed per sport and the total of non-faculty coaches allowed per school year.

3.5 COLLEGE INTERNS/STUDENT TEACHER COACHES

- 3.5.1** A full-time college or university student enrolled in and attending a four year school in an education, physical education (Kinesiology), sports administration, or sports management curriculum or enrolled in an approved graduate sports administration or management curriculum and serving as an intern in a practicum in that program for credit in a state college or university shall be allowed to serve as a student assistant coach as part of his/her internship in that approved college/ university program at any level in any sport provided:
1. The student shall be required to meet the provisions of the LHSAA Non-Faculty Certification Program to serve as a student assistant coach in any sport at any level of play.
 2. The student shall not be allowed to serve as a head coach at any level of play in any sport, and he/ she shall always be under the direct supervision of a faculty coach who meets the requirements of the Bylaw 3.3.
 3. The student shall be identified and approved in writing by the department head of the approved university program.
 4. The student shall meet with the school principal to receive his/her approved coaching assignment(s).
 5. The student shall be properly registered with the LHSAA.
 6. A school shall be limited to two college/ university non-faculty student coaches per sport. A school shall be limited to a total of eight college/ university non-faculty student coaches per school year.
 7. The student shall be eligible to serve as a college intern/ student teacher for a maximum of two years.

3.6 RETIRED COACHES

- 3.6.1** An individual retiring with at least 25 years of high school coaching experience in Louisiana school systems or with a combination of at least 25 years of high school administration and coaching experience in Louisiana school systems shall be allowed to serve as a head coach and/or assistant at any level in any sport. An individual meeting these requirements does not have to complete the LHSAA/NFHS Online Fundamentals of Coaching course to coach at the school. This does not include any experience outside of the state of Louisiana.
- 3.6.2** An individual retiring with a combination of at least 25 years of high school and junior high school coaching experience in Louisiana school systems shall be allowed to serve as a head coach and/or assistant coach at any level in any sport provided he/she successfully completes the LHSAA/NFHS Online Fundamentals of Coaching course to coach at the school. This does not include any experience outside of the state of Louisiana.
- 3.6.3** A school system certified teacher who retires with at least 25 years of junior high school coaching experience in Louisiana school systems shall be allowed to serve as a head coach and/or assistant coach at any level in any sport provided he/she successfully completes the requirements of the LHSAA/NFHS Online Fundamentals of Coaching course to coach at the school. This does not include any experience outside of the state of Louisiana.
- 3.6.4** An individual, with at least 25 years of high school coaching experience in Louisiana school systems, retiring or resigning from coaching, would be eligible to receive a Lifetime Card.

3.7 NON-FACULTY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- 3.7.1** The Executive Director, or his/ her designee, shall organize the certification program and provide the NFHS with all materials to be included in the Louisiana component of the NFHS's Online Fundamentals of Coaching course.
- 3.7.2** A school shall not allow a non-faculty member to provide coaching services in any capacity until he/she has successfully completes the LHSAA/NFHS Online Fundamentals of Coaching course with the Louisiana component course.
- 3.7.3** Any school that utilizes the services of a non-faculty coach shall keep a copy of the coach's certificate of completion of the LHSAA/NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course with the Louisiana component course issued by the NFHS and a properly completed Meeting Verification form on file at the school in which the individual is providing the coaching service. If requested, the school shall provide a copy of these forms to the LHSAA. The school shall also be responsible for entering the NFHS certificate number on the LHSAA Members' Only website.
- 3.7.4** Any individual, certified to be a non-faculty coach after July 1, 2008, who ceases to be a non-faculty coach for a period of three years shall be required to complete the non-faculty certification process over in order to be considered a legal coach. Failure to do so shall declare the individual an ineligible coach and subject to all fines and penalties.

3.8 RULES CLINIC ATTENDANCE - If a school participates in the sports of baseball, girls' and/or boys' basketball, football, girls' and/or boys' golf, girls' and/or boys' soccer, softball, girls' and/or boys' tennis, girls' and/or boys' outdoor track and field, volleyball and/or wrestling, it shall be mandatory, that the head coach shall attend, on-site and/or online, an LHSAA administered state rules clinic in that sport. Coaches arriving late to the on-site rules clinic may not be given credit for attendance. Coaches should confirm their attendance has been recorded before leaving the on-site clinic. A head coach failing to attend the on-site and/or online rules clinic shall not be allowed to coach an interscholastic contest until he/she completes the required clinic and shall be assessed a \$50 late charge. The LHSAA shall notify the principal of any school whose head coach is in violation of this rule within three working days of the close of the rules clinic. A head coach that meets all other requirements to be a head coach shall not be considered in violation of the coaches' rule for failure to complete the rules clinic prior to verifiable notification by the LHSAA that the rules clinic has not been properly completed by the coach in question.

3.9 FACULTY AND NON-FACULTY COACHES ROSTER FORMS

- 3.9.1** Each school shall be required to enter online via the LHSAA Members' Only website a roster of all faculty coaches serving at the school and the daily teaching schedule and/or administrative assignments of each.
- 3.9.2** Each school that uses the services of certified non-faculty coaches shall be required to provide the LHSAA with information on each of these coaches and the sport(s) they coach via the LHSAA Members' Only website.
- 3.9.3** The information for these rosters shall be completed online via the LHSAA Members' Only Website and confirmed by the school principal no later than September 15 each year. During the school year, the principal shall be responsible for updating online any changes and/or additions to the school's faculty, non-faculty coaching staff. If these rosters are not timely filed or updated online with the LHSAA, the school shall be fined \$100.
- 3.9.4** Anytime a coach is relieved of his/her coaching duties, the school principal shall notify the LHSAA/LHSCA who will then deactivate their coach's card.

3.10 SCHOOL SUPERVISION

- 3.10.1** No team or individual shall be permitted to participate, under any circumstances, in a contest without the presence of a faculty coach, or a certified non-faculty coach from the school he/she represents.
- 3.10.2** If the faculty coach or non-faculty coach, serving as head coach is ejected from a contest and there are no other faculty or non-faculty coaches at the contest, a faculty member from the school shall be allowed to represent the school in the contest if he/she has written permission from the school principal. This written permission shall be shown to the head contest official before the faculty member can represent the school and coach the team.
- 3.10.3** By written mutual agreement signed by the principals of the two schools, one with a team and the other with no more than two individuals competing in a contest, at any time during the season, may agree on a faculty member or non-faculty coach from either school to act as the school representative and coach for both schools in the sports of bowling, cross country, golf, track and field (indoor and outdoor), swimming, tennis, gymnastics, powerlifting, and wrestling.

3.11 LHSAA/LHSCA MEMBERSHIP CARDS

- 3.11.1** Membership cards of principals and assistant principals assigned by the local school authorities, superintendents, athletic supervisors, coaches, full-time athletic directors, and trainers who meet requirements of Bylaw 3.3.3 and Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) shall be honored by allowing only the cardholder and one guest free admission at all regular season games, playoff games, tournaments, and state championships. This rule applies to an active athletic coach of an LHSAA recognized sport who is employed by the school board, meets the requirements of an LHSAA coach, and coaches a high school team at an LHSAA school. Membership cards of non-faculty coaches who have successfully completed the requirements of the LHSAA's Non-Faculty Certification Program shall be honored by allowing free admission for the cardholder only at all regular season games, playoff games, tournaments and state championships. This pass shall be non-transferable.
- 3.11.2** A principal, assistant principal, superintendent, athletic supervisor, coach, full-time athletic director, trainer and Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) who misuses his/her card or allows another to use his/her card shall be denied use of his/her card for one calendar year from the date of misuse.

- 3.11.3** A principal, assistant principal or coach, who was a full-time employee of a Louisiana school system, becomes eligible for a lifetime card when he/she has met the requirements in Bylaw 3.6. To receive this lifetime card, he/she must submit an application through the LHSAA with the proper documentation. The privilege shall be retroactive to the year 1930. Lifetime card holders prior to July 1, 2020 shall be grandfathered in.
- 3.11.4** A Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) working with sports that register officials with the LHSAA shall be given a lifetime card after he/she has served 15 years as a Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) or a combination of 25 years total, ten as Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) and 15 as an official.
- 3.11.5** A contest official registered and working with the LHSAA for at least 20 years, upon retirement from officiating and written request and verification, shall be issued a lifetime card.
- 3.11.6** All persons inducted into the LHSAA High School Sports Hall of Fame shall be issued a lifetime card.

4.1 **GENERAL**

- 4.1.1** Philosophically, the LHSAA believes that diversification or involvement in a variety of activities is a good and wholesome thing. The LHSAA believes that student-athletes should NOT be channeled into one activity but should be encouraged to participate in a variety of activities sponsored by a member school. The LHSAA wishes to enhance involvement while at the same time discourage the exploitation of students by overzealous individuals and organizations who attempt to impose an obligation or pressure on the student. Blanket statewide policies to prohibit excessive school and school personnel involvement out of season are difficult to write and even more difficult to enforce. It is not the intent of the LHSAA with its rules and interpretations in this area to limit opportunities for boys and girls. Designating sport seasons' length is an attempt to provide balance to the athletic calendar and to afford students an opportunity to compete in a variety of sports throughout the school year and is designed to function so little or no conflicts shall exist between in-season sports and out-of-season sports. The school principal shall be responsible for assuring that the coaches under his/her charge are in strict compliance with the provisions of the sports season rule. The sports season concept extends from the 6th through the 46th week of the NFHS calendar year.
- 4.1.2** The LHSAA sports season for a school team is defined as that period beginning with the opening date of practice as called by each coach within the official starting dates and extending through the school team's last game of the season to include playoff games and the state championships, if applicable, in a particular sport. The actual sports seasons for an individual sport can be found under the "Important Dates" section at the beginning of each sports section in the handbook.
- 4.1.3 Practice Regulations:** Any practice shall be in accordance with the following regulations:
1. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than three hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted.
 2. Student-athletes shall not engage in more than five hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one practice is conducted.
 3. The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three hours.
 4. On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice. Rest/recovery time shall be defined as void of any team or individual activity including but not limited to weight training sessions, conditioning sessions, skill sessions, film sessions, or any other similar athletic session.
 5. Schools shall not schedule multiple practices on consecutive days, and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.
- 4.1.4** Subject to the approval of the school principal, a coach may have out-of-season organizational meetings with his/her players or potential players. ~~Other than these organizational meetings, A coach may organize, supervise, administer, or and direct out-of-season practices, meetings, or gatherings of student-athletes in the school. This includes: informal workouts in a particular sport, and classroom sessions in a particular sport. Restrictions do not include strength and conditioning programs; these programs shall be allowed under this rule (subject to the approval of the school principal).~~
- 4.1.5** Subject to the approval of the school principal, facilities may be used for voluntary out-of-season play, open to all students and required, directly or indirectly, of none. For safety purposes, school personnel may be present as observers of free play, but coaching and instruction are forbidden. "Open gym/field activities" are permitted if they are voluntary and not part of the team selection process and adhere to these principles:
1. Diversity of students - must be open to all;
 2. Student conducted - students choose from offered activities and any coach of a sport under LHSAA jurisdiction shall not coach, instruct, critique, direct, evaluate, or participate in a sport he/she coaches;
 3. Recreational emphasis - the program is not an organized program of instruction and/or competition and there shall not be any organized drills, practice structure and no instruction regarding offensive or defensive schemes by any person, including team members and parents.
- 4.1.6** Heat Acclimation protocol must be followed according to current state law.

4.2 INDEPENDENT OR NON-HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

- 4.2.1** A student who is a member of an LHSAA member high school team may not participate in practices or games with an independent team in the same sport in which he/she is competing.
- 4.2.2** Participation in an independent team tryout, a sports camp or clinic, during the school's sports season is permissible provided the student is limited to participation in individual drills and refrains from any type of teamplay.
- 4.2.3** An organized exhibition group is a structured unit of participants in a sport that conducts public performances in a sport which do not involve actual competition. A student who is a member of an LHSAA school team in a sport may not participate with an organized exhibition group in that same sport. Participating with an organized exhibition group while a student is a member of the school team in that same sport shall be a violation of this rule.
- 4.2.4** Once a student becomes a member of an LHSAA school team, he/she may not participate with an independent team or an organized exhibition group in that same sport. A student who is a member of an LHSAA school team may not practice with or play in a contest with an independent team in the same sport that the school team he represents is competing. Practicing with or playing on an independent team while a student is a member of the school team in that same sport shall be a violation of this rule. This rule shall be in effect for a student from the time he/she reports for the school team until the student is no longer a member of the school team for any reason, or until the team has completed its sports season including state playoffs, if applicable.
- 4.2.5** A student who is a member of an LHSAA school team shall not participate in any manner in an event, a meet or a contest as an unattached contestant against a high school team, a junior high school team, a collegiate team, a club team or other unattached individuals in that same sport. One individual shall constitute a team in indoor and outdoor track and field.
- 4.2.6** A student-athlete who plays on an independent team shall not have his/her high school eligibility affected, provided such play takes place after his/her school has completed its sports season and/or before he/she becomes a member of a school team in the fall. Participation with an independent team is legal in the following situations:
1. Prior to reporting for the school team for the first official practice date.
 2. After no longer being a member of the school team for any reason.
 3. After the school team has completed its sport season including the state championships, if applicable.
 4. During the summer months when school is not in regular session and prior to the start of the LHSAA sports season in a sport.
- 4.2.7** If a majority of the team members from the same school participate on an independent team, the team cannot be coached by a faculty member or non-faculty coach of that school. A coach may coach an independent team during the out of season period if the teams consists of no more than the following number of team members from the same school.
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Basketball – | 3 |
| 2. Baseball – | 5 |
| 3. Softball – | 5 |
| 4. Soccer – | 6 |
| 5. Volleyball – | 3 |
- 4.2.8 Exceptions and Legal Participation:** Participation with an independent team in the following sports shall not be considered violations of this rule:
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Bowling | 7. Swimming |
| 2. Cross Country | 8. Tennis |
| 3. Golf | 9. Track and Field, Indoor |
| 4. Gymnastics | 10. Track and Field, Wheelchair |
| 5. Powerlifting | 11. Track and Field, Para-Ambulatory Athletes |
| 6. Soccer | |

4.2.9 Other legal participation include the following situations:

1. Participation at a professional baseball tryout camp provided the student has written permission from his principal. If a tryout camp is conducted during the high school sports season, the student shall be limited to participating in individual drills and restricted from participating in any type of team play.
2. Participation in a road run as an individual and not as a school representative during the indoor and/or outdoor track season.
3. Participation in sports not recognized as LHSAA sports such as rodeo, sand volleyball or bicycling, etc. during an LHSAA sports season. Any subdivision or variation of a sport such as 3-on-3 basketball, etc. is still considered to be an LHSAA sponsored sport.
4. Participation on an independent team in another sport that is different from the LHSAA sport during an LHSAA sports season. *Example: Participating on an independent basketball team while the student is a member of the school baseball team.*
5. Participation at a basketball evaluation showcase during the fall NCAA contact period provided the student is classified as a senior and/or is in his/her seventh or eighth semester of eligibility and has written permission from his/her principal.
6. An athlete may participate with an independent team in the sport of wrestling provided that such participation takes place prior to the LHSAA defined first contest date. LHSAA high school teams shall not practice or participate with independent teams or individuals during this designated period.

4.3 **OUT OF SEASON - DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR** - Schools shall not require or sponsor activities in the name of the school team outside the school season of the sport involved. A school sponsored team or group of any number of students sponsored by the school which resembles the school's team, is not permitted to compete outside the LHSAA defined season for that sport. Any non-school group can sponsor activities that involve groups of athletes which are mainly or exclusively members of a school team but a school cannot sponsor a competition by its team out of season. Students may participate on a voluntary basis in any activity, as a member of a non-school team or on an individual basis. Neither the member school nor its coaches shall allow the out-of-season activity to be mandatory. *Exception: Athletic periods approved by the Louisiana Department of Education and member school superintendents and principals.*

4.4 **PRACTICE AND OFF-SEASON STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING WORKOUT SESSIONS**

4.4.1 Practice and Strength and Conditioning Programs are permissible out of season if they are voluntary and not part of the team selection process.

4.4.2 Students who do not meet the requirements of the bona fide student rule shall not be allowed to engage in practice and/or off-season strength and conditioning workout sessions with any students of an LHSAA school during the school year. It shall be permissible for a school to allow ineligible bona fide students who could become eligible to practice with a school team. A bona fide student who is ineligible shall not participate in scrimmages, jamborees or any interscholastic competitions at any level.

4.4.3 Schools that share the same attendance zone with another LHSAA school shall not allow any of its coaches to conduct practice and/or strength or conditioning sessions with any middle/junior high school student(s) attending any middle/junior high school located inside or outside the school's attendance zone during the school year unless that middle/junior high is a part of the same member school or school system's designated feeder school.

4.5 **SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

4.5.1 Summer activities for all sports shall begin the 46th week, which is the first Sunday following the last LHSAA State Championship. This rule applies regardless of when your school year ends. Summer activities in all LHSAA sports at the school's facilities, use of school equipment and sport specific apparatus are subject to the approval of the school principal.

4.5.2 During the defined summer period, any number of students from the same school, may play on an independent team without affecting his/her eligibility regardless of who coaches the independent team in a game(s) (faculty or non-faculty member). This allows high school coaches to coach his/her team in team summer camps and summer leagues.

4.5.3 LHSAA players participating in passing leagues during the summer months when school is not in session in the sport of football:

1. May be coached by their high school coach(es).
2. May wear helmets.

3. Shall not wear shoulder pads, hip pads and/or thigh pads.
4. May play under the sponsorship of a non-LHSAA organization.
5. May play on the high school grounds with the written permission of their principal.

4.5.4 Football Players are restricted from wearing protective pads during the offseason and summer months.

4.5.5 During the two days of the clinic segment of the LHSCA Summer Coaches Convention, there shall be a mandatory dead period where no contact with student-athletes can take place. No contact includes the explanation (numbers one through three), along with any student-led drills, practices, workouts on or outside the school premises and any sport-specific camp directed by coaches and/or athletes on or outside the school premises. These dates shall be set by the LHSCA Executive Council each year and shall be placed in the LHSAA Handbook. The dead days includes:

1. A student shall not receive direct or indirect coaching from staff members – including Non-Faculty (CECP) coaches at any time during the dead period on or outside school premises.
2. There should be no group athletic practice either on or outside school premises.
3. There shall be no organized or team weightlifting or conditioning.

4.6 CAMPS, CLINICS, & PRIVATE LESSONS

4.6.1 The LHSAA shall not sanction, endorse, ratify, confirm, or approve any camps, clinics, or private lessons.

4.6.2 Bona fide sports camps/clinics are those sponsored by institutions or business enterprises including: colleges/universities, individual schools or school districts, community school programs, etc.

4.6.3 Member schools and/or coaches may sponsor a sports camp/clinic during the school year under the following conditions:

1. The camp/clinic shall be promoted and advertised in the public media.
2. The camp/clinic shall be open to all students.
3. The camp/clinic shall be for students in grades K-8 only.
4. Member school coaches may participate in the camp/clinic as an instructor.
5. Any coaches found to be enticing students to attend their school shall be found to be in violation of the recruiting/undue influence rules.
6. The camp/clinic may be conducted on the schools facilities if approved by the principal.

4.6.4 Member schools/coaches shall not sponsor a camp/clinic during the sports season. Member school and coach sponsored camps/clinics may be conducted only during the summer months for students in grades 9-12.

4.6.5 Member schools and/or coaches shall not advertise and/or operate camps, clinics, private lessons exclusively for their own athletes.

4.6.6 Member schools and/or coaches shall not pay fees, meals, lodging, or other expenses on behalf of student-athletes. Free sports camp/clinics are permissible provided the camp/clinic is free to everyone.

4.6.7 All registered athletes in grades 7-12 may attend as many individual camps/clinics during the high school sports season provided the student is limited to participating in individual/group drills and shall not participate in any type of team/scrimmage play.

4.6.8 Student athletes may attend as many camps/clinics as an individual, unattached from their school/team, provided they do so at their own expense.

4.6.9 Students may take private lessons at any time provided they do so at their own expense.

4.6.10 Coaches may teach private lessons at any time if they are the owner, employee and/or volunteer of a club or non-profit entity operated separately from the school and school facilities. Private lessons are not to be competitive and comparable fees shall be charged to all participants.

4.6.11 Coaches may coach their son or daughter at any time on an individual basis. This does not give a coach the authority to coach an entire team that their son or daughter may be participating on.

- 5.1 The penalty code outlined throughout the handbook and in this section has been adopted by the Association's member schools.
- 5.2 **FORMAL COMPLAINT** - If a principal believes that a school has violated an LHSAA rule and wants the possible infraction investigated by the LHSAA, he/she must submit a signed written complaint to the Executive Director, stating the name of the school, the rule(s) that he/she believes it has violated, the name(s) of the coach(es) and/or student(s) involved in the alleged violation and as much relevant detailed information of which he/she has knowledge. The Executive Director shall have unlimited authority to investigate the case and impose a penalty. A school penalized under this code shall have the privilege to appeal to the Executive Committee.
- 5.2.1 The Executive Director or his/her designee shall have the authority to investigate any unreported violation(s) he/she deems necessary.
- 5.2.2 With the exception of Articles 6.3.2 and 6.3.3 in the Constitution, the LHSAA may not conduct an investigation of an alleged violations reported by a member school principal during a ten day period prior to the end of the regular season in the reported sport until the end of the sport's championship game. The LHSAA may conduct the investigation following the sport's championship game and may apply all applicable rules at that time. The purpose of this rule is to prevent disruption in the playoff season and to encourage member schools that are aware of possible violations to report the alleged violation in a timely manner. The Executive Director, with the consent of the President of the Executive Committee, shall have the authority to employ a professional investigator to conduct certain recruitment and other investigations as deemed necessary.
- 5.2.3 The Executive Director is authorized to form an LHSAA Rules Compliance Team which shall have authority to check school's athletic files and records as assigned by the Executive Director. Members of this team shall serve at the direction of the Executive Director. The Compliance Team members shall report directly to the Executive Director or his/her designee.
 1. The Compliance Team shall make its best effort to visit each school every year. For new member schools, during its initial visit, financial fines imposed for violations of Bylaws 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10, shall be waived.
 2. At the direction of the Executive Director, the Compliance Team shall also possess the authority to conduct random investigations of school records including classification enrollment, faculty and non- faculty roster forms, and financial aid records.
- 5.2.4 Upon request from the Executive Director, the principal shall be required to provide the LHSAA with the following official records:
 1. Student's legal proof of birth
 2. Copy of student's current physical examination
 3. Copy of student's current class schedule
 4. Copy of student's report card(s)
 5. Copy of student's official school transcript
 6. Scorebook(s)
 7. Other records/information necessary to determine a student's eligibility status
 8. Contracts of contests between schools
 9. School enrollment records for classification purposes
 10. Parental Consent Form
 11. Substance Abuse/Misuse Contract
 12. Tuition and fees
 13. Records relating to financial assistance

- 5.2.5** Upon request from the Executive Director, the principal shall be required to provide the LHSAA with the following reports/information:
1. Information on sportsmanship matters.
 2. Information on the use of an ineligible player.
 3. Information on alleged violations.
 4. Information that may be relevant to LHSAA business.
- 5.2.6** A school failing to furnish necessary reports and/or information or failing to comply with other rules of the Association, after due notice, shall be penalized to a degree in keeping with the severity of the situation, including suspension from the LHSAA, until such time as it complies with the bylaw(s) and pays any fines that may be imposed.
- 5.3** **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS** - With the exception of the recruiting violation rule, the time limit for complaints or action(s) on rules violations shall be one year from the date of the infraction. Any school, student, or person guilty of recruiting students as outlined in Section 2, "Recruiting" of the bylaws may be subject to penalty for the duration of that student-athlete's enrollment in that school. *Example: If an investigation verifies that a student in his junior year attended the school in his freshman year as a result of undue influence, the school and student are subject to a penalty in keeping with the seriousness of the violation.*
- 5.4** **COST OF HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS** - When a school is found responsible for a violation of an LHSAA bylaw, including a sportsmanship bylaw, it may be required to pay for all expenses involved in conducting any LHSAA investigation that is connected with the violation and/or expenses involved in conducting Sportsmanship Committee hearings or other hearings that may relate to the violation.
- 5.5** **REGULAR APPEALS** - If a school is dissatisfied with a penalty ruling imposed by the Executive Director, the principal may appeal the decision to the Executive Committee. The appeal shall be submitted in writing within 15 calendar days of the ruling. If the Executive Director's ruling of ineligibility on a student is appealed to the Executive Committee, the student whose eligibility is pending shall not participate in any athletic contest until his/her case is ruled on by the Committee.
- 5.6** **EMERGENCY APPEALS** - If the principal of a member school requests that an emergency appeal hearing, including a conference call, be conducted by the Executive Committee, the appealing school shall pay for the cost of conducting the appeal if the original ruling is upheld. All requests for an emergency appeal hearing shall be subject to approval by the LHSAA President. Any party that wishes to bring an attorney to an LHSAA hearing is required to notify the LHSAA office 48 hours in advance if any legal counsel will be accompanying the family or school at the hearing. This notification is necessary so that legal counsel for the LHSAA can also be present at the hearing. If the appeal is denied, the school shall be billed for the cost of the LHSAA attorney attending the hearing.
- 5.7** **LITIGATION AGAINST THE LHSAA**
- 5.7.1** Any member school, including an administrator, athletic director, and/or coach, who is party to a suit against the Association, shall be held liable for all legal fees, attorney's expenses, and court costs if the final decision of the case is in favor of the LHSAA.
- 5.7.2** If a student is ineligible according to LHSAA bylaw(s) but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such LHSAA bylaws but in accordance with the terms of a court order of any kind including but not limited to a declaratory judgment, temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, or permanent injunction, against his/her school and/or the LHSAA and said court order is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or [it is] finally determined by the court that the court order including any injunctive relief is not or was not justified, any one or more of the following actions shall be taken against such school in the interest of restitution and fairness to the competing schools:
1. Require that individual or team records and performance achieved during participation by such ineligible student shall be vacated or stricken.
 2. Require that team victories shall be forfeited to the opponent.
 3. Require that team or individual awards earned by such ineligible student be returned to the Association.

- 5.8** **PROBATION:** Types of probation that may be imposed on school and/or school personnel (i.e.: principal, athletic director, coach) that are in violation of an Association rule(s) are:
- 5.8.1** **Administrative probation** – the school and/or school personnel is served notice that it is in a period of warning and additional violations during a period of one calendar year may result in the school's being placed on disciplinary, restrictive, or suspension probation.
- 5.8.2** **Disciplinary probation** – the school and/or school personnel shall be fined and disciplined in some other manner short of being denied the right to participate in home games in a certain sport or being denied the right to compete for postseason play in a sport(s) not to exceed one calendar year.
- 5.8.3** **Restrictive probation** – the school and/or school personnel shall be fined and restricted in some manner during one calendar year, including being ruled ineligible to compete for postseason play in a sport(s).
- 5.8.4** **Suspension probation** – the school and/or school personnel shall be fined and suspended from participating in one sport or all sports or suspended from the Association for one calendar year.
- 5.9** **SUSPENSION**
- 5.9.1** For violation of articles or bylaws of this Association, the offending school may be suspended by the Executive Director, Executive Committee, or Sportsmanship Committee for one year, and no school of this Association shall engage in any athletic contest with the suspended school during the period of suspension. The penalty for playing a school that is on suspension shall also be suspension for one year.
- 5.9.2** Suspended schools shall not participate in any interscholastic competition with member or non-member schools but may maintain voting privileges.
- 5.9.3** If the principal or coach of a suspended school is employed by another member school and acts in the same capacity while the former school is still under suspension, the second school shall not be permitted to have membership in the Association until the suspension of the former school is revoked by the Executive Committee.
- 5.9.4** If a school is suspended in a particular sport, the suspension in that same sport shall apply to the school to which the coach or principal acting in the same capacity has transferred unless the suspension is revoked by the Executive Committee.
- 5.9.5** A suspended school may be reinstated in the Association by submitting an application to the Executive Director who shall have the application approved by the Executive Committee. The school shall pay a \$500 re-admittance fine along with any other financial obligations it may have to the Association.
- 5.9.6** No student who was a member of a suspended team shall be eligible to participate in athletics in any other school while the first school is under suspension.
- 5.10** **FORFEITURE**
- 5.10.1** If an ineligible player participates in an LHSAA contest, the contest shall be forfeited to the opposing school. Any team and individual events/honors won when an ineligible player participated, shall be forfeited.
- 5.10.2** If a team forfeits a contest(s) in postseason play for allowing an ineligible player to participate in the contest(s), it shall be required to return the revenue it received from gate receipts for participating in the forfeited contest(s) to the LHSAA. This revenue will be distributed on a pro-rated basis, if applicable, to the team(s) that received forfeit(s) from the offending school. The statute of limitations for return of revenue shall be one calendar year from the date of the last contest forfeited.
- 5.10.3** If an LHSAA ruling requires the forfeiture of a football contest during the regular season and that forfeiture is an away game, then the forfeiting school shall be required to honor the opponent's home game that following season. If the honoring of that contest is not possible, then the forfeiting school shall pay the following penalty to the opponent that has not lost the home contest:
- 5A - \$5,000.00
 - 4A - \$4,000.00
 - 3A - \$3,000.00
 - 2A - \$2,000.00
 - 1A - \$1,000.00

- 5.11 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES:** The following penalties shall/may be imposed on a school and/or individual(s) by the Executive Director, or Sportsmanship Committee for violation(s) of LHSAA Constitutional Articles and Bylaws:
- 5.11.1 Use of ineligible student as the result of a falsified eligibility document(s) by school officials, the student, and/or the student's parents:**
1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, restrictive, or suspension probation not to exceed one calendar year.
 2. The school shall be fined \$100 per student/per contest/per sport if it self-reports the violation (not to exceed \$500).
 3. The school shall be fined \$500 per student/per contest/per sport if the violation is reported by a source outside of the school or discovered by the LHSAA staff (not to exceed \$2,000).
 4. Any contest(s) in which the student participated shall be forfeited.
 5. The student shall be suspended from the squad for a specific period.
 6. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
 7. In cases of conflicting, blemished, or illegible records, school officials shall be responsible for determining the validity of the records and, if necessary, producing the correct information.
 8. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
- 5.11.2 Use of ineligible student who is intentionally allowed to participate:** (A school shall not continue to allow a student who has been declared ineligible to participate in any interscholastic contest.)
1. The school shall be placed on restrictive probation and declared ineligible for postseason play in the sport in which the violation occurred.
 2. Depending upon the severity of the violation the school may be suspended from the Association.
 3. The school shall be fined \$700 per student/per contest/per sport (not to exceed \$3,000).
 4. Any contest(s) in which the student participated shall be forfeited.
 5. The player shall be ruled ineligible for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
 6. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
 7. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
- 5.11.3 Use of ineligible student due to negligence of school officials to adequately check rules, regulations, and records:**
1. The school shall be placed on administrative probation not to exceed one calendar year.
 2. The school shall be fined \$50 per student/per contest/per sport if it self-reports the violation (not to exceed \$200 per student/per sport).
 3. The school shall be fined \$100 per student/per contest/per sport if the violation is reported by a source outside of the school or discovered by the LHSAA staff (not to exceed \$400 per student/per sport).
 4. Any contest(s) in which the student participated shall be forfeited.
 5. The player shall be ruled ineligible for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
 6. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
 7. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.4 Student plays in violation of scholastic or transfer rule:

1. When the student becomes eligible, he/she shall remain ineligible in the same sport for the same number of contests/playing dates that he/she participated in as an ineligible.
2. The remainder of the penalty is the same as for the use of an ineligible player as outlined in Bylaw 5.11.3.

5.11.5 Student uses and/or participates under an assumed or fictitious name in an LHSAA contest or an independent team contest while in violation of the independent team rule:

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$500.
3. The school shall be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation.
4. The student shall be suspended from all LHSAA sports for at least one calendar year.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.6 Player ejected from a contest in a sport for unsportsmanlike or flagrant conduct:

1. First offense – the player shall receive, through the school, an official warning. Additional Penalty: Any student-athlete who is ejected from an LHSAA sanctioned contest shall be required to take the NFHS Learn Sportsmanship course. The course shall be completed within three school days of the ejection. Failure to complete the course within three days of the ejection shall result in the student-athlete being ruled ineligible to participate in an interscholastic contest until the course is completed. Allowing an ejected student-athlete to participate in violation of this bylaw shall result in the school being prohibited from playing in a home and/or away contest(s) with the head coach in attendance until the ejected student completes the sportsmanship course.
2. Second offense – the student-athlete shall be placed on probation. The student-athlete shall be suspended and ruled ineligible to participate at any level through the next regularly scheduled contest at that level, including postseason play. Allowing a suspended student-athlete to participate in violation of this bylaw shall result in the application of Bylaw 5.11.3.
3. Third offense – the student-athlete shall be suspended from participating in the same sport for the remainder of the season.

5.11.7 Player ejected from a contest in a sport for fighting: If a player is ejected under NFHS rules for fighting, the player shall be suspended as follows:

1. First Offense – The player shall be suspended and ruled ineligible to participate at any level through the next contest at that level, including postseason play. The player shall receive, through the school, an official warning and a meeting shall be held with the principal, coach, student, and student's parents/guardian within one week of the ejection. A written report shall be filed with the LHSAA. The suspended player may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in traveling to or from, or during the contest from which he/she has been made ineligible. If the ejection occurs during the last contest of the season, including postseason play, the student shall be suspended for the next LHSAA sanctioned contest in which in which he/she is to participate. Additional Penalty: Any student-athlete who is ejected from an LHSAA sanctioned contest will be required to take the NFHS Learn Sportsmanship course. The course must be completed prior to being able to return and participate in an interscholastic contest. Allowing a suspended student-athlete to participate in violation of this bylaw shall result in the application of Bylaw 5.11.3.
2. Second Offense – The student shall be suspended from participating in the same sport for the remainder of the season.
3. The principal of a player who has been ejected by a game official for violation of Bylaws 5.11.7 and/or 5.11.8 of the Penalty Code may appeal the ejection to the Executive Director or his/her designee if the school has video that supports the dispute. The video evidence must be submitted to the LHSAA within 48 hours of the ejection.

5.11.8 Player(s) ejected from a contest in a sport for coming off the bench onto the court or field: If a player(s) is ejected under NFHS rules for coming off the bench onto the court or field, the player(s) shall be suspended as follows:

1. First Offense – The player(s) shall be suspended and ruled ineligible to participate at any level through the next contest at that level, including postseason play. The player(s) shall receive, through the school, an official warning and a meeting shall be held with the principal, coach, student(s), and student’s parents/guardian within one week of the ejection. A written report shall be filed with the LHSAA at the completion of the meeting. The suspended player(s) may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in traveling to or from, or during the contest from which he/she has been made ineligible. The school may be subject to a sportsmanship hearing. Additional Penalty: Any student-athlete who is ejected from an LHSAA sanctioned contest will be required to take the NFHS Learn Sportsmanship course. The course must be completed prior to being able to return and participate in an interscholastic contest. Allowing a suspended student- athlete to participate in violation of this bylaw shall result in the application of Bylaw 5.11.3.
2. Second Offense – The player(s) shall be suspended for the next game at that level.
3. The principal of a player who has been ejected by a game official for violation of Bylaws 5.11.7 and/or 5.11.8 of the Penalty Code may dispute the ejection to the Executive Director or his/her designee if the school has video evidence that supports the dispute. The video evidence must be submitted to the LHSAA within 48 hours of the ejection.

5.11.9 If a student athlete commits two offenses under Bylaws 5.11.6, 5.11.7 and/or 5.11.8 the offense shall be treated as a second offense under which bylaw(s) was/were violated. If a student athlete commits three offenses under Bylaw 5.11.6, 5.11.7 and/or 5.11.8, the offense shall be treated as a third offense under whichever bylaw(s) was/were violated.

5.11.10 Coach ejected from a contest in a sport for unsportsmanlike or flagrant conduct:

1. First offense – the coach shall receive an official warning. Additional Penalty: Any coach at any level, grades 9-12 who is ejected from an LHSAA sanctioned sport is required to complete the NFHS Learn Teaching and Modeling Behavior course. This course must be completed prior to being able to return and coach an interscholastic contest. The cost of the course will be the responsibility of the individual coach.
2. Second offense – the school shall be fined \$200, and the coach shall be placed on probation. The coach shall be suspended through the next game at that level, including postseason play.
3. Third offense – the school shall be fined \$300 and may be prohibited from playing in a contest(s) with the coach serving as the coach of the team in the contest(s).

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

1. The school may be placed on probation.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500.
3. The student may receive an official reprimand through the school, be placed on probation, and/or suspended from participation in all LHSAA sports not to exceed one calendar year.
4. If the coach is found to be in violation of this bylaw, the coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12; the school may be prohibited from playing in a contest(s) with the coach serving as the coach of the team in the contest(s) not to exceed one calendar year.
5. The school may be prohibited from playing in a home and/or an away contest(s) with the spectator in attendance not to exceed one calendar year.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.12 Suspension from Athletic Activities for Unsporting Conduct:

1. Anytime an egregious act of unsportsmanlike conduct occurs, the team and/or individual(s) may be suspended from participation in that sport for the remainder of the season. Egregious acts of unsportsmanlike conduct will be defined as instances not within the NFHS or LHSAA adopted rules of the contest. In the event the second act of misconduct occurs when there are no contests left in the current season, the penalty will be enforced in the next season in the same sport.
2. The penalties for a school whose coach(es), player(s), team or spectator(s) display unsporting conduct are as follows:
 - a. The school may be placed on disciplinary, restrictive, or suspension probation not to exceed one calendar year on the first offense.
 - b. On the second offense, the team and/or individuals shall be suspended for the remainder of the season including postseason.
 - c. The school may be charged with the cost of any investigation connected with the violation.
 - d. The school may be charged with the cost of conducting a sportsmanship hearing that is held in connection with the violation.
 - e. The school may be ordered to conduct a home and/or an away contest(s) in the sport without a player(s), a coach(es), and/or a spectator(s) in attendance not to exceed one calendar year.
 - f. The school may be prohibited from playing home contests in the sport not to exceed one calendar year.
 - g. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

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

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, restrictive, or suspension probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$200 for a single violation.
3. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500 for multiple violations.
4. The school may be charged with the cost of any investigation connected with the violation.
5. The school may be charged with the cost of conducting a sportsmanship hearing that is held in connection with the violation.
6. The school may be ordered to conduct a home and/or an away contest(s) in the sport without a player(s), a coach(es), and/or a spectator(s) in attendance not to exceed one calendar year.
7. The school may be prohibited from playing home contests in the sport not to exceed one calendar year.
8. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.14 School reports falsified and/or inaccurate classification enrollment information to the LHSAA:

1. The school shall be subject to being placed on restrictive probation and ruled ineligible for district and/or postseason play in all sports for up to two years immediately following the classification year.
2. The school shall be suspended from the LHSAA until the infraction is assessed by the Executive Committee.
3. The school shall be subject to being fined not to exceed \$5000.
4. The offender may be reprimanded and/or placed on probation.
5. The school shall be subject to being designated as an "unclassified school" under Article 8.4.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

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

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, restrictive, or suspension probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be suspended from the Association until the alleged infraction is assessed by the Executive Committee, and if the school is suspended from the Association, it shall be fined \$500 in order to be readmitted to the LHSAA.
3. The school may be fined not to exceed \$2,500.
4. The offender may be reprimanded and/or placed on probation.
5. The school and/or program may be prohibited from playing home contests in a sport(s) not to exceed one calendar year.
6. The school and/or program may be suspended from participating in a sport(s) not to exceed one calendar year.
7. The school and/or program may be required to schedule a contest(s) without the presence of all spectators.
8. The school and/or program may be prohibited from playing in a home and/or away contest(s) with a certain spectator(s) in attendance for up to one calendar year.
9. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
10. The school may be required to pay for the cost of any hearing and/or investigation connected with the violation.
11. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

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

1. The school shall be fined \$100 per sport for delinquent forms.
2. The school shall be fined \$25 per student/per contest/per sport for omitting an eligible player's name on its online eligibility list if the violation is self-reported (not to exceed \$100 per sport) and \$50 per student/per contest/per sport if the violation is reported by a source outside of the school (not to exceed \$200 per sport).
3. The school shall be fined \$1,000 (not to exceed \$5,000) for not declaring to play football and fielding a team.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.17 School fails to furnish the LHSAA with a required or requested report(s) or record(s) or submits a falsified record(s) to the LHSAA:

1. The school may be suspended from the Association until the alleged violation can be assessed by the Executive Committee.
2. The school may be fined a minimum of \$1,000 not to exceed \$5,000.
3. The student(s) in question may be withheld from competition until the report(s) and/or record(s) is presented to the Executive Director.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.18 School in violation of contest limitations:

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, restrictive, or suspension probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$2,500.
3. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation including a reduction in the number of contests in which it may participate during the following year.

5.11.19 The penalties for schools in violation of encouraging or assisting a student who has successfully completed the 6th, 7th, and/or 8th grade to repeat one or more of these grades for athletic reasons under Bylaw 1.25:

1. The school may be placed on restrictive probation and ruled ineligible for postseason play in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred.
2. If the school is placed on probation and ruled ineligible under subpart (1):
 - a. The school shall be fined \$1,000 and billed for the cost of any investigation related to the violation.
 - b. The student may be ruled ineligible in all LHSAA sports for one calendar year when he/she first enters the 9th grade.
3. If the student is ruled ineligible under bylaw 5.11.18 subpart 2(b), the coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.20 The penalties for a student in violation of Bylaw 1.25 are:

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. If the school is placed on probation under subpart (1):
 - a. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$500.
 - b. The school shall be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation.
 - c. The student shall be suspended from all LHSAA sports for at least one calendar year.
3. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.21 The penalties for a school in violation of Bylaw 2.1 recruiting of students:

1. The school may be placed on restrictive probation and ruled ineligible for postseason play in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred.
2. If the school is placed on probation and ruled ineligible under subpart (1):
 - a. The school may be fined not to exceed \$5,000 and billed for the cost of any investigation related to the violation.
 - b. The school shall be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation.
3. A student found to be recruited in violation of this bylaw may be ineligible to participate in athletics, not to exceed four calendar years.
4. If the student is ruled ineligible and subsequently transfers to a school located in his/her home attendance zone in which he/she would have normally been immediately eligible under the residence and school transfers bylaw, he/she may be ruled immediately eligible at the school once the Executive Director has investigated his/her case.
5. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
6. If the coach is involved, school may be prohibited from playing in a contest(s) with the coach serving as coach in that contest(s). If a coach is involved and a student is ruled ineligible, the coach may be ineligible to coach in any contest(s) in which the student is not eligible to participate.
7. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.22 The penalties for a school in violation of the LHSAA requirements of an LHSAA coach and/or school supervision rule during the playing of a contest(s):

1. The school may be placed on administrative probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$5,000 for the violation of allowing one individual to serve as a coach and an additional \$2,500 for allowing two or more individuals to serve as coaches in a sport.

3. For subsequent violations during a school year, the school shall be fined not to exceed \$10,000.
4. For a violation of the school supervision bylaw in a sport the school shall be fined not to exceed \$5,000 and for subsequent violations during a school year, the school shall be fined not to exceed \$10,000.
5. The coach(es) shall be prohibited from performing coaching duties at all levels in all LHSAA sports at all LHSAA schools for one calendar year from the date the penalty ruling is issued.
6. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
7. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.23 The penalties for a school in violation of the LHSAA requirements of an LHSAA coach during warm-up and/or practice sessions only:

1. The school may be placed on administrative probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$1,000 for allowing one individual to perform coaching duties and not to exceed \$2,000 for allowing two or more individuals to perform coaching duties.
3. The coach(es) shall be prohibited from performing coaching duties at all levels of play in all LHSAA schools until he/she is in full compliance with the LHSAA Coaching Requirements Bylaw.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.24 The penalties for a school's second/subsequent violation of the LHSAA requirements of an LHSAA coach occurring at the same school during the same school year:

1. The school may be placed on restrictive probation and ruled ineligible for postseason play in that sport.
2. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$500.
3. The school shall be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the coach served in any coaching capacity.
4. The school shall be subject to suspension from the association for a third violation that occurs in the same sport.
5. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.25 The penalties for a school in violation of the sports seasons bylaw may be as follows:

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be suspended from the association until the violation is assessed by the Executive Committee.
3. The school may be suspended from participating in that sport not to exceed one calendar year.
4. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$500.
5. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation including being charged with Bylaw 5.11.12.

5.11.26 The penalties for a member of school team violating the independent team bylaw: Student practices and/or plays with an independent team/organized exhibition group and does not play with the school team after the violation:

1. The school may be placed on administrative probation not to exceed one calendar year in the same sport.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$200 per student if the school self-reports the violation or not to exceed \$400 if the violation is reported by a source outside of the school.
3. The student shall be ruled ineligible for the remainder of the season in the same sport.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.27 The penalties for a member of school team violating the independent team bylaw: Student plays with an independent team/organized exhibition group and plays with the school team after the violation:

1. The school may be placed on administrative probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school shall be fined not to exceed \$200 per student if the school self-reports the violation or not to exceed \$400 if the violation is reported by a source outside of the school.
3. Any contest in which the student participated after the violation shall be forfeited.
4. The student shall be suspended for the remainder of the sports season.
5. The student shall be ineligible in the same sport during the next season for the same number of contests/playing dates that he/she participated in after the violation.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.28 The penalties for any school whose coach or school official removes a team from the playing floor or field in protest of an official's decision or for any other reason prior to the completion of a contest:

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, restrictive, or suspension probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500 for a single violation.
3. The school may be fined not to exceed \$1000 for multiple violations.
4. The school may be charged with the cost of any investigation and/or sportsmanship hearing connected with the violation.
5. The school may be ordered to conduct a home and/or an away contest(s) in the sport without a player(s), a coach(es), and/or a spectator(s) in attendance not to exceed one calendar year.
6. The school may be prohibited from playing home contests in the sport not to exceed one calendar year.
7. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.29 The penalties for a school in violation of LHSAA Administrative or Athletic Bylaws may be as follows:

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be suspended from the association until the violation is assessed by the Executive Committee.
3. The school may be suspended from participating in that sport not to exceed one calendar year.
4. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500.
5. The coach may be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.11.30 The penalties for a violation of Bylaw 6.2.1 competing against non-member schools are as follows:

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, restrictive or suspensive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500 per contest.
3. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
4. Other penalties may be imposed on the school to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.12 COACH PENALTY

5.12.1 A principal, athletic director, and/or coach found in violation of an LHSAA bylaw shall be subject to having his/her LHSAA/LHSCA card revoked for a period of at least one calendar year.

5.12.2 The penalties for a coach of a school ruled in violation of any LHSAA eligibility, penalty or sportsmanship bylaw are as follows:

1. The coach may be placed on probation for one calendar year from the date of the violation.
2. The coach may be suspended for one calendar year.

3. The coach may be fined not to exceed \$2500.
4. The coach may lose his/her coach's card for one calendar year.
5. The coach may be required to complete the LHSAA Handbook Certification course before the next scheduled contest regardless of level. If there are no remaining scheduled contests regardless of level, the course shall be completed within three business days from the date of the notification of violation.
6. The coach may be required to complete the LHSAA/NFHS Online Fundamentals of Coaching course before the next scheduled contest regardless of level. If there are no remaining scheduled contests regardless of level, the course shall be completed within three business days from the date of the notification of violation.
7. Other penalties may be imposed on the coach to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.13 SCHOOL'S NON-COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RULINGS, HARDSHIP COMMITTEE RULINGS, OR SPORTSMANSHIP COMMITTEE RULINGS

5.13.1 If any school fails to comply with rulings of the Executive Committee, the school and/or individual involved in the noncompliance is subject to being penalized as follows:

1. The school may be placed on restrictive probation and declared ineligible for postseason play in the sport in which the violation occurred for the season in which the infraction occurred, if applicable, or for the next season depending on the severity of the violation.
2. The school may be suspended from the Association not to exceed one calendar year. It shall be fined \$1,000 in order to be readmitted into the Association.
3. Depending on the severity of the violation, the school may be prohibited from fielding a team at any level in the sport in which the violation occurred for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
4. The school shall be fined \$2,500 per student/per contest/per sport (not to exceed \$10,000).
5. The school may be required to pay for the cost of all investigations and/or hearings connected with the violation.
6. Any contest(s) in which the student participated shall be forfeited.
7. The student(s) shall be ruled ineligible for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
8. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
9. The school may be required to play the entire sports season without the head coach serving in any capacity in the contest(s) in the sport in which the violation occurred.
10. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

5.14 LACK OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL

5.14.1 A school is subject to be cited with Lack of Administrative Control if one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. The school commits three bylaw violations in the same sport during a school year.
2. The school commits four bylaw violations during a school year.
3. During a school year, the school commits two flagrant bylaw violations considered inconsistent with wholesome competition or a wholesome athletic program including sportsmanship violations.
4. The school commits the same violation(s) for three consecutive school years.

5.14.2 Penalties for a school cited with Lack of Administrative Control:

1. The principal shall be required to appear before a three-member sub-committee of the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to answer the allegations against his/her school.
2. After reviewing recommendations from the Executive Director, the sub-committee may impose the following penalties on the school, its administration, its coaching staff and/or its student-athletes.
 - a. The school may be placed on administrative, restrictive or suspension probation for a maximum of one calendar year.
 - b. LHSAA membership may be suspended for a maximum of one calendar year.
 - c. The school may be prohibited from participating in the sport in question for a maximum of one calendar year.

- d. The school may be fined a maximum of \$5,000.
- e. The school's administrator may be reprimanded and placed on probation for a maximum of one calendar year.
- f. The principal may be required to provide the LHSAA with a written report detailing the measures he/she will take in a bona fide attempt to prevent a recurrence of the same or similar violation(s) in his/her school's athletic program. This report is subject to review and approval by the sub-committee.
- g. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
- h. The principal, athletic director, and/or head coach may be required to complete the LHSAA Handbook Certification course or the LHSAA/NFHS Online Fundamentals of Coaching course.
- i. The principal, athletic director and/or coach(es) involved in the violations are subject to having their LHSAA/LHSCA card revoked for one calendar year.
- j. The school may receive additional penalties in keeping with the seriousness of the situation.

5.15 DEFAMATORY STATEMENTS TO MEDIA OR THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

- 5.15.1** A coach, sports official, administrator, or faculty member who is involved in, or a pupil who participates in, a sanctioned sport shall not make a defamatory statement to the media or through the use of any social media relating to any person, sports official or school that is involved in any game, contest or meet.
- 5.15.2** The penalties for a coach, sports official, administrator, faculty member, or pupil who makes defamatory statements are as follows:
 - 1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, restrictive, or suspension probation not to exceed one calendar year.
 - 2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$200 for a single violation.
 - 3. The school may be fined not to exceed \$500 for multiple violations.
 - 4. The school may be charged with the cost of any investigation connected with the violation.
 - 5. The offender(s) shall be suspended from any involvement in the sport for at least one game, contest or meet.
 - 6. The school may be charged with the cost of conducting a sportsmanship hearing that is held in connection with the violation.
 - 7. The school may be ordered to conduct a home and/or an away contest(s) in the sport without a player(s), a coach(es), and/or a spectator(s) in attendance not to exceed one calendar year.
 - 8. The school may be prohibited from playing home contests in the sport not to exceed one calendar year.
 - 9. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
- 5.16** Schools in violation of LHSAA Constitution and Bylaws must pay any fines that may be levied within 30 calendar days from the date of the ruling. Schools failing to pay any outstanding financial balance owed to the LHSAA from the previous year by June 30, after due notice, shall be placed on restrictive probation for the upcoming school year and shall not be considered for postseason play in all sports until the outstanding balance and a ten percent penalty are paid.

6.1 GENERAL COMPETITION

- 6.1.1** A member school shall be prohibited from participating in any interscholastic athletic event that is not sanctioned by the LHSAA.
- 6.1.2** Two or more member schools shall not unite to compete in an interscholastic athletic event.
- 6.1.3** LHSAA member schools shall not compete against the following teams:
 - 1. High schools that do not meet the stipulations cited in Bylaws 6.2.1 and 6.3.1.
 - 2. Independent teams
 - 3. Recreation teams
 - 4. Club teams
 - 5. Junior college or community college teams
 - 6. Four-year college or university teams
 - 7. Individuals that compete “unattached” in high school events
 - 8. Professional or semi-professional teams
- 6.1.4** LHSAA schools shall not compete against high schools from foreign countries unless the event is approved by the Executive Committee.
- 6.1.5** Member schools shall not host or participate in an interscholastic athletic event at a facility that practices discrimination in the event.
- 6.1.6** Once a contest has started, it shall be played to completion, under the applicable playing rules of the sport and be considered an official contest. The results shall be final unless a school believes that an LHSAA bylaw has been violated. In such circumstances, the school should notify the referee in charge of the contest at the point the violation is discovered and report the possible violation, in writing, immediately to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall investigate the alleged violation and shall rule whether the contest is official or shall be replayed. If schools play an athletic contest on a court, field, track, track infield, or other facility that is not regulation, legally marked, or is in poor playing condition, the result of the contest shall stand.

6.2 IN-STATE COMPETITION

- 6.2.1** LHSAA schools shall be allowed to compete against only the following LHSAA schools in interscholastic athletic scrimmages, jamborees, invitational tournaments, regular, and/or postseason play contests:
 - 1. LHSAA member schools.
 - 2. Schools that have officially applied for membership and received written approval from the LHSAA.
 - 3. Registered and submitted 7th and 8th graders with the LHSAA, may compete against Junior High Schools in Classes 2A, 1A, B and C only.
- 6.2.2** All interscholastic contests played in Louisiana by member schools shall be conducted in accordance with LHSAA constitutional provisions, bylaws, and playing rules.

6.3 OUT-OF-STATE COMPETITION

- 6.3.1** LHSAA schools shall be permitted to engage in interscholastic athletic competition against high schools from outside of Louisiana with the following stipulations:
 - 1. The school shall be a member in good standing with its state high school association that is a member of the NFHS.
 - 2. The school is not a member of the state high school association but is permitted to compete against member schools of the association.
 - 3. The school is classified as a junior high school in that state.
- 6.3.2** When LHSAA schools compete against schools in another state, the contest shall be played using the playing rules that have been adopted by the out-of-state school’s state association.

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

6.4 SANCTIONING FOR OUT-OF-STATE COMPETITION

6.4.1 Sanctioning is not required by the LHSAA or the NFHS for competition against schools in bordering states, regardless of the number of competing schools, if the member school complies with the rules contained in the section.

6.4.2 Each high school association that is a member of the NFHS shall sanction the following contests through the NFHS:

1. Non-bordering events if five or more states are involved.
2. Non-bordering events if more than eight schools are involved.
3. Any event involving two or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country.
4. Any interstate event involving two or more schools which is cosponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community.

6.4.3 All NFHS sanctioning is done online at www.nfhs.org/sanctioning. To sanction an event, member schools must register and create a login on this site to be able to complete and submit the online sanctioning form.

6.5 POLICY ON SPORT RECOGNITION AND LHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORSHIP

6.5.1 The following sports shall be recognized for boys only: boys' basketball, boys' football, boys' baseball, boys' golf, boys' cross country, boys' track, boys' gymnastics, boys' tennis, boys' soccer, boys' swimming, boys' wrestling, boys' bowling, and boys' powerlifting.

6.5.2 The following sports shall be recognized for girls only: girls' basketball, girls' golf, girls' cross country, girls' track, girls' volleyball, girls' softball, girls' gymnastics, girls' tennis, girls' soccer, girls' swimming, girls' bowling, and girls' powerlifting.

6.5.3 The Executive Committee shall have the authority to add or eliminate a sport. The Executive Committee may consider adding a new sport to the list of recognized sports at such time as 80 schools (20%) of the membership indicate an interest in LHSAA involvement in the sport. Any new sport that meets these requirements must successfully complete a two-year probationary period as a pilot program before final adoption as a recognized sport. The Executive Committee may consider dropping a sport from the list of recognized sports at such time that the number of schools participating in the sport drops below 40 schools. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to make an exception to this rule as necessary for the satisfactory sponsorship of a sport.

6.6 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDING A SPORT

6.6.1 The principal shall submit online the LHSAA Official Add/Drop a Sport Form, by September 15th to be eligible for postseason play. In the request, the following information shall be included:

1. School name;
2. Sport being added;
3. If it is a boys' team and/or a girls' team being added;
4. The effective school year;
5. If the team is participating at the varsity and/or junior varsity level;
6. The district desiring to play in;
7. If the school will compete for district honors in the sport;
8. Any other information deemed necessary.

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

6.6.3 The sports of varsity golf, gymnastics, tennis, cross country and wrestling will be dropped after each season if schools or individuals from those schools do not participate in postseason play. These sports may be added back each September 15th with no penalty for postseason play if student-athletes who wish to participate are identified by the school.

6.7 REQUIREMENTS FOR DROPPING A SPORT

6.7.1 The principal shall submit online the LHSAA Official Add/Drop a Sport Form, to notify that his/her school is dropping a sports team. In the notice, the following information shall be included:

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

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

6.7.3 Schools that voluntarily forfeit two or more scheduled games in the sports of baseball, boys' or girls' basketball, football, boys' or girls' soccer, softball or volleyball shall be ineligible to participate at the varsity level for the next two years. Member schools may compete against the sub-varsity team during the two-year probationary period but will not earn power points. However, if the school forfeits two or more games during the probationary period, the school's team shall be dropped and not allowed to participate in that sport, at any level, for two additional years and must reapply per Bylaw 6.6, Requirements for Adding a Sport.

6.7.4 A school that voluntarily discontinues baseball, boys' or girls' basketball, football, boys' or girls' soccer, softball, or volleyball shall be removed from district play and not eligible for postseason play in said sport for two calendar years from the date of discontinuance.

6.8 WEEKS DEFINED

6.8.1 A school week shall extend from Monday through Friday when school is in session.

6.8.2 A calendar week shall extend from Sunday through Saturday.

6.8.3 A weekend shall be Saturday and Sunday.

6.8.4 A contest shall not be played on Sunday without mutual agreement of competing schools. This rule may be waived by the Executive Director if a state championship tournament, meet or contest has been postponed and must be rescheduled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

6.9 SCRIMMAGES

6.9.1 An LHSAA team may engage in two pre-season interschool scrimmages in all sports except football.

6.9.2 Football schools may engage in one fall pre-season interschool scrimmage.

6.9.3 Once a school participates in a jamboree or regular season contest, it shall not participate in an interschool scrimmage during that sports season.

6.9.4 No more than three schools shall participate in an interschool scrimmage at the same site, at the same time, and on the same day.

6.9.5 Only eligible students, properly registered with the LHSAA, shall be allowed to participate in an interschool scrimmage.

6.10 JAMBOREES

6.10.1 A jamboree is an abbreviated competition including at least three or more teams. The teams involved in a jamboree do not have to represent three different schools; three or more teams may be from two schools.

6.10.2 Only eligible students, properly registered with the LHSAA, shall be allowed to participate in a jamboree.

6.10.3 A team shall be allowed to participate in one interschool jamboree during the regular season. Once a team participates in a regular season contest, it shall not participate in a jamboree in that same sport.

6.10.4 Play in a jamboree contest is abbreviated for each team in the following manner:

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>LENGTH OF COMPETITION</u>
Baseball	6 total innings per team
Basketball	Two 10-minute halves or One 20-minute contest per team
Football	A total of 30 minutes per contest per team
Soccer	Two 20-minute quarters or One 40-minute contest per team
Softball	6 total innings per team
Volleyball	A maximum of three 25-point games - no cap rally scoring
Wrestling	One takedown tournament per team (as detailed under the sport of wrestling)

6.10.5 All jamborees shall be sponsored by a LHSAA member school.

6.10.6 Written applications to conduct a jamboree in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, football, softball, and volleyball shall be made by the principal of the sponsoring school to the LHSAA by the deadline cited in the "Important Dates" section of the respective sport.

6.10.7 A jamboree approval application shall constitute an agreement between the sponsoring and participating schools indicating they shall comply with LHSAA bylaw and regulations.

6.10.8 The member school that is sponsoring the jamboree in the sports of baseball, boys' basketball and girls' basketball, softball, and volleyball shall pay the LHSAA a \$50, per jamboree, non-refundable sanctioning fee before the event will be sanctioned. Failure to timely request approval of a jamboree shall result in the school paying a \$50 late fee in addition to the \$50 sanctioning fee. A \$250 fine shall be assessed to any school hosting a non-sanctioned jamboree in any sport.

6.10.9 In the sport of football, the member school sponsoring the jamboree shall pay the LHSAA a non-refundable sanctioning fee before the event will be sanctioned. The sanctioning fee shall be based on the number of varsity and sub-varsity teams to participate in the jamboree. The host school shall pay the LHSAA \$200 for each varsity team and \$100 for each sub-varsity team that participates in the jamboree. Failure to timely request approval of a jamboree shall result in the school paying a \$50 late fee in addition to the non-refundable sanctioning fee. A school shall be fined \$250 for hosting a non-sanctioned jamboree in addition to the non-refundable sanctioning fee.

6.10.10 No live or delayed telecasts of a jamboree contest(s) in any sport shall be allowed unless all participating schools in the jamboree give written permission, signed by the principal at least seven days prior to the jamboree.

6.11 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

6.11.1 An invitational tournament and a district tournament shall be classified as regular season play.

6.11.2 Member schools may be limited in the number of tournaments in which they may enter teams during the regular season. These limitations are addressed in the LHSAA bylaws pertaining to the individual sports.

6.11.3 A tournament is an event in which multiple teams representing multiple schools compete

1. A "multi-game" event is the competing by two or more teams at the invitation of the same host.
2. The event shall be approved by the LHSAA as a tournament and shall be counted by all of the participating teams as a tournament.
3. Tri-matches in volleyball must be on schedule but do not count towards tournament maximum.

6.11.4 Restrictions

1. A school shall not enter a team in more than one varsity tournament during the same week.
2. A school may enter one varsity and one sub-varsity tournament during the same week.
3. Sub-varsity teams are not allowed to participate in a varsity tournament in a sport that uses a power rating system. (Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball).
4. After a school has played its first game in a tournament, it shall not play a non-tournament game within the dates of the tournament. *Exception: If a tournament game(s) in baseball, soccer, or softball has been postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, or power failure, the game can be made up at the next available date without causing the school(s) to be in violation of this bylaw.*

6.11.5 Approval

1. All LHSAA invitational tournaments shall be sponsored by a member school.
2. A member school shall not participate in an invitational tournament in Louisiana that is not sponsored by a member school.
3. The sponsoring school shall not be held responsible for the eligibility of other schools' players participating in the event.
4. All invitational tournaments and/or tournament games shall be conducted in compliance with and played according to the LHSAA Constitution and Bylaws. The application to sponsor a tournament shall serve as agreement by the sponsoring school and other participating schools that the tournament shall be conducted in compliance with and played according to the LHSAA Constitution and Bylaws.
5. LHSAA invitational tournaments shall be approved by the Assistant Executive Director of each respective sport in all levels of competition in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, softball, and volleyball.
6. Applications for LHSAA tournament approval shall be made in writing, signed by the sponsoring school's principal, and submitted to the LHSAA by the deadline cited in the "Important Dates" section of the respective sports. Only approved tournaments shall be listed on the LHSAA online schedule system.
7. Member schools shall request approval to participate in out-of-state invitational tournaments which shall meet the requirements that have been cited in this section.

6.11.6 Tournament Finances: The member school sponsoring an invitational basketball tournament shall pay the LHSAA a \$100 non-refundable sanctioning fee before the event will be sanctioned. Failure to timely request approval of a basketball tournament shall result in the school paying a \$50 late fee in addition to the \$100 sanctioning fee. A tournament sanctioning fee is not required in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' soccer, softball and volleyball but failure to timely request approval of a tournament in these sports shall result in a school being assessed a \$50 late fee. A \$250 fine shall be assessed to any school hosting a non-sanctioned tournament.

6.12 REGULAR SEASON

6.12.1 Online Schedules: In the sports of baseball, basketball, bowling, football, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball, schools shall submit to the LHSAA on the LHSAA Members' Only website an online version of their varsity schedule by the deadline cited in the "Important Dates" section of each sport. Failure to do so shall result in the school being fined \$100. Only contests shown on this schedule shall be counted as official contests for state championship team qualifying. If a school adds a varsity contest(s) to its schedule after the deadline cited in the "Important Dates" section of each sport, the additional contest(s) shall not be counted when determining power points for either school.

6.12.2 Reporting Weekly Contest Results Online: Beginning with the first playing date of the season in the sports of baseball, basketball, bowling, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball, the home team principal or his/her designee shall be required to enter the results of all contests, including tournament games, online no later than 11:59 p.m. on the day the contest is played. Additionally, in the sports of baseball, football and softball, the LHSAA member school principal or his/her designee shall report the results of an out-of-state contest or an open date by the established deadline. Unless disputed by 10:00 p.m. on each Monday of each week, the results will stand as posted. In the sport of football, on the tenth playing date, disputes shall be submitted by 10:00 p.m. on that Saturday, or the results will stand as posted. Failure by the home team to submit game results shall result in the home team being fined \$50 for each weekly report not submitted to the LHSAA by the established deadline.

6.12.3 On the date that district representatives are named, the principal or his/her designee of every school in every district of every class shall report the results of any contest played during that week no later than 10:00 p.m. In the sport of football, any games played on Saturday shall be reported no later than 8:00 p.m.

6.12.4 To decide a tie in district standings in the sports of baseball and soccer, the limitations of total number of regular season games played shall be waived for a school. The fewest possible games shall be played to decide a district tie.

6.12.5 If schools cannot mutually agree on the starting time of regular season games, including district games, the home team shall designate the game time as long as both schools day have ended.

6.12.6 Unofficial Dispute Period for Playoff Pairings – In the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball, after the established deadline for reporting teams for playoff competition, schools shall have from 9:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. on the date selected to review, appeal, or dispute the school’s win-loss record and/or power rankings which shall be posted on the LHSAA website. An appeal requests to correct a school’s win-loss record and/or to dispute the power ranking of an individual school, must be submitted in writing by the principal by the 11:00 a.m. deadline. After 11:00 a.m., when all requests, appeals and disputes have been addressed, the official brackets shall be posted. Once the brackets are posted on the LHSAA website, the plan becomes final, and no changes shall be made. Schools’ principals can only correct and/or dispute their own school’s win-loss record and/or power ratings.

6.13 STATE PLAYOFFS

6.13.1 With the exception of Outdoor Track & Field and Golf, a playoff contest shall be classified as postseason play, excluding state championship competition, after district play has been completed and shall involve only those schools who have qualified for postseason play as the result of their regular season performances. For Outdoor Track & Field and Golf, playoff contests will be defined as district and regional meets/tournaments. Schools are prohibited from participating in a regular season contest after the last date of the regular season in the sport.

6.13.2 If a bye on the bracket for all sports exists due to any qualifier not being represented from a district, the bye may be filled using the remaining teams from those being considered for wild card.

6.13.3 The earliest date that a first-round state playoff contest may be played in all classes/divisions shall be the day after the brackets are released. Schools found to be in violation of this rule shall be required to replay the contest provided the winner of the first-round contest has not played its second-round contest.

6.13.4 If a qualifying school wishes to withdraw its team from the playoffs, the school’s principal shall submit a signed statement to the Assistant Executive Director of the respective sport, requesting to not be placed on the bracket no later than 12:00 noon on the day prior to the deadline date to name district representatives as cited in the “Important Dates” section of the specific sport.

6.13.5 If a school fails to withdraw its team from the playoffs and is placed on the bracket and the team withdraws or forfeits its first-round playoff game, the game shall be counted as a forfeit and shall be considered as a home game for the team receiving the forfeit win and the non-participating school shall be fined as follows:

1. Baseball - \$250 (The offended team shall receive 100% of the fine.)
2. Basketball - \$1,000 (The offended team shall receive 90% of the fine and the LHSAA shall retain 10% of the fine.)
3. Football - \$1,000 (The offended team shall receive 90% of the fine and the LHSAA shall retain 10% of the fine.)
4. Soccer - \$250 (The offended team shall receive 90% of the fine and the LHSAA shall retain 10% of the fine.)
5. Softball - \$250 (The offended team shall receive 100% of the fine.)
6. Volleyball - \$500 (The offended team shall receive 90% of the fine and the LHSAA shall retain 10% of the fine.)

6.13.6 The LHSAA shall produce a state playoff bulletin that can be found on the LHSAA website. If applicable, the team roster form located in the bulletin shall be accurately completed and returned to the appropriate party indicated in the bulletin by the stated deadline for inclusion in the official tournament program. Failure to return accurate or complete team roster forms by the stated deadline date may result in the school being fined by the “Penalty Code” section.

6.13.7 In the sports of baseball, soccer, and softball, the home team in the playoff contest shall secure a legal and safe playable field that meets all NFHS playing rules and LHSAA bylaws. If the field is ruled unplayable or does not meet NFHS or LHSAA rules by the official, the home team will have one hour to secure another field or the contest will be rescheduled for the next day at the visiting team’s field. (This does not apply to a field that has been ruled unplayable because of rain or inclement weather conditions.) The contest, if moved, will not count as a home game for the original visiting team. The original home team shall be paid travel expenses only and not share the gate receipts.

6.13.8 A school representative from the home team is responsible for reporting the score online immediately after each playoff contest so that the next playoff contest can be arranged. In all team sports, if the home team fails to report the outcome of a state playoff contest to the LHSAA by 11:00 p.m. on the day of the contest, the school shall be fined \$100.

6.13.9 Determining the Home Team: The home team for playoff games shall be determined as follows:

1. Bi-District Round of Play (If played on a home-away basis) – the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
 - ~~A. In the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball in all classes, the higher seeded team shall be the home team.~~
 - ~~B. A “bye” shall be counted as a home game.~~
2. Regional Round of Play (If played on a home-away basis) – the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
 - ~~A. In the sports of baseball, football, soccer and softball in all classes/divisions:~~
 - ~~1. Any team that drew a bye in the first round shall be the home team.~~
 - ~~2. The team that traveled in the first round shall be the home team.~~
 - ~~3. If both teams traveled or were home teams in the first round, the higher seeded team shall be the home team.~~
 - ~~B. In the sport of volleyball and basketball the higher seeded team shall be the home team.~~
3. Quarterfinal Round of Play (If played on a home-away basis) – the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
 - ~~A. In the sports of basketball, soccer, and softball, the higher seeded team shall be the home team.~~
4. Semifinal Round of Play (If played on a home-away basis) - the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
5. At the state championships (in all applicable rounds of play) - the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
6. Opposing schools may, by mutual agreement, reverse a game site. A reversal of the home/away site for any reason shall not affect the criteria cited in the above bylaws.

6.13.10 Postponement of a Contest

1. When a playoff contest is postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, mechanical problems, and/or any other valid reason as approved by the Executive Director, the contest shall be rescheduled for the next day unless that day falls on Sunday. The contest may be rescheduled on Sunday by mutual agreement of all affected schools. When problems of this nature occur in postseason play, the contest shall be rescheduled on a day-to-day basis, depending on the playing conditions at that time.
2. When rescheduling of postseason events conflict with the next round of competition, the Executive Director shall have the authority to rule on the situation.
3. If two teams are involved, failure to adhere to this bylaw shall result in the two affected schools being removed from postseason competition.
4. If three or more teams are involved, failure to adhere to this bylaw may result in these affected schools being removed from postseason competition.
5. If a scheduled playoff contest is delayed because the host school's game management failed to secure contest officials and the visiting team arrives for the contest:
 - A. The visiting team may agree to delay the start of the contest until officials are secured and arrive.
 - B. The visiting team may choose to postpone the contest until the next day/night.
 - C. If the visiting team chooses to postpone the contest, it shall become the home team and contest host.
 - D. This change in home teams shall not affect the criteria used in determining the home team for that sport's playoff plan.

6.13.11 District Champion

1. Each sport where a district champion is selected, only one (1) district champion will be allowed.

6.14 PLAYOFF BRACKETS

6.14.1 The seeding for a 32-team bracket shall be as follows:

1 vs. 32	5 vs. 28	9 vs. 24	13 vs. 20
2 vs. 31	6 vs. 27	10 vs. 23	14 vs. 19
3 vs. 30	7 vs. 26	11 vs. 22	15 vs. 18
4 vs. 29	8 vs. 25	12 vs. 21	16 vs. 17

6.14.2 The seeding for a 24-team bracket shall be as follows:

1 vs. Bye	5 vs. Bye	9 vs. 24	13 vs. 20
2 vs. Bye	6 vs. Bye	10 vs. 23	14 vs. 19
3 vs. Bye	7 vs. Bye	11 vs. 22	15 vs. 18
4 vs. Bye	8 vs. Bye	12 vs. 21	16 vs. 17

6.14.3 The seeding for a 16-team bracket shall be as follows:

1 vs. 16	3 vs. 14	5 vs. 12	7 vs. 10
2 vs. 15	4 vs. 13	6 vs. 11	8 vs. 9

6.14.4 The seeding for a 28-team bracket shall be as follows:

<u>1 vs. Bye</u>	<u>5 vs. 28</u>	<u>9 vs. 24</u>	<u>13 vs. 20</u>
<u>2 vs. Bye</u>	<u>6 vs. 27</u>	<u>10 vs. 23</u>	<u>14 vs. 19</u>
<u>3 vs. Bye</u>	<u>7 vs. 26</u>	<u>11 vs. 22</u>	<u>15 vs. 18</u>
<u>4 vs. Bye</u>	<u>8 vs. 25</u>	<u>12 vs. 21</u>	<u>16 vs. 17</u>

6.14.5 The seeding for a 26-team bracket shall be as follows:

<u>1 vs. Bye</u>	<u>5 vs. Bye</u>	<u>9 vs. 24</u>	<u>13 vs. 20</u>
<u>2 vs. Bye</u>	<u>6 vs. Bye</u>	<u>10 vs. 23</u>	<u>14 vs. 19</u>
<u>3 vs. Bye</u>	<u>7 vs. 26</u>	<u>11 vs. 22</u>	<u>15 vs. 18</u>
<u>4 vs. Bye</u>	<u>8 vs. 25</u>	<u>12 vs. 21</u>	<u>16 vs. 17</u>

6.14.6 The seeding for a 20-team bracket shall be as follows:

<u>1 vs. Bye</u>	<u>5 vs. Bye</u>	<u>9 vs. Bye</u>	<u>13 vs. 20</u>
<u>2 vs. Bye</u>	<u>6 vs. Bye</u>	<u>10 vs. Bye</u>	<u>14 vs. 19</u>
<u>3 vs. Bye</u>	<u>7 vs. Bye</u>	<u>11 vs. Bye</u>	<u>15 vs. 18</u>
<u>4 vs. Bye</u>	<u>8 vs. Bye</u>	<u>12 vs. Bye</u>	<u>16 vs. 17</u>

6.14.7 The seeding for a 14-team bracket shall be as follows:

<u>1 vs. Bye</u>	<u>3 vs. 14</u>	<u>5 vs. 12</u>	<u>7 vs. 10</u>
<u>2 vs. Bye</u>	<u>4 vs. 13</u>	<u>6 vs. 11</u>	<u>8 vs. 9</u>

6.14.8 The seeding for a 10-team bracket shall be as follows:

<u>1 vs. Bye</u>	<u>3 vs. Bye</u>	<u>5 vs. Bye</u>	<u>7 vs. 10</u>
<u>2 vs. Bye</u>	<u>4 vs. Bye</u>	<u>6 vs. Bye</u>	<u>8 vs. 9</u>

6.14.9 The seeding for an 8-team bracket shall be as follows:

<u>1 vs. 8</u>	<u>3 vs. 6</u>
<u>2 vs. 7</u>	<u>4 vs. 5</u>

6.15 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

6.15.1 Championships shall mean a contest, match, game, event or tournament held to determine the best team or individual in a sport/competition.

6.15.2 State Championship Contest Extension - When an extenuating circumstance arises which may necessitate the postponement of a state championship contest, an extension may be granted if both schools' principal mutually agree and permission is granted by the Executive Director. This bylaw shall apply to those state championship events in which a single contest is involved and not tournament play. Extenuating circumstances may be, but are not limited to a death, graduation, state testing, a holiday, transportation and/or other situations. Both schools' principals and the Executive Director shall agree that the extension is in the best interest of the participants, school, and the sport.

6.15.3 State Championship Souvenir Sales - A school shall be prohibited from selling any shirts, caps, or other souvenir items connected with an LHSAA state championship event bearing the LHSAA's logo and/or the tournament name or logo without written permission from the Executive Director. A school found in violation of this bylaw shall be fined \$1,000.

- 6.16** **SPRING PRACTICE** - A school shall not conduct spring practice in any LHSAA sponsored sport with the exception of football. Refer to Section 14, "Football" for guidelines regarding spring practice in the sport of football.
- 6.17** **POSTSEASON BOWL GAMES** - A school shall not play in more than one postseason bowl game in the sport of football per season. Only schools failing to make the playoffs shall be bowl eligible. A bowl game conducted in Louisiana shall be sponsored by a member school and approved by the LHSAA. The sponsoring school's principal shall make a written request to the LHSAA for contest approval at least 14 days prior to the date of the game. Once approved, the application for such games shall constitute an agreement between the sponsoring and opposing schools indicating they shall comply with LHSAA articles and bylaws. The sponsoring school shall pay the LHSAA ten percent of the gross ticket receipts before payment of officials within 30 calendar days of the event. In order for an LHSAA school to participate in an out-of-state bowl game, the school principal shall make a written request to the LHSAA for permission to play in the bowl game prior to the date of the game.
- 6.17.1** Any school that opts out of a post-season football game and removes itself from the non-select or select bracket, shall not participate in a post-season bowl game.
- 6.18** **ALL-STAR CONTESTS**
- 6.18.1** Any/all all-star contests shall be sanctioned by the LHSAA and sponsored by the LHSCA, with representation from all classifications as specified by the LHSCA Constitution.
- 6.18.2** LHSAA member schools shall be prohibited from conducting an all-star contest in an LHSAA sport without written approval by the Executive Director.
- 6.18.3** Without the Executive Director's written approval an athletic director, coach, principal, teacher, other official of a member school, or an athletic official registered with the LHSAA shall not assist either directly or indirectly, with the coaching, management, direction, player selection, promotion, or officiating of an all-star or similar contest in which one or more of the competing teams is composed of high school players or players who, during the preceding school year, were members of a high school team. Any member school(s) and/or including but not limited to the individuals mentioned above, found in violation of this Bylaw shall be fined under the "Penalty Code" section.
- 6.18.4** The LHSAA shall not sanction any all-star contests other than those played under the auspices of the LHSCA, unless the sponsoring organization agrees, in writing, to provide the association with a written, signed and notarized statement containing a "hold harmless" clause provided by the association's legal counsel indemnifying the LHSAA from any liability resulting from the contest. The sponsoring organization shall also agree, in writing, to pay the LHSAA \$500 before the LHSAA will sanction the contest. The fee shall be paid in full 30 days prior to the contest. The LHSAA shall not sanction any all-star contest that conflicts with any LHSCA all-star contest. Therefore, the event shall not be conducted during the same weekend of an LHSCA all-star event. The LHSAA shall not approve any all-star contests until the sponsoring organization provides the LHSAA with a written agreement to abide by the above bylaws.
- 6.19** **ATHLETIC SHOWCASES** - For the LHSAA to approve showcases in the sports of boys' and girls' basketball, baseball, football, girls' softball, or girls' volleyball, the requesting and sponsoring organization shall agree, in writing, to pay the association a fee of \$1000 and provide the LHSAA with a signed and notarized "hold harmless" agreement from the association's legal counsel, indemnifying the LHSAA from any liability resulting from the showcase. These requirements shall be met before the LHSAA will sanction the showcase. The LHSAA shall provide the requesting and sponsoring organization with a form to complete and return to the LHSAA for sanctioning purposes. The LHSAA shall not sanction any boys' or girls' soccer showcases.
- 6.20** **CONTRACTS**
- 6.20.1** Contracts shall be written, completed, and signed by the principals of both schools for all varsity football games. Contracts shall be exchanged by each school and kept on file in the school's office. If completed correctly and signed by the principals of both schools, the contract shall serve as a legal and binding agreement between the two schools for the game.
- 6.20.2** The following information shall be completed on all contracts for varsity football games:
1. Name of both schools.
 2. Home team for each year.
 3. Game site for each year.

4. Each game's date shall be specific not "corresponding date" on a contract. Exact playing date for each year (playing dates for football seasons are shown on the contract form).
5. Financial arrangements for each year.
6. Signatures of both schools' principals.
7. Contracts should include information on the agreements reached about the officials to be used in game(s).
8. Two-year contracts shall be made in classification years so that contracts shall expire in the same year.
9. A one-year contract, however, shall be made for games played between classification years.
10. If contracts conflict in scheduling district games, non-district games shall become null and void until the district schedule is prepared.
11. Games may be played between Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A teams, but games played between schools in different classes shall have no bearing on the respective district championships.

6.20.3 The football contract form can be found on the LHSAA website.

6.20.4 District minutes listing the district schedule shall serve as a binding agreement between the schools involved when they are signed by a majority of the principals in the district.

6.20.5 Commitments to participate in a game/match, tournament or meet listed on online schedules, in all sports except football shall serve as a binding contract beginning on the first official contest date cited in the "Important Dates" sections of that respective sport.

6.20.6 A contract between schools in all sports except football may be negated by written, mutual agreement between the head coaches, athletic directors and/or principals.

6.20.7 If a school's membership in the LHSAA is not renewed or lapses, the school's athletic contracts with other member schools in all sports become null and void and all games scheduled to be played under these contracts will not be counted in determining district and postseason play.

6.20.8 If a member school fails to honor a contract that has been properly completed and signed by the schools' principals and/or a written agreement committing the school to the event that is signed by the schools' principals and/or listed on the online schedule on the first official contest date cited in the "Important Dates" section of that respective sport, it shall be subject to a "breach of contract" charge by the LHSAA. In breach of contract violations, the principal of the offending school shall be required to appear before the Executive Committee to defend his/her school's actions. For a breach of contract violation, the school shall be subject to being fined and may be placed on administrative or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year; it may be suspended from the LHSAA in the sport in which the violation occurred, not to exceed one calendar year, suspended from the LHSAA in all sports not to exceed one calendar year, or penalized to a degree in keeping with the severity of the infraction by the Executive Committee. After a suspension, a school shall be fined \$500 for re-admittance to the LHSAA. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

6.21 FORFEITURE OF CONTESTS

6.21.1 Forfeiture of Contest at Site of Contest: In order for a non-district contest to be forfeited by a school, the contest officials shall declare the contest a forfeit at the site, sign the official scorebook and send a written report to the LHSAA the same day. If the contest is forfeited by the visiting team, the visiting team shall be responsible for the officials' game pay and travel fee. If the contest is forfeited by the home team or the home team does not show up for the contest and the visiting team travels to the site, the home school shall pay the officials' game pay, travel fee, and the visiting team's expenses.

1. In the sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball, regular season and "home and away" state playoff contests shall be forfeited to the offended team when a team, for any reason, arrives at the contest site more than 15 minutes late of the scheduled starting time. If a team appears within the 15 minute "grace" period, it shall have its players on the field/court ready to play within 15 minutes of their arrival. If two games are scheduled involving the same schools, this rule shall apply to the first game. If the second game has a scheduled time, the forfeiture shall also apply to that starting time. If the second contest has no scheduled start time, that contest shall be forfeited by the official to the offended team if a team fails to appear 30 minutes after the forfeiture time of the first contest.

2. At the state tournament, if a team notifies the LHSAA, the host organization, the tournament director or assistant executive director prior to contest time that it will be late for what the tournament director considers a valid reason, the tournament may be delayed up to 60 minutes from the scheduled contest time. If the team is not present by that time, the game shall be forfeited. Without prior notice, the 15-minute forfeiture in the above shall apply. If its game is not forfeited, a team shall be ready to play within 15 minutes after it arrives at the site.

6.21.2 Forfeiture of Contest Prior to Traveling to Site of Contest: A school may elect to forfeit a scheduled non-district game prior to arriving at the contest site if the LHSAA Official Contest Forfeiture Form (located on the Members Only website) is filled out in its entirety by the forfeiting school's principal, signed by both the principal and the head coach and submitted to the LHSAA and the opponent school's principal for acceptance as a forfeit. If accepted by the receiving school principal and the LHSAA Executive Director, or his/her designee, the form shall serve as official notice that the sending school is forfeiting the contest and acknowledges that the results of the contest will be posted on the school's record as a forfeit loss and the opponent's record shall reflect a forfeit win. Once the form is submitted, the results shall stand and the game cannot be played at a later date. A forfeit granted using this method shall count as a forfeit and any school which forfeits two or more contest in a season shall be removed from district play and shall not be eligible for postseason play for two calendar years. The purpose of this method of forfeiting is designed to reduce the cost of travel and payment of officials when it is determined that a game shall be forfeited.

6.21.3 EFFECTS OF FORFEITURES ON POWER POINTS

- 6.21.3.1** If a school voluntarily forfeits two or more contests during the season, the following shall apply:
1. Results of all games played shall remain.
 2. Opponents remaining on the school's schedule shall have the choice to accept a forfeit or reschedule with another opponent with a written request to the LHSAA.

6.22 SHIRT AND SHOE POLICY - Shirts and shoes are required attire for all indoor and outdoor LHSAA-sponsored athletic events.

6.23 PROHIBITED ITEMS

6.23.1 Artificial noisemakers, including, but not limited to, such items as bells, horns, drums, jam boxes, amplifiers, and/or megaphones, shall be prohibited in any indoor facility while an interscholastic contest is being played. Artificial noisemakers do not include items providing warm up music under the team(s) supervision or instruments used by an organized stage or pep band if approved by the host principal. Authorized pep bands shall not be permitted to play at any time and in any manner while the ball is "alive."

6.23.2 Laser beam light devices shall be prohibited at all LHSAA contests.

6.23.3 A coach, player, and/or bench personnel shall be prohibited from throwing/placing any foreign substances on the competitive surface and out-of-play areas (including locker rooms, hallways, press rooms, etc.) prior to, during, and/or after playing of any game. Substances to include but not limited to all liquids, powders, confetti, glitter, dirt, sand, grass, and streamers. Schools adhering to the Prohibited Items Bylaw could be fined up to \$250 per incident.

6.24 GAME BALL - In all sports that require the use of a ball, all balls shall be legal by meeting the composition, size and weight requirements specified in the applicable playing bylaws of the sport; no other requirements shall apply.

6.25 BROADCASTS

6.25.1 During the regular season, the home team shall have the sole authority to allow a radio broadcast, a telecast or the transmission of a play-by-play account of a game over the internet.

6.25.2 During a state playoff game, both schools shall mutually agree before a play-by-play account of the game can be transmitted by a radio broadcast, a telecast or over the internet. This bylaw shall apply only to the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, football, and softball.

6.25.3 Only the LHSAA Executive Director shall negotiate and approve radio, television, and internet broadcasts for all state championships. Broadcast fees for all state championships shall be set by the Executive Director.

- 6.26 CONTEST MANAGEMENT** - A school shall be prohibited from allowing unauthorized personnel on its sideline and/or its team bench area during any LHSAA contest at any level of play. Penalties may be imposed under the "Penalty Code" section on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
- 6.27 FILMING/VIDEOTAPING**
- 6.27.1** Member schools shall be prohibited from filming, videotaping, or duplicating in any manner, the athletic contests of other member schools without the express written consent of the principals or head coaches of the two schools involved. A violation shall result if a school representative videotapes or films a contest or solicits the services of a non-school representative to videotape or film a game for a school.
- 6.27.2 The penalties for a school that is in violation of filming/videotaping an athletic contest(s):**
1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
 2. The school may be suspended from the association until the alleged violation can be addressed by the Executive Committee.
 3. The school may be suspended not to exceed one calendar year in the sport in which the violation occurred.
 4. The school shall be fined up to \$500 for each contest(s) that is videotaped.
 5. The videotape shall be confiscated by the principal and immediately turned over to the LHSAA.
 6. The offender may be reprimanded.
 7. The offender may be placed on probation.
 8. The coach shall be penalized under Bylaw 5.12.
 9. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

7.1 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.1.1 The following awards shall be presented to the first and second place schools, team members, individuals and head coaches, if applicable.

SPORT	TEAM	INDIVIDUAL
BASEBALL BOYS' BASKETBALL GIRLS' BASKETBALL FOOTBALL SOFTBALL	1 st and 2 nd place trophies in each class	Members of 1 st and 2 nd place teams in each class
BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY	1 st and 2 nd place trophies in each class	Members of 1 st and 2 nd place teams in each class in each sport and top 10 finishers in each class
BOYS' GYMNASTICS GIRLS' GYMNASTICS	1 st and 2 nd place trophies in overall competition in each sport	Members of 1 st and 2 nd place teams in overall competition in each sport, divisional awards in each sport and 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd place finishers in each event
BOYS' BOWLING GIRLS' BOWLING BOYS' GOLF GIRLS' GOLF BOYS' INDOOR TRACK & FIELD GIRLS' INDOOR TRACK & FIELD BOYS' POWERLIFTING GIRLS' POWERLIFTING BOYS' TENNIS GIRLS' TENNIS BOYS' SWIMMING GIRLS' SWIMMING BOYS' WRESTLING GIRLS' WRESTLING	1 st and 2 nd place trophies in each division	Members of 1 st and 2 nd place teams in each division and 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd place finishers in each event
BOYS' SOCCER GIRLS' SOCCER VOLLEYBALL	1 st and 2 nd place trophies in each division	Members of 1 st and 2 nd place teams in each division
BOYS' OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD GIRLS' OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD	1 st and 2 nd place trophies in each class	Members of 1 st and 2 nd place teams in each class and 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd place finishers in each event

7.1.2 Individual awards shall be presented to coaches of state championship and state runner-up teams in all sports.

7.1.3 The number of individual awards presented in a sport shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

7.1.4 State championship and state runner-up trophy specifications shall be the same for all LHSAA contested championships.

7.1.5 If a first-place tie exists for the state championship in any sport in any class/division that cannot be broken, a runner-up trophy shall not be awarded.

7.2 SCHOOL AWARDS

7.2.1 All awards shall be approved by the principal.

7.2.2 No athletic award (trophies, gift certificates, clothes, or other awards) except those from the school shall be accepted by a team or an individual athlete before the end of the sport season in which the award is being made.

8.1 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

8.1.1 In order for a contest official to register with the LHSAA, the official shall meet the following registration requirements in the sports of baseball, basketball, football, powerlifting, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling:

1. Be a high school graduate and/or at least 18 years old.
2. Register through an LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association.
3. Meet registration requirements adopted by the Executive Committee.
4. Pay a registration fee to the LHSAA.
5. Complete an LHSAA pre-season sports-rule clinic.
6. Complete and pass an LHSAA-administered sports-rules test.
7. Agree to follow and enforce LHSAA rules and regulations when serving as a contest official.
8. The LHSAA shall not allow a person to register with the LHSAA to officiate any athletic contest or event sponsored or sanctioned by the LHSAA if the official has been convicted of a felony under the laws of this state, laws of any other state and/or the United States Federal Laws. The Executive Director may make an exception to this rule if the person desiring to register with the LHSAA as an official can show that there has been more than five years passed since his/her sentence has ended, and that he/she is rehabilitated and is currently of good moral character.

8.1.2 Officials who have met all registration requirements with the LHSAA shall be issued an officials' identification card and shall be allowed to enter, at no charge, the LHSAA state championship event in the sport listed on the card upon presenting his/her official's card and his/her driver's license.

1. Official's cards shall be honored for the cardholder only.
2. An official who allows his/her card to be misused shall be denied use of his/her card for one calendar year from the date of misuse. Cards are non-transferable.

8.2 COMPLIANCE WITH LHSAA RULES (OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION)

8.2.1 LHSAA approved officials' associations shall be organized in order to be sanctioned by the Executive Committee. To be LHSAA-sanctioned an association shall:

1. Recruit, register, classify and train their officials.
2. Submit an adopted written constitution and bylaws to the LHSAA.
3. Form an Executive Council.
4. Obtain a Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) for each officials' association chosen by the LHSAA Director of Officials in consultation with the local principals' association in the area being served by that officials' association. The Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) will serve as a liaison between the officials' association, the local principals' association, and the LHSAA. The Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) shall be paid through the local principals' association.
5. An LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association shall agree to comply with LHSAA rules and policies and member schools' contracts and agreements.
6. Members of LHSAA-sanctioned officials' associations shall comply with LHSAA rules and policies.
7. Officials shall comply with the uniform adopted by the Louisiana High School Officials Association (LHSOA) in each sport.
8. Neither LHSAA-sanctioned officials' associations nor individual members shall discriminate against a member school.
9. LHSAA-sanctioned officials' associations shall not refuse to service a member school without the LHSAA Executive Committee's approval.

- 8.2.2** No more than ten officials' associations shall be approved by the LHSAA for the sports of football, volleyball, boys' and girls' soccer, and wrestling.
- 8.2.3** No more than 13 officials' associations shall be approved by the LHSAA for the sport of basketball.
- 8.2.4** In the sports of baseball and softball, in addition to the officials' associations from the nine metropolitan areas, there may be one extra officials' association in each of the following areas:
1. Western part of the state, south of Shreveport and north of Lake Charles.
 2. Northeastern part of the state, south of Monroe and north of Alexandria.
 3. North central part of the state between Shreveport and Monroe.
- 8.2.5** The LHSAA shall not sanction any contest officials' association that has as its Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) the head coach or assistant coach that is serving as a coach at the school in the sport in which that association is applying for sanctioning.
- 8.2.6** An LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association and its individual members shall comply with such specific LHSAA rules and policies as:
1. Structured fees in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling;
 2. Travel pay rate;
 3. Officials' classification systems in football, basketball, softball and baseball;
 4. Established rules that allow a coach to screen officials through a "scratch" program;
 5. Strict adherence to approved rules in the sport they officiate.
- 8.2.7** Members of LHSAA-sanctioned officials' associations shall act professionally at all times.
1. Failure to comply with LHSAA articles and bylaws may cause the officials' association to be held responsible for any LHSAA or member school's financial loss and to be penalized accordingly, including suspension.
 2. Failure by an individual official registered with an LHSAA-sanctioned association to comply with LHSAA articles and bylaws may result in the official being penalized to a degree in keeping with the seriousness of the infraction.
- 8.2.8** LHSAA registered contest official in violation of misconduct in his/her officiating capacity:
1. The LHSAA may reprimand the official through his/her association.
 2. The LHSAA may place the official on probation through his/her association.
 3. The LHSAA may suspend the official's registration not to exceed one calendar year.
 4. The LHSAA may deny the official the opportunity to officiate in state playoffs not to exceed one calendaryear.
 5. The LHSAA may discipline the official through his/her association to a degree in keeping with the severity of the infraction.

8.3 GUIDELINES FOR CERTIFICATION OF OFFICIALS

8.3.1 Registered Officials

1. Must be registered with the LHSAA and a local association.
2. Must make 70% or above on the LHSAA test to work varsity games.
3. Must work at least ten freshmen or junior varsity games before working varsity.
4. Shall not work past the first week of playoffs in any sport.

8.3.2 Certified Officials

1. Must be registered with the LHSAA and a local association a minimum of two years.
2. Must have worked at least five varsity contests the prior season.
3. Must attend 70% of the local association meetings in prior season.
4. Must make 85% or above on the LHSAA test.
5. Must attend a LHSOA sponsored camp or an approved continuing education workshop once every two years.

8.4 SELECTION OF OFFICIALS - GENERAL

- 8.4.1** During regular season non-district, district, and playoff games schools shall be required to use the services of an LHSAA-sanctioned officials' association of its choice in all sports. The choice of a particular officials' association shall be left to the school. *Exception: During the regular season, LHSAA wrestling officials' associations may use out of state officials if the Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) finds it necessary due to a lack of LHSAA certified officials. Any officials used from out of state shall be certified in their home state and members in good standing with their home state high school athletic association. The out of state officials must comply with Louisiana High School Athletic Association articles and bylaws in all aspects.*
- 8.4.2** After a school enters into a written agreement with an officials' association in football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, wrestling and/or soccer it shall fulfill the agreement for the remainder of the sports season unless the association agrees in writing to cancel the contract.
- 8.4.3** A host/sponsoring school shall ensure contest officials' security and welfare by having appropriate security personnel at all athletic contests officiated by LHSOA officials. Appropriate security will include a faculty/staff member or a uniformed security person (preferred) specifically assigned to the officials with responsibilities to escort officials to and from the officials parking location to the playing facility before and after the athletic contest. It is highly recommended that the contest officials be paid before the contest or by Arbiter pay by the next business day.
- 8.4.4** A school shall not use any contest officials from an LHSAA-sanctioned or independent officials' association in any sport that does not comply with LHSAA bylaws.
- 8.4.5** In emergency situations, if necessary, schools may mutually agree to use any available official; otherwise a school shall not be allowed to use an official who has a direct relationship with either team in the following ways:
1. Faculty member or coach of either school.
 2. Parent of a player or coach of either school.
 3. Brother or sister of a player or coach of either school.
 4. Graduate of either school within the past seven years.
 5. Husband or wife of a coach of either school.
- 8.4.6** If an emergency situation exists, the Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) shall notify both schools' principal as soon as possible. If the principals are not available, the coaches shall be notified.
- 8.4.7** If both schools mutually agree to use the available officials, both coaches and the head referee shall sign a statement prior to the start of the contest which will be forwarded to the LHSAA by the referee.
- 8.4.8** If either school does not agree to use the available officials, the game must be rescheduled and played by mutual consent.
- 8.4.9** Except in emergency situations, in the sports of football and boys' and girls' basketball LHSAA schools shall not be allowed to use the services of any Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) from any association to officiate in these sports in junior varsity and varsity contests. In the event a football or basketball Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) officiates a contest at the varsity or junior varsity level in these sports for any reason, the home school shall not be allowed to pay him/her for his/her officiating services including travel fee.
- 8.4.10** If both schools mutually agree to play a contest in violation of any contest officiating rule(s), the results of the contest shall stand.
- 8.4.11** A host/sponsoring school shall provide a secure location for contest officials to meet before, and when applicable, during athletic contests. This location shall be separate from all teams and team coaching staffs. When available, a clean, secure and enclosed area will be provided. In instances where this is not possible based on the contest site, a separate, secure area attended to by the appropriate security provided for in Bylaw 8.4.3 will be made available to the game officials prior to, during and after the contest when required.
- 8.4.12** A host/sponsoring school should provide hydration fluids to all game officials for consumption at appropriate times during athletic contests.

8.5 SELECTION OF OFFICIALS - REGULAR SEASON

- 8.5.1 A district shall not require a school to use a certain LHSAA officials' association in a particular sport.
- 8.5.2 District playoff schools shall mutually agree on the association that will service their games.
- 8.5.3 The Executive Director shall not assign officials to a regular season contest, including invitational tournaments and district contests.
- 8.5.4 Prior to a basketball and/or football contest, the referee shall present to both head coaches an LHSAA official's information card which has the names and positions of the assigned officials. This evaluation form will be available on the LHSAA website.

8.6 SELECTION OF OFFICIALS - POSTSEASON

- 8.6.1 Schools shall not use the services of officials assigned to playoff contests above the district level in any sport unless they are registered with the LHSAA and are members in good standing with their local officials' association in that sport.
- 8.6.2 Schools shall use the services of playoff contest officials from the same officials' association. This rule may be waived at LHSAA-conducted state championship tournaments when an official is injured or the tournament director chooses to assign additional contest officials. *Exception: This rule is not applicable in the sport of basketball beginning with the 2012 state finals.*
- 8.6.3 Competing schools shall mutually agree on an officials' association to service their contest. Once the Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) of the agreed upon association has been contacted by the home team, there shall be no reversal of this decision.
- 8.6.4 Unless competing schools mutually agree, in all sports, schools shall use an officials' association that does not officiate the home contests of either school involved in the playoff contest. *Exception: In the sport of soccer, when officials from a neutral association are selected, the fourth official may be a member of the association that serves the home team by mutual agreement of the Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) of both associations.*
- 8.6.5 The LHSAA shall use the services of a neutral officials' association in football state championship final games, basketball state tournament games, volleyball state tournament matches, soccer state final games, baseball state tournament games and girls' softball state tournament games.
- 8.6.6 The LHSAA shall select officials for the state cross country meet, outdoor state track and field meet, wrestling state tournament, and soccer championship tournament.
- 8.6.7 It shall be the participating schools' responsibility not the LHSAA's to secure officials for playoff games in the following sports:
 - 1. Soccer (all rounds, except applicable tournaments)
 - 2. Track and field (district and regional meets)
 - 3. Volleyball (all rounds, except applicable tournaments)
- 8.6.8 If schools fail to agree on officials in sports for which the LHSAA does not make officials' assignments, and consequently, a contest is not played by the established deadline, the schools shall be eliminated from the state playoffs.

8.7 SCREENING

- 8.7.1 Prior to the first regular season contest in baseball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling, the head coach of said sport may scratch a maximum of three officials without regard to the official's rating under the following conditions:
 - 1. The head coach shall use a standard scratch form (devised by the Executive Director's office) to execute the scratch.
 - 2. A scratch form shall be completed for each scratched official.
 - 3. The coach shall state on the scratch form his/her reason(s) for scratching the official.
 - 4. The scratch form shall be signed by both the head coach and his/her school principal.

5. The scratch form shall be sent by certified, return receipt mail to the Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) postmarked no later than one week prior to the school's first playing date.
6. The scratch shall not apply to invitational tournament games unless the school that scratched the official is the host school.
7. Legal scratches shall apply to regular season and district-playoff "home" and "away" games played by the school whose coach scratched the official(s).
8. Even in an emergency, a school shall not be required to use a scratched official. If the Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) assigns the scratched official he/she shall give prior notice to the coach who scratched the official.
9. Confidentiality between the head coach and the Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) concerning the scratched official shall not be required. The Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) shall reserve the right to show the completed scratch form to the scratched official.

8.7.2 After regular season play begins, any attempt to scratch an official shall be addressed on an individual basis, in writing, using the official scratch form. Additionally, a meeting of the head coach, the school principal and the Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) shall be required.

8.8 FEES

8.8.1 Pay scales for all officials shall be reviewed bi-annually and compared to fees paid across Section 3 states. The base Louisiana fee used for each sport is defined as follows:

Sport	Base Fee
Baseball	Certified Umpire
Basketball	Certified Official, 3-person crew
Football	Certified Official
Soccer	Official, 3-person crew
Softball	Certified Umpire
Volleyball	Official, best 3 of 5 match
Wrestling	Official, one official dual meet

8.8.2 The above Louisiana's officials' fees for each sport will be adjusted to the average Section 3 pay based on the most current data available, rounded to the nearest dollar. In each case, any adjustments will be effective for the subsequent school year. In no event will the adjustment for any sport exceed \$10.00 per official. Additional provisions include:

1. For sports with multi-tiered officials, i.e., Certified and Registered, and/or Electric Clock Operators (ECO), the percentage change to the above base fees will be applied to all classifications of officials, including ECOS.
2. For sports with varied crew complements, i.e., 2-person vs 3-person crews, the percentage change to the above base fees will be applied to all officials of all crew complements.
3. For sports with fees adjusted for playoff and/or championship competition, the percentage change to the base fee would be applied to playoff and championship fees as well.

8.8.3 The bi-annual review process will be conducted not later than March 31 of each "review" year with the initial review year established as 2021. Responsibility for collection of Section 3 fee data and the subsequent review, analysis and calculation of adjustments required, if any, will be conducted jointly by the office of the LHSAA Assistant Executive Director, Director of Officials and representatives of the LHSOA Executive Committee. Data supporting any required fee adjustments will be made available to the LHSAA Executive Committee prior to the committee's November meeting.

8.8.4 Each local association shall negotiate officials' fees with the local principals' association for all invitational tournaments, scrimmages, jamborees, and sub-varsity games. The negotiated fee shall not be more than the adopted game fee. Once an agreed upon fee is negotiated, all schools that are members of the local association shall abide by the contracted price and pay the negotiated fee.

8.8.5 In instances where multi-game tournaments are scheduled, i.e., 2 out of 3 baseball playoff series, officials who travel less than 120 miles one way will be paid travel fees for each tournament day and NO overnight accommodations. Officials who travel 120 miles or more shall receive one travel fee and room accommodations to include two rooms

based on double occupancy for the duration of the tournament. Lodging will be at a LHSAA partner hotel that has a trip advisor rating of 3.5 or higher. Accommodations should be made within close proximity of the playing site. In all instances, a per diem of \$40 per official will apply for the duration of the tournament.

8.8 TRAVEL FEES

8.9.1 Each association shall negotiate travel pay for all regular season games with the local principals' association. If the officials' association and the principals' association cannot agree, a school shall pay a maximum of the current IRS rate as of June 1 each year, one car, for officials' travel expenses. *Exception: In the sport of football member schools shall pay two cars for officials' travel expenses for each game the officials are contracted to officiate.* When a four-man crew is used in a football game, the host school shall only pay one car.

8.9.2 For playoff games, schools shall pay a maximum of the current IRS rate as approved by June 1 of each year one car, for officials' travel expenses. To determine mileage, use the address of city hall and/or main post office of regional association and school address. The Map Quest program located at www.mapquest.com shall be used to calculate the mileage using the best route. *Exception: In the sport of football, member schools shall pay two cars for officials' travel expenses for each game the officials are contracted to officiate.*

8.9.3 As adopted in all classes and for all games, schools shall pay each official \$5.00 extra when travel is over 100 miles (one way), \$10 extra for each official when travel is over 200 miles (one way) and \$15.00 extra for each official when travel is over 300 miles (one way).

8.10 POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS

8.10.1 A "completed contest" is a contest that is played to completion according to the rules of play.

8.10.2 A "suspended contest" is a contest that is interrupted due to inclement weather, darkness or artificial light failure and is to be continued at a later date at the point of interruption as if it was never stopped.

8.10.3 A "cancelled contest" is a contest that has not been played for some reason and is not to be rescheduled.

8.10.4 In all instances where contests are cancelled, unless a notification is provided and acknowledged by the officiating association's Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) at least three hours in advance of the contest's scheduled start, officials shall be paid travel and one-half his/her regular fee. In the sports of baseball and softball, if the game is postponed/cancelled because of inclement weather before the first pitch, only travel expenses shall be paid.

8.10.5 In all sports, in the case of a suspended game, if participating schools' principals or coaches cannot agree to call a suspended game/ match a complete game, officials shall be paid the full fee plus mileage. If the game is completed at a later date (from the point of interruption), the officials shall be paid one half the regular fee plus travel allowance. *Note: Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) shall determine the division of fees to be paid to substitute officials for the rescheduled games.*

8.10.6 If a contest is suspended in any sport and must be continued because of a misinterpretation of an LHSAA bylaw by contest officials, the host school shall not be required to pay the officials additional fees when completing the contest.

8.11 APPEALS - The LHSAA shall not honor a school's protest regarding a contest official's decision made when officiating and applying playing rules in a sport.

8.12 OFFICIALS' DRESSING ROOM - If a separate dressing room is provided for officials, the host school shall assure that only officials are allowed in the dressing room before, at half-time, or after a contest.

8.13 BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

8.13.1 The LHSAA shall not sanction a baseball/softball officials' association unless it services at least eight LHSAA member schools. An exception to this rule can be made by the Executive Director if the area served has a limited number of schools that participate in baseball/softball. Any exception must be approved in writing.

8.13.2 Schools shall use at least two umpires in a baseball/softball game, however; the host school may choose to employ three or more umpires.

8.14 BASKETBALL

8.14.1 To be sanctioned by the LHSAA, a basketball officials' association shall service eight or more member high schools.

- 8.14.2** A school shall not use the services of the same official in more than four home varsity district basketball games at the same school in a season.
- 8.14.3** In contests in which two officials are used, one official shall serve as referee and the other as umpire. In contests in which three officials are used, one official shall serve as referee, one as Umpire 1, and one as Umpire 2.
- 8.14.4** The decision to pay for the services of two or three officials for non-district and tournament games shall be made by the host school's principal, unless the district guidelines state differently.
- 8.14.5** A three-man officiating crew shall be used in all postseason contests. *Note: In the event only two officials are present at game time, the entire game shall be played using the services of only two officials and the outcome of the game shall count as played.*
- 8.14.6** Schools shall use an adult to serve as the clock operator at all varsity basketball games.
- 8.15** **FOOTBALL**
- 8.15.1** The LHSAA shall affiliate with a football officials' organization known as the Louisiana High School Football Officials' Association.
- 8.15.2** To be sanctioned by the LHSAA, a football officials' association shall service ten or more member schools.
- 8.15.3** A school shall not use the services of the same official in more than three home varsity football games at the same school in a season.
- 8.15.4** It is recommended that each Regional Coordinator of Officials (RCO) rotate all qualified officials among the five football classes during regular season game assignments.
- 8.15.5** A school shall use a football official as the official clock operator at varsity football games.
- 8.15.6** Each school may provide a properly trained adult to operate the 40/25-second clock at varsity football games.
- 8.15.7** In a football playoff game schools shall be required to use five on-the-field officials and a clock operator to service the game. Both schools may mutually agree to use six or seven on-the-field officials and a clock operator in football playoff games prior to quarterfinal round of play. Beginning with the quarterfinal round of play, schools shall be required to use six on-the-field officials and a clock operator. Both schools may mutually agree to use seven on-the-field officials and a clock operator in any round of play. The five crews selected to officiate the finals shall use seven on-the-field officials and a clock operator.
- 8.16** **SOCCER**
- 8.16.1** The home team may request the system of officials to be used for all regular season contests, excluding district playoff matches.
- 8.16.2** In matches above district competition schools shall use four officials.
- 8.17** **VOLLEYBALL**
- 8.17.1** In the event only one official is used the match shall count as played.
- 8.18** **WRESTLING**
- 8.18.1** The National Federation of High School Wrestling Official's Manual shall be the guidebook for officials.
- 8.18.2** An assistant referee may be used during competition and all procedures under Rule 3, Section 2 of the National Federation Wrestling Rules shall be strictly adhered to.

9.1 INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

9.1.1 All regular season contests shall be scheduled after school hours.

9.1.2 Release time for an athletic contest shall be left to the discretion of the school principal as directed by Bulletin 741.

9.2 POSTSEASON RULE

9.2.1 The LHSAA views playoff events and experiences as “special” for the entire school, and therefore, treats them differently from regular season contests; therefore, a playoff contest can be scheduled during school hours.

1. Release time for a traveling team is left to the discretion of the school principal.

2. The postseason bylaw applies to play above the district level. *Exception: Because many track and field facilities are without lights and, therefore, cannot be used for night competition and because more than one classification and/or district may be required to use the same facility on the same day, district track and field meets may begin at 1:00 p.m. with the scratch meeting beginning no earlier than noon.*

3. When possible, postseason play should be scheduled after school hours, preferably at night.

9.3 PRACTICE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY - At all levels of play in all LHSAA sports prior to reporting for a team practice session that school day, if applicable, the school shall prohibit a student(s) from participating in any form of athletic participation for more than one regular class period during instructional time on a school day. This includes participation in weightlifting sessions, conditioning sessions, skill sessions, the viewing of game films, viewing of game video tapes or DVDs, or any other similar athletic session. The principal is directly responsible to the association for his/her school's strict compliance with these bylaws. If a school allows a student(s) to violate the bylaws, the school may be ruled immediately ineligible for varsity postseason play in the sport in which the student competes or has competed, and also penalized under Bylaw 5.11.12. This rule shall be enforced throughout the entire school year.

10.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 12, 2024 – Sunday, January 12, 2025	6th – 28th	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, December 16, 2024 – Sunday, January 12, 2025	24th – 28th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Sunday, December 22, 2024 – Saturday, January 11, 2025	25th – 27th	Pre-season evaluation period
Monday, January 13, 2025 – Saturday, March 1, 2025	28th – 34th	Spring Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, January 13, 2025	28th	1st Official Practice/Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Thursday, January 23, 2025	29th	Deadline for submitting Application for Jamboree and/or Invitational Tournament approval
Thursday, February 6, 2025 – Saturday, February 8, 2025	31st	Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Saturday, February 8, 2025	31st	Deadline for submitting schedules online.
Monday, February 10, 2025	32nd	1st Contest (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, March 3, 2025	35th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Tuesday, March 25, 2025	38th	LHSCA: Deadline for submitting All-Star Nominations
Sunday, April 6, 2025	40th	All-Star Selection Committee Meeting
Saturday, April 12, 2025	40th	Last date to add a game for power rating purposes.
Monday, April 14, 2025	41st	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named
Tuesday, April 15, 2025	41st	Playoff Pairings Named
Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – Saturday, April 19, 2025	41st	Round 1 Playoff Games (Division I, II and III) Scrimmage Series (Division IV, Class B and Class C)
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 – Saturday, April 26, 2025	42nd	Round 2 Playoff Games (Division I, II and III) Round 1 Playoff Games (Division IV, Class B and Class C)
Tuesday, April 29, 2025 – Saturday, May 3, 2025	43rd	Round 3 Playoff Games (Division I, II and III) Round 2 Playoff Games (Division IV, Class B and Class C)
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 – Saturday, May 10, 2025	44th	Semifinal Games (Division I, II and III) Round 3 Playoff Games (Division IV, Class B and Class C)
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – Saturday, May 17, 2025	45th	State Tournament – McMurry Park – Sulphur, LA
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

10.2 CONTEST LIMITS

10.2.1 Pre-Season:

1. Between the ~~27th~~ 25th and the ~~29th~~ 27th week of the NFHS calendar, a school shall be permitted a pre-season evaluation period. The evaluation period shall run from the first Monday of the ~~27th~~ 25th week to the Friday of the ~~29th~~ 27th week and is limited to only 20 hours of coach/student-athlete contact during that period. There is no restriction on the type of baseball equipment that can be used during the evaluation period. An interschool scrimmage is not allowed during the evaluation. An evaluation period can be used as a tryout. There will be a mandatory two-day dead period the Friday and Saturday of the 28th week for the purpose of allowing coaches to attend the Louisiana Baseball Coaches Association Convention.

10.2.2 Season:

1. A team shall be limited to 34 games per regular season in any combination of regular season games and tournament games.
2. Each game in a tournament shall count as one game toward the 34-game season limit.

10.2.3 Doubleheaders:

1. A school may play an unlimited number of doubleheaders (~~two games on the same day against the same team~~) in a season. The doubleheader may be played against 2 different opponents. Any competition against more than two different opponents in a day shall be registered as a tournament.
2. All doubleheaders shall count as two games.

10.2.4 Tournaments:

1. There shall be no limit to the number of tournaments a team can play as long as the 34-game limit for the regular season is not exceeded.

10.3 GENERAL - Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools.

10.3.1 For playoff competition, Class B and Class C shall be placed in separate brackets according to classes as approved by classification. ~~schools that are classified as select schools shall compete in divisions as determined by the Select Schools, or a Committee chosen from their number. A select school may choose to compete for postseason play in a division higher than assigned. The declaration to compete in a higher division is sport specific and shall be in effect for two years.~~

10.3.2 Schools shall be allowed to place a memorial patch not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches that will be uniformly placed on the jersey in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform. It is recommended the patch be placed on the jersey sleeve or front in an area not to interfere with the number.

10.3.3 Only an assigned baseball coach and/or player shall coach from a coach's box. A coach shall not be required to dress in a uniform or wear a helmet.

10.4 PITCH COUNT

10.4.1 The pitch count rule will be based on the number of pitches thrown to a batter with the same arm during an at bat – pitches thrown for balls, strikes, foul balls, and balls put in play are the only pitches that will count toward the final total; pickoff attempts, warm up pitches, pitches ruled as a no pitch by the umpire, and extra pitches allowed by an umpire because of injury will not count toward the pitch total.

10.4.2 A pitcher will be allowed to finish pitching to a batter if his maximum pitch limit is met during the at bat, but he must be replaced after the hitter, or his substitute has completed his at bat.

Note: The pitching rule applies even though a game may be called by an umpire due to darkness, inclement weather, or any other factor that may cause it to end before it has become an official game.

10.4.3 Each team will be required to have someone responsible for counting pitches and the home team will also provide an "official pitch counter." The recorders will compare pitch counts at the end of each inning at a spot designated by the home team – if there is a discrepancy on the number of pitches, the number that 2 of the 3 counters have will be the official count; if all three have a different number, then the number indicated by the official pitch counter will be considered the official pitch count. It is suggested that the official pitch count recorder not be located in the home team dugout.

- 10.4.4** Pitches allowed per day with rest requirements (with the same arm). For any game that is suspended, the pitches thrown in the previous suspended game will NOT count towards the total of 115 pitches per game. Any pitches thrown in the completion of the suspended game, will only count towards the per day maximum daily pitches, not a cumulative total of both days. The normal required rest will still apply as normal.

LHSAA Pitching Regulations	
Maximum Daily Pitches	Required Rest (Days)
1-34	0
35-59	1
60-84	2
85-115	3

Example: if a pitcher throws 85 pitches on Tuesday, he cannot pitch again until Saturday – the rest period is determined by calendar days not hours – it does not matter what time a game starts or ends.

The maximum number of pitches that can be thrown in one day is 115.

The coaches from both teams must initial an official LHSAA form confirming the pitch counts for all pitchers involved in their game.

- 10.4.5** Both coaches must enter the pitch count of their pitchers when entering their scores on the LHSAA website. If a team is found to have violated the pitch count rule:
1. They will have to forfeit the game in which the violation occurred.
 2. The head coach will have to serve a one-game suspension as soon as the violation is verified by the LHSAA.
- 10.4.6** This pitch count rule applies to all varsity and sub-varsity games, and will be used during regular season, the playoffs, and the state tournament.
- 10.5** **OFFICIAL GAME** - A regulation game shall be seven innings unless shortened by inclement weather or darkness after it has become official or been extended to extra innings because of a tied score after seven innings.
- 10.5.1** If a game is terminated before it has been completed:
1. It shall be an “official game” in accordance with the NFHS Baseball Playing Rules.
 2. A game that is terminated for any reason prior to becoming an “official game” shall be suspended, and if continued at a later date, it shall be resumed from the point of suspension (interruption) as if the game had not been terminated. If possible, each team’s lineup and batting order shall be exactly the same (subject to the rules of the game) as at the time of suspension.
 3. A tied game that is terminated at any point before it has been played to completion shall be suspended. If continued at a later date, the game shall resume as outlined above.
 4. If a tie exists when reverting to the last completed inning in an official game that was terminated at the end of one-half inning before it had been played to completion, the game shall be suspended. If continued at a later date, the game shall resume as outlined above.
 5. A game terminated at any time for mechanical reasons (light failure, etc.) shall be treated as a suspended game and resumed as outlined above.
- 10.5.2** “Speed-up” rules outlined in the NFHS’s baseball rules book shall apply to all contests.
- 10.5.3** The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 20 or more runs after 1 ½ innings, or after the 2nd inning, if either team is 20 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 15 or more runs after 2 ½ innings, or after the 3rd inning, if either team is 15 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 1/2 innings, or after the fifth inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. The 10-run rule shall apply to all regular and postseason contests. The run rule shall apply to all regular and post-season contests.
- 10.6** **DISTRICT PLAY**
- 10.6.1** Each district committee and all districts’ schools shall comply with the constitutional provisions pertaining to competition within the district. This requirement is explained in the constitution in Article 6, “District Affairs.”
- 10.6.2** As long as the LHSAA’s constitution is not violated, a district shall determine its own method for determining its first-place team representative in state playoffs by the deadline cited in Bylaw 10.1, “Important Dates” section, in this section. Failure to name a representative(s) by the deadline may result in a school(s) being omitted from the state playoffs. Additional days to certify a district’s playoff representatives shall not be allowed.

10.6.3 Before a district game forfeit can become official, it shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the district's principals. All principals in the district shall be afforded an opportunity to participate in this decision. Refer to Bylaw 6.20.

10.7 REPORTING TEAMS FOR PLAYOFF COMPETITION

10.7.1 The district chairperson shall report the name of the first-place team and teams tied for first place on the official LHSAA District Chairperson Certification Form to the LHSAA by 10:00 p.m. on the deadline cited in Bylaw 10.1.

10.7.2 Only those schools that automatically qualify for the state playoffs shall submit the official LHSAA District Final Standings Form by 10:00 p.m. on the deadline cited in Bylaw 10.1. The form must be verified and signed by the head coach and the school's principal. If a team fails to submit the required information by the established deadline dates, the school shall be fined \$100 per occurrence/per sport. Additionally, the school shall be placed in the lowest position of the rankings and is subject to being excluded from playoff consideration. Forms submitted by email shall only be accepted from the principal, athletic director, or coach's register email address listed on the contact information of the LHSAA Members' Only website.

10.8 QUALIFYING PROGRAM

10.8.1 Qualifying teams shall be allotted to each class and division as follows:

NON-SELECT DIVISIONS/CLASS	QUALIFIERS
<u>I</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>II</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>III</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>IV</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>V</u>	<u>24</u>
B	24 16
C	24 16

SELECT DIVISIONS	QUALIFIERS
I	<u>20</u>
II	<u>20</u>
III	<u>20</u>
IV	<u>20</u>
V	<u>10</u>

If a bye(s) on the bracket exists due to any qualifiers not being represented from a district, the bye(s) shall be filled using the remaining teams from those being considered for wildcard.

~~**10.8.2** Only the teams that are certified as the first place representatives from the district shall automatically qualify for postseason play from that district. If a district championship is tied, all tied teams shall share the championship honors and shall qualify for postseason play from that district.~~

10.8.3 In completing the playoff bracket, all other teams qualifying for the state playoffs shall be selected on the basis of the established power rating system. Schools that fail to play 15 contests during the regular season, including district play and tournament games, shall be ranked separately using the same ranking system that is used to rank schools that played at least 15 contests or more during the regular season. These schools shall be ranked at the bottom of the bracket and seeded accordingly until all remaining positions on the bracket are filled.

10.8.4 The remainder of the byes on the bracket shall be filled with wildcard teams (teams that did not automatically qualify) with the highest power rating in descending order to fill the bracket.

10.9 SEEDING THE BRACKET - In Non-Select Divisions I - IV, all teams shall be seeded 1-24 according to their power rating, and Class B and C teams shall be seeded 1-16 24. In Select Divisions I - IV teams shall be seeded 1-20 according to their power rating.

10.9.1 Tie-breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating are as follows:

1. If two schools that are tied played each other during the season, the school that won the most games against the other school shall be the highest seeded school.
2. If the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in the tie, the tie shall be broken by applying the classification play percentage. The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher seeded school.
3. If after applying Rule 2, the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in district play shall be the higher seeded school.

4. If after applying Rule 3, the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in overall regular season play shall be the higher seeded school.
5. If after applying Rule 4, the tie is not broken, the school that finished in the highest position in the district shall be the higher seeded school.
6. If a tie still remains, the higher seeded school shall be selected by having a “draw” conducted in the LHSAA office by the baseball seeding committee.

10.10 **DETERMINING POWER RATING**

10.10.1 The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST		ADD	ADD
Win (20 points)	Same Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins
	Higher Class & Division	Add 2 points for each Class & Division up	Opponent's Wins
	Lower Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins
Loss (0 points)	Same Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins
	Higher Class & Division	Add 2 points for each Class & Division up	Opponent's Wins
	Lower Class & Division	N/A	Opponent's Wins
Double Forfeit		Add 1 point to team that defeated both teams forfeiting	Opponent's Wins
Tie (5 points)		Add ½ point if opponents have a tie	Opponent's Wins

10.10.2 When a team's opponent is an out-of-state team, the classification of the out-of-state team shall all be weighted equally. There will be no play-up points factored into an out-of-state opponent. When a school plays an out-of-state school that has any games on its schedule after the LHSAA's final playing date, those games shall not be used in determining the school's power ranking.

1. When a school plays an out-of-state school, all contests played that count on their regular season record shall be used to calculate a school's power ranking.
2. If an out-of-state opponent plays more than 34 regular season games by the time of the LHSAA's final playing date, only the results of the first 34 games played shall be applied in the LHSAA's Wild-Card Program.

10.10.3 Contests played against sub-varsity opponents and district playoff (tie breaker) matches shall not count in determining the school's power rating.

10.11 **PLAYOFFS - NON-SELECT**

10.11.1 All playoff games shall be played on a “home and away” basis through the quarterfinal round for [Division IV](#), Class B, and Class C.

10.11.2 In all rounds of playoff games, the officials' association shall be assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.

10.11.3 In “home and away” games, both schools shall mutually agree on the playing date and time of the contest. If the date of the game cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the game shall be played on the deadline cited in Bylaw 10.1, “Important Dates” section. If the game time cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the starting time shall be 3:30 p.m. Playoff games shall not be played on dates that conflict with district, regional, or state track and field meets without mutual agreement of both schools.

10.11.4 If a playoff game is postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, or some other approved unforeseen reason, the Executive Director may grant an extension for the game. If the Executive Director grants the exception, the following shall apply:

1. The playoff schools shall request a day-by-day extension to play the game.
2. The game shall be played on the next day if possible.
3. Both schools shall mutually agree before a game may be played on a Sunday.
4. The game site may be moved to another location in the state so that play can be completed by the deadline.

5. If a postponed game is played on the day before or after the next scheduled round, the Executive Director shall not grant an extension to the school that won the postponed game. The game shall be played the next day unless that day is a Sunday or unless a game on that day conflicts with a district, regional, or state track and field meet (if applicable).
6. In Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A Divisions I, II, and III, in the rounds of play that are decided by a best two out of three series, the following guidelines shall apply:
 - a. If no games are completed due to any reason prior to the Tuesday after the scheduled end of the series, the series shall be reduced to a single elimination game.
 - b. If only one game has been completed due to any reason prior to the Wednesday after the scheduled end of the series, the series shall be reduced to a single elimination game, and the game that was played shall be the game of record. The LHSAA shall serve as mediator to ensure each series is completed.
 - c. If two games have been completed and the series is tied and the third and final game cannot be played due to any reason prior to the Tuesday after the scheduled end of the series, Bylaw 10.11.4.2 shall be applied, and the final game shall be played on the next possible date.

10.11.5 The playoff system for Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A Divisions I, II, and III shall be as follows:

1. Bi-District Round - Best two of three series at the home field of the higher seed.
2. Regional Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team.
3. Quarterfinal Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team.
4. Semifinal Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team.
5. Quarterfinal Semifinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament best two of three series at a site to be determined by the Executive Committee.

10.11.6 Any division or class that has a bye in their bracket has the opportunity to play an “Exhibition” game with another team that has a ‘bye’ on its bracket. Division IV, Class B and Class C schools that qualify for playoff competition shall be allowed to play a three-game exhibition series during the NFHS 41st week. All exhibition games must be played before their first game in the playoffs.

10.12 PLAYOFF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS – NON-SELECT

10.12.1 Admission Prices shall be set by mutual agreement of the participating schools.

10.12.2 The home team retains the rights to concession sales.

10.12.3 Disbursement of revenue from gross ticket receipts shall be divided equally among schools before any deductions.

10.12.4 Home team shall be responsible for securing and compensation for the following:

1. Contest Officials
2. Official Scorekeepers
3. Ticket Sellers and Takers
4. Security
5. Ground Crew
6. Baseballs and other items necessary to conduct the game.
7. Field Rental (if necessary)

10.12.5 The visiting team is responsible for its travel expenses.

10.13 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

10.13.1 The Executive Committee shall accept statewide bids to host baseball tournaments in all classes and divisions.

10.13.2 Division IV, Class B and C Quarterfinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament in all classes. Divisions I, II, and III semifinal winners shall play for the state championship in a best two of three series.

10.13.3 The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the state championship tournament(s) for all divisions and classes and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The semifinals and the finals State Championships shall be scheduled to be played on the Wednesday – Saturday of Week 45. The Executive Director shall select/appoint the tournament director.

10.13.4 For all LHSAA state baseball tournaments, the umpires utilized shall be selected and assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.

- 10.13.5** The tournament director and the Executive Director or his/her designee shall set game times.
- 10.13.6** If a state tournament is rained out, the Executive Director shall have the authority to change the dates and/or tournament site.
- 10.13.7** The tournament director shall be responsible for the following:
1. Organizing and managing the overall tournament and games
 2. Managing tournament finances
 3. Reporting each game's results to the LHSAA and media
- 10.13.8** During the week of the ~~tournament~~ State Championships, a participating team shall not practice on the game field during the entire week or until the ~~tournament~~ State Championships is completed. Violation of this rule shall result in the offending team being removed from the ~~tournament~~ State Championships.
- 10.13.9** The LHSAA shall reserve the exclusive right to sell tournament t-shirts, caps, and other souvenir items and shall retain 100% of the sales of all other souvenir items sold at the tournament. The host organization shall retain 100% of concession sales and souvenir program sales.
- 10.13.10** From the gross ticket receipts, less the LHSAA Building Surcharge, the LHSAA shall receive 80% of the ticket receipts. The host organization shall receive 20% of the ticket receipts. From the 80% of the ticket receipts received by the LHSAA, each participating team shall receive 60% of the ticket receipts prorated on a per-game played basis. and Additionally, Division IV, Class B and Class C shall receive \$200 for a semi-final game played and \$300 for a final game played. Divisions I, II and III shall receive \$333 per game played. Each out-of-town team shall be reimbursed 40 cents per mile (map mileage), one way, for travel expenses, and each team shall be paid an \$8 per-player-per-day meal allowance with a limit of 20 players per team. This limit shall also include two coaches per team. Reimbursement shall be based on two days' stay. An exception, however, shall be schools located 150 miles or more (map mileage), city limit to city limit from the city in which the tournament is conducted. Teams traveling more than 150 miles shall be allowed a three-day maximum stay due to travel distance if they remain in the tournament. Each team shall arrange its own lodging.
- 10.13.11** If the LHSAA realizes a financial loss after the following expenses have been paid, the loss shall be deducted on a pro-rate basis from the participating team guarantees:
1. Facility rental
 2. Facility staffing and game administration charges.
 3. Contest officiating fees and mileage.
 4. Twenty percent of gross ticket sales to the LHSAA
 5. Twenty percent of gross ticket sales to the host organization
 6. Team meal allotment
 7. Team travel expenses
- 10.14 State Playoff - Select**
- 10.14.1** The playoff system for Select Divisions shall be as follows:
1. Regional Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team. The Select Schools, or a committee chosen from their number shall have the option to make this round of play a single elimination game for the lower enrollment division if necessary due to pitch count concerns.
 2. Quarterfinal Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team. The Select Schools, or a committee chosen from their number shall have the option to make this round of play a single elimination game for the lower enrollment division if necessary due to pitch count concerns.
 3. Semi-Final Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seed team.
 4. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, select baseball teams in all divisions shall compete for state championship honors at a site or sites selected by the select schools, or a committee chosen from their number. The tournament shall consist of a single elimination game in the final round of play in Divisions I, II, III, IV and V or the best two out of three series for Divisions I, II, III, and IV as determined by the select state championship committee.

- 10.14.2** The higher seeded team as determined under Bylaw 10.10, Power Ranking, shall be the home team.
- 10.14.3** The umpires utilized shall be selected and assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.
- 10.14.4** Game time for the regional and quarterfinal rounds of play shall be set by mutual agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 6:00 p.m.
- 10.14.5** If a game is rained out, the home team shall have the authority to change the dates and/or tournament site.
- 10.14.6** The home team shall be responsible for the following:
1. Organizing and managing the game
 2. Managing game finances
 3. Reporting each game's results to the LHSAA and media
- 10.14.7** Financial Arrangements (all Divisions, regional and quarterfinal rounds of play)
1. Admission Prices shall be set by mutual agreement of the participating schools.
 2. The home team retains the rights to 100% of concession sales and souvenir program sales.
 3. Disbursement of revenue from gross ticket receipts shall be divided equally among schools after officials' game fee is deducted.
 4. Home team shall be responsible for securing and compensation for the following:
 - a. Officials Hotel Fee (if necessary)
 - b. Official Scorekeepers
 - c. Ticket Sellers and Takers
 - d. Security
 - e. Ground Crew
 - f. Baseballs and other items necessary to conduct the game.
 - g. Field Rental (if necessary)
 5. The visiting team is responsible for its travel expenses.
- 10.14.8** The visiting team's principal or athletic director must make a request with the home team's principal or athletic director at the time the two schools mutually agree on the playing date and time to be guaranteed at least 30 percent of the stadium's seating capacity for a playoff game.

Rules In This Section Shall Pertain To Both Boys' And Girls' Basketball Unless Otherwise Specified.

11.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, September 9, 2024	10th	1st Official Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed - Classes B & C and Division V (Current medical history/ exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, September 30, 2024	13th	Deadline for submitting online application for jamboree and/ or Invitational Tournament approval - Classes B & C and Division V
Monday, September 30, 2024 - Sunday, October 27, 2024	13th-17th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, October 14, 2024	15th	Deadline for submitting working schedules online - Classes B & C; Division V
Monday, October 14, 2024	15th	1st Official Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, & 1A and Divisions I, II, III & IV (Current medical history/ exam, parental permission/ athletic participation, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, October 14, 2024	15th	Deadline for submitting online application for jamboree and/or Invitational Tournament approval - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, & 1A; Divisions I, II, III & IV
Monday, October 21, 2024 - Saturday, December 7, 2024	16th - 22nd	Winter Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, October 28, 2024	17th	Deadline for submitting working schedules online - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A & 1A; Divisions I, II, III & IV
Monday, October 28, 2024 - Saturday, November 2, 2024	17th	Earliest Jamborees - Classes B & C; Division V (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, November 4, 2024	18th	1st Contest - Classes B & C; Division V (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, November 11, 2024 - Saturday, November 16, 2024	19th	Earliest Jamborees - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, & 1A; Divisions I, II, III & IV (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, November 18, 2024	20th	1st Contest - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, & 1A; Divisions I, II, III & IV (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 6, 2025	27th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All- Academic
Tuesday, January 21, 2025	29th	Basketball All-Star Nominations Due (Boys & Girls)
Saturday, February 1, 2025	30th	Last date to add a game for power rating purposes. (Boys & Girls)
Saturday, February 15, 2025	32nd	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (Girls)

<i>2024-2025 DATES</i>	<i>CALENDAR WEEK</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>
Monday, February 17, 2025	33rd	Playoff Pairings Named (Girls)
Thursday, February 20, 2025	33rd	Bi-District Round Deadline (Girls)
Saturday, February 22, 2025	33rd	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (Boys)
Monday, February 24, 2025	34th	Regional Round Deadline (Girls)
Monday, February 24, 2025	34th	Playoff Pairings Named (Boys)
Thursday, February 27, 2025	34th	Quarterfinal Round Deadline (Girls)
Friday, February 28, 2025	34th	Bi-District Round Deadline (Boys)
Monday, March 3, 2025 - Saturday, March 8, 2025	35th	Girls' State Tournament - University Center, Hammond, LA
Tuesday, March 4, 2025	35th	Regional Round Deadline (Boys)
Friday, March 7, 2025	35th	Quarterfinal Round Deadline (Boys)
Monday, March 10, 2025 - Saturday, March 15, 2025	36th	Boys' State Tournament- Burton Coliseum, Lake Charles, LA
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

11.2 CONTEST LIMITS

11.2.1 Pre-Season:

1. A team shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages.
2. A team shall be limited to one jamboree.

11.2.2 Season: A team shall be limited to the following:

1. 34 total games 1A-5A; I-IV
2. 44 total games B & C; ~~V~~

11.2.3 Tournaments:

1. Unlimited Tournaments

11.3 GENERAL - Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and Divisions I, II, III, IV ~~and V~~ in the playoffs and shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools.

11.3.1 For playoff competition Class B and Class C shall be placed in separate brackets according to classes as approved by classification, ~~schools that are classified as select schools shall compete in five divisions as determined by the Select Schools, or a committee chosen from their number. A select school may choose to compete for postseason play in a division higher than assigned. The declaration to compete in a higher division is sport-specific and shall be in effect for two years.~~

11.3.2 “Home team” players shall wear white jerseys and “visiting teams” players shall wear dark-colored jerseys in varsity games.

11.3.3 The coaching box shall be outlined outside the side of the court on which the scorer and timer’s table and team benches are located.

11.3.4 Basketball courts whose width is less than the maximum width, such that a properly drawn three-point semicircle line actually intersects with and ends at the sideline, shall be allowed for regular season games only, due to the location of the three-point line.

11.3.5 During the playing of all basketball contests, spectators shall not be allowed to stand in any area that outlines the playing court. All spectators shall be seated in the stands during the playing of all basketball games.

11.3.6 If a school’s football team has a state playoff game scheduled on Friday night that conflicts with the school’s scheduled basketball game(s), it shall be permitted, by mutual agreement of the opposing school principal, to reschedule the basketball game(s) on a school night during the same week provided it is not a tournament game. If it is a tournament game, it shall require the approval of both the host school and opposing school principals to reschedule the game to an earlier date. In either case, the opposing school shall be allowed to honor this playing date change without penalty.

11.3.7 Schools scheduled to play boys’ and girls’ basketball games on Monday and/or Tuesday of the 20th calendar week in conflict with the Boys’ and Girls’ State Cross Country Meet may mutually agree to play on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday.

1. If any school scheduled to compete in the state cross country meet on Monday cannot mutually agree to play on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, then it shall be required to play its game on Tuesday of the 20th calendar week.
2. If any school scheduled to compete in the state cross country meet on Tuesday cannot mutually agree to play on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, then it shall be required to play its game on Monday of the 20th calendar week.

11.3.8 For girls’ and boys’ varsity basketball contests, neither the official scorer nor the scoreboard operator shall be a student currently enrolled in an LHSAA school.

11.3.9 Point Differential in Sanctioned Basketball Games:

1. When one team leads by 35 or more points at any time during the game, the officials shall use a running clock to time the game; 2. If the score differential becomes less than 35 points at any time during the game, the officials shall not revert to regular timing; 3. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, a running clock may be used at any time during the game.

2. Running Clock Operations:

- A. The clock will be run continuously during: Jump ball possessions; Out of bounds plays; free throws.
- B. The clock shall be stopped for: Time Outs; Injuries; Technical fouls; any other time the officials address a situation that requires an excessive amount of time to resolve.

11.4 DISTRICT PLAY

- 11.4.1 Each district committee and all district schools shall comply with constitutional provisions regarding competition within the district. This requirement is explained in the Constitution in Article 6, "District Affairs."
- 11.4.2 As long as the LHSAA Constitution is not violated, a district shall determine its own method for determining first place team representatives in state playoffs by the deadline cited in Bylaw 11.1, "Important Dates" section.
- 11.4.3 Before a district basketball game forfeit can be official, the forfeit shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the district's voting principals. All principals in the district shall be afforded an opportunity to vote.

11.5 REPORTING TEAMS FOR PLAYOFF COMPETITION

- 11.5.1 Each district champion shall submit one official LHSAA District Final Standing Form by 10:00 pm on the deadline cited in Bylaw 11.1, "Important Dates" section and must be verified and signed by the head coach and the school's principal. Failure of the district champion to submit the required information by the established deadline dates shall be fined \$100 and/or may result in the school being omitted from the state playoffs. Additional days to certify a district's champion shall not be allowed. Completed forms must be submitted via email.

11.6 DETERMINING POWER RATINGS

- 11.6.1 1. The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST (<u>DIVISION I-IV</u>) (<u>CLASS 1A - 5A</u>)	ADD	ADD
Win (25 points) Same Class & <u>Division</u> Higher Class & <u>Division</u> Lower Class & <u>Division</u>	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & <u>Division</u> up N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34
Loss (0 points) Same Class & <u>Division</u> Higher Class & <u>Division</u> Lower Class & <u>Division</u>	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & <u>Division</u> up N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 34

RESULT OF CONTEST (<u>CLASS B & C</u>)	ADD	ADD
Win (30 points) Same Class & <u>Division</u> Higher Class & <u>Division</u> Lower Class & <u>Division</u>	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & <u>Division</u> up N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 44 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 44 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 44
Loss (0 points) Same Class & <u>Division</u> Higher Class & <u>Division</u> Lower Class & <u>Division</u>	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & <u>Division</u> up N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 44 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 44 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 44

2. A team's power ranking shall be the result of the contest, plus 2 points for playing up, ~~plus the district champions will have 1 point added to their total score~~, plus the opponent's wins divided by the opponent's games played, multiplied by 34 or 44 to get the total power points of each game which is then divided by the total number of games played during the season.
3. Contests played against out-of-state opponents, sub-varsity opponents, Hall of Fame games, and district playoffs (tiebreakers) shall not count in determining a school's power rating.

11.7 SEEDING

- 11.7.1** Class B teams shall be seeded 1-~~16~~ **24** and Class C teams shall be seeded 1-16. In non-select divisions, I-IV shall be seeded 1-28 according to their power ranking. In the select divisions I-IV, all teams shall be seeded 1-24 according to their power ranking.
- 11.7.2** Schools that fail to play 15 games during the regular season, including district play and invitational tournament play, shall be ranked separately using the same ranking system that is used to rank schools that played at least 15 games or more during the regular season. These schools shall be ranked at the bottom of the bracket and seeded accordingly until all remaining positions on the bracket are filled.
- 11.7.3** For both girls' and boys', Classes 5A-1A and Divisions I-IV schools shall count only those wins against Class B and/or C ~~and Division V~~ schools beginning with the 20th calendar week.
- 11.7.4** Schools that are classified as B and C, ~~and Division V~~ schools shall count all games played.
- 11.7.5** After schools are ranked, they shall be seeded from the highest to lowest against the highest to lowest seeded teams that have played at least 15 games or more during the regular season.
- 11.7.6** Tie-breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating:
1. If two schools are tied and played each other during the season, the school that won the most games against the other school shall be the higher seeded team.
 2. If after applying the first criterion and the tie is not broken or if the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in a tie, the tie shall be broken by applying class play percentage (schools that were played in the individual school's classification). The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher seeded team.
 3. If after applying the second criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in district play shall be the higher seeded team.
 4. If after applying the third criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in overall regular season play shall be the higher seeded team.
 5. If a tie still remains, the higher seeded team shall be determined by having a "draw" conducted by the LHSAA office.

11.8 PLAYOFFS

- 11.8.1** In "home and away" games, both schools shall mutually agree on the playing time and date of the contest. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 6:30 p.m. and the deadline date for completion for that round listed in Bylaw 11.1, "Important Dates" section.
- 11.8.2** In all rounds of playoff games, the Officials' Association will be assigned by the LHSAA's Director of Officials.
- 11.8.3** Any class that has a bye in its bracket has the opportunity to play an "Exhibition" game with another team that has a 'bye' on its bracket. Exhibition games must be played after the End of the Regular Season/District Representatives named date listed in Bylaw 11.1, "Important Dates" section and before their first playoff game.

11.9 PLAYOFF PLANS

- 11.9.1** The home team is responsible for providing and for the expense for the following (if applicable):
- a. Tickets
 - b. Ticket Sellers and Takers
 - c. Door Guards
 - d. Official Scorekeepers
 - e. Official Timer
 - f. Scoreboard Operator
 - g. Custodial Personnel
 - h. Other Personnel, as needed
 - i. Rental of Facility, if needed
 - j. Other items, as needed
- 11.9.2** Home team retains rights to concession sales.

- 11.9.3** Admission prices for home and away games shall be set by mutual agreement of the participating schools. Admission price shall be a minimum of \$5.00. Game receipts shall be verified and counted by officials of both schools at the conclusion of the game unless prior arrangements have been agreed upon.
- 11.9.4** The visiting team's principal or athletic director must make a request with the home team's principal or athletic director at the time the two schools mutually agree on the playing date and time to be guaranteed at least 30 percent of the gym's seating capacity for a playoff game.
- 11.9.5** The following deductions are used when disbursing revenue received from gross ticket receipts, to include tickets sold in advance and at gate:
1. Payment of five percent of gross ticket receipts to LHSAA before deductions
 2. Payment to contest officials, including official timer.
 3. Payment for uniformed security at the game.
 4. Travel payment to visiting team, \$1.00 a mile. (One-way, map mileage)
 5. All remaining revenue after the above payments shall be shared equally by both schools.
- 11.9.6** If the game receipts are not sufficient to pay for the expenses cited, the following payments shall be made and the visiting team shall retain the revenue that remains:
1. Payment of five percent of gross ticket receipts to LHSAA before any other payments.
 2. Payment to contest officials, including official timer.
- 11.9.7** All boys' and girls' playoff games (from the bi-district round through the quarterfinal round) shall be played in the home team's gym if it meets the following minimum seating capacity:
- | | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| 5A - 1000 | 4A - 800 | 3A - 600 |
| 2A - 500 | 1A - 500 | B - 500 |
| C - 350 | | |
- Note: The two participating schools may mutually agree in writing to play on a court that does not meet the minimum seating requirements.*
- The following shall be used in determining seating capacity:
1. For bleachers, pews and bench-type seating - 18 linear inches per person.
 2. For chair-type seating, capacity will be total number of such type seats.
 3. No movable chairs may be placed for fan seating nor may such be used to expand seating capacity.
 4. Standing room may not be used to determine seating capacity.
 5. Portable bleachers are legal with at least three feet of space beyond the out-of-bounds line.
- 11.9.8** The playing court shall be marked so that a 3-point shot may be taken around the complete circumference of the arc of the 3-point line.
- 11.9.9** The following plans have been adopted for use through the quarterfinals if the home team's gymnasium does not meet the established minimum seating criteria for the specific class and/or legal playing court.
1. The site shall be within a 30 miles radius from the home team's gymnasium.
 2. The neutral site shall be selected by the home team without approval from the visiting team if the site meets all other criteria. If the home team cannot secure a gym that meets the criteria, schools shall mutually agree on a site that meets the criteria outside of the radius. If schools cannot agree on a neutral site, each school secures a neutral gym that meets the criteria and submits their request to the Executive Director to make a final decision.
 3. Once a neutral site is selected and agreed upon, neither team shall practice on the court prior to the game without written agreement of both school's principals. Schools may conduct a shoot around on the court the day of the game no earlier than two hours prior to the start of the game. Violation of the practice restrictions will result in the game being forfeited by the offending school.

11.9.10 If a school's girls' basketball team is scheduled to play in the state tournament semifinals or finals game, the school's boys' basketball team shall not be required to play their playoff game on the same day that the girls play the semifinals or finals game. Game date and time shall be set by mutual agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 7:00 p.m. of the deadline date for completion for that round listed in Bylaw 11.1, "Important Dates" section with the exception being if a school's girls' team is playing in the state tournament. If this is the case, the date to play the game then falls on the day before the stated deadline for that date.

11.10 CHAMPIONSHIPS

11.10.1 The LHSAA Executive Committee shall choose the Girls' and Boys' Championship sites. The LHSAA shall organize, administer, and shall set the tournament playing schedule for both tournaments. Both tournaments shall consist of semifinal and final rounds.

11.10.2 Girls' basketball teams in all classifications shall compete for state championship honors in their own separate state tournament. The tournament shall be conducted during the 35th week of the NFHS calendar and one week prior to the boys' basketball championship tournament.

11.10.3 Boys' basketball teams in all classifications shall compete for state championship honors in their own separate state tournament. The tournament shall be conducted during the 36th week of the NFHS calendar and one week following the girls' basketball championship tournament.

11.10.4 Teams shall be allowed a maximum of 24 individuals to enter the tournament for free. Those 24 individuals must include any/all coaches, players in legal uniforms, managers, trainers and/or statisticians and must be listed on the required Team Roster form. Once a team roster has been submitted per Bylaw 6.13.6, "Athletic Contest" section, it shall be considered final. Any/all additional tickets shall be purchased at the ticket window for full price. Any/all additional tickets purchased shall enter through the spectator entrance and will not be allowed on the bench. Only 1 team bus driver, per bus, will be allowed to enter through the Team Entrance and must have a school I.D. Any member school(s) and/or including but not limited to the individuals mentioned above, found in violation of this bylaw shall be fined under the "Penalty Code" section.

11.10.5 Participating teams shall receive a financial guarantee: \$1300 per game played and \$5 per mile (map mileage, one way). Teams playing two games shall receive mileage for two trips regardless of whether they travel or stay overnight.

11.10.6 If the LHSAA realizes financial loss after the following expenses have been paid, the loss shall be deducted on a pro-rata basis from the participating team guarantees.

1. Facility rental
2. Facility staffing and game administration charges.
3. Contest officiating fees.
4. Five percent of gross ticket sales to the LHSAA
5. Team travel expenses

Rules In This Section Shall Apply To Both Boys' And Girls' Bowling Unless Otherwise Specified.

12.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Official Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, January 6, 2025	27th	Earliest Scrimmage Allowed
Monday, January 13, 2025 – Saturday, March 1, 2025	28th – 34th	Spring Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, January 13, 2025 – Saturday, January 18, 2025	28th	Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 20, 2025	29th	1st Match (If jamboree is not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, March 3, 2025	35th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Thursday, March 20, 2025	37th	End of Regular Season
Monday, March 24, 2025	38th	Bowling Seeding and Playoff Pairings Released (Girls and Boys – All Districts)
Friday, March 28, 2025	38th	Deadline for Team and Singles Entry Fee to State Tournament
Monday, March 31, 2025 – Tuesday, April 1, 2025	39th	Boys' Bi-Regional Playoffs
Thursday, April 3, 2025	39th	Girls' Bi-Regional Playoffs
Wednesday, April 9, 2025	40th	State Tournament - Finals - Girls' Team Competition
Thursday, April 10, 2025	40th	State Tournament - Finals - Boys' Team Competition
Friday, April 11, 2025	40th	State Tournament - Finals - Boys' and Girls' Singles Competition
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

12.2 CONTEST LIMITS

12.2.1 Pre-Season:

1. A team shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages.
2. A team shall be limited to one jamboree.

12.2.2 Season: A team shall be limited to twelve matches per regular season plus one invitational tournament. Ten match team minimum per season.

12.3 GENERAL

12.3.1 Schools shall play using the United States Bowling Congress Rules unless a rule is specifically referenced in the LHSAA Bylaws or Competition Bulletin.

- 12.3.2** Schools may field boys' teams and/or girls' teams. A team shall consist of four bowlers.
- 12.3.3** Schools shall compete in districts established by the Executive Director's office after determining participation by member schools. Regions of competition shall be set by the Executive Director.
- 12.3.4** Bowlers shall wear uniforms consisting of matching shirts and matching pants and traditional bowling shoes (designed specific to bowling.) No tennis shoes.
- 12.3.5** The district principals/LHSAA designee shall develop a district schedule and shall designate the "home school" for each match.
- 12.3.6** The district shall determine the first and second place representatives to compete in the area playoffs.

12.4 PLAYOFFS

- 12.4.1** The State Championship qualifiers will be determined by a season ranking system. The boys' team competition will have two Divisions, each consisting of 16 teams. Division I will be made up schools in Class 5A. Division II will be made up of schools in Class 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C. The Top 16 boys' teams from Division I and Division II will be placed in a single elimination bracket. The Top 16 girls' teams will be placed on a single elimination bracket. The Top 32 boys' and Top 16 girls' teams will be placed on a single elimination bracket. The Top 80 boys and Top 48 girls will be eligible and paired for the State Singles competition. Bowlers tied for final positions will advance. Qualification is based on a season ending minimum 21 game average. All teams must play a minimum of ten matches to qualify.

- 12.4.2** Determining the Power Rating:

1. The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

Result of Contest	Add	Add
Win	10 points	Opponents' Win (100%)
Loss	0 points	Opponents' Win (50%)
Ties	5 points	Opponents' Win (75%)

2. A school's power rating shall be the total power points of matches played divided by the number of total matches played during the regular season. Refer to the LHSAA website for an example of how the power rating is determined.

- 12.4.3** Member schools not participating in any district play shall be assigned to the district nearest them for regional play.
- 12.4.4** Sites for the state tournament shall be secured by the state tournament director with the approval of the Executive Director.
- 12.4.5** A meeting with all head coaches will be conducted by the site director/ or LHSAA representative prior to the start of competition at the Bi-Regional and State Competitions.

12.5 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 12.5.1** The Executive Director shall appoint an individual to serve as the state tournaments' director.
- 12.5.2** The state tournament director shall secure tournament officials for each site in each round of competition.
- 12.5.3** Teams shall compete for team honors in all tournaments under a single elimination format.
- 12.5.4** When applicable, losing teams shall be allowed to play additional matches for position berths on the bracket for the next round of competition.
- 12.5.5** All schools declaring to enter teams in the boys' state championship competition and/or girls' state championship competition shall file an official LHSAA entry form(s) with the Executive Director's office and the state tournament director by the 38th week of the NFHS calendar. The entry blank(s) shall be postmarked no later than the date listed in Bylaw 12.1, "Important Dates" section and shall be accompanied by a \$40 entry fee per team per sport. Checks shall be made payable to the LHSAA and sent with the official entry form by certified, return-receipt requested mail to the: Bowling State Tournament Director - LHSAA, 12720 Old Hammond Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. If a

school fails to meet the entry deadline, it shall be allowed to file a delinquent entry form accompanied by a \$100 fine for each delinquent form if postmarked no later than the date listed in Bylaw 12.1, "Important Dates" section. After that date, no entry forms shall be accepted.

12.6 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – SINGLES COMPETITION

- 12.6.1** The Top 80 boys' singles bowlers and the Top 48 girls' single bowlers will advance in the State Tournament singles competition. Qualification is based on a season ending minimum 21 game average.
- 12.6.2** The LHSAA shall recognize the top three bowlers in both the boys' and girls' division.
- 12.6.3** At singles competition, all bowlers will bowl three games. The top six bowlers in both the boys' and girls' competition will qualify for the stepladder finals.
- 12.6.4** Qualifying bowlers 4,5, & 6 will bowl one game in Round 1, and winner advances to Round 2
- 12.6.5** In Round 2, the Round 1 Winning bowler and qualifiers 2 & 3 bowl one game and winner advances to 3rd and Final Round. Second place bowler of Round 2 is awarded Bronze Medal.
- 12.6.6** Round 3 has the Round 2 Winning bowler meeting the 1st place qualifier in a one game match. The winner is awarded the Gold Medal, and the runner-up is awarded the Silver Medal.
- 12.6.7** All ties in any position for seeding or advancement to next level will be determined by a 10th Frame Roll-Off.

Rules in this section shall apply to both boys' and girls' cross country unless otherwise specified.

13.1 IMPORTANT DATES

<i>2024-2025 DATES</i>	<i>CALENDAR WEEK</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>
Monday, August 5, 2024 – Saturday, September 21, 2024	5th – 11th	Fall Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, August 12, 2024	6th	1st Official Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, September 2, 2024	9th	1st Meet (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, October 7, 2024	14th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Monday, November 4, 2024	18th	Regional Entry Deadline
Saturday, November 9, 2024	18th	Regional Meet Deadline
Saturday, November 9, 2024	18th	Boys' and Girls' End of Regular Season
Tuesday, November 12, 2024	19th	Boys' and Girls' State Entry Form/Fee Deadline
Monday, November 18, 2024	20th	Boys' and Girls' State Meet (All Divisions)
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 – End of School	20th – TBD	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

13.2 CONTEST LIMITS

13.2.1 Season: The number of meets in which a school may participate in during a season shall be unlimited.

13.2.2 Calendar Week: A school shall be limited to two meets during a week. (Sunday-Saturday)

13.3 GENERAL

13.3.1 Boys' and girls' cross-country schools shall compete in Divisions I, II, III, IV, and V. Boys' and Girls' cross-country shall be divided into five equal or nearly equal divisions. Cross-country divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution-Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fifths shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest cross-country school enrollment. All-girl schools shall be included in the counting to achieve equal divisions. All-boy schools shall be classified according to their enrollment after the cross-country schools have been divided. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. A school may elect to play in the next higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA. The declaration shall apply for the next 2 years.

13.3.2 A school shall not compete in any manner in any Louisiana collegiate meet, against independent teams, recreation teams, club teams, junior colleges or community teams, four-year colleges or university teams, professional or semi-professional teams, or individuals that compete "unattached" in high school events.

13.3.3 LHSAA member schools who host a high school cross country meet shall not sanction any race divisions for non-member schools, club teams, or unregistered or ineligible athletes.

13.4 **Uniforms:** Contestants shall adhere to all articles under RULE 4 – SECTION 3 COMPETITOR'S UNIFORM IN TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY in the NFHS Track and Field and Cross-Country rules book.

13.5 REGIONAL MEETS

- 13.5.1** Regional meets shall be conducted in Divisions I, II, III, IV, and V a minimum of nine days and a maximum of 21 days prior to the state meet to qualify individual contestants and teams.
- 13.5.2** The boys' and girls' regional cross-country meets shall be completed as listed in Bylaw 13.1, "Important Dates" section.
- 13.5.3** The regional meet chairperson shall be the principal of the preceding year's regional meet winner. A special provision has to be put in place for the first year because there was no regional winner this year. The LHSAA will appoint a regional chair for the first year.
1. A regional meet chairperson shall call a meeting of regional participants' principals or his/her designee at least six weeks prior to the meet.
The attendees at this regional meeting shall determine by a simple majority vote (one vote per school):
 - A. The host school.
 - B. The meet site.
 - C. The date of the meet
 - D. The meet's starting time
 - E. The meet director
 - F. Financial provisions for the meet
 - G. Entry prices
 - H. Spectator Admission Fee
- 13.5.4** Responsibility of Regional Meet Directors – Immediately after the regional meet, the meet director shall:
1. Accurately complete the LHSAA's qualifying information report form
 2. List contestants with correctly spelled first and last names.
 3. Email complete and accurate meet results to the LHSAA.
 4. Ensure that schools which qualified teams have a complete list of contestants (including alternates)
 5. Maintain copies of qualifying forms sent to the LHSAA.
 6. Provide the LHSAA with a telephone number where he/she may be contacted (day and night) to obtain clarifications or additional information.
- 13.5.5** Any person who will serve as a regional meet director shall be required to attend a meeting hosted by the LHSAA for information and instruction. The date, location and time of the meeting to be set by the LHSAA. Each region must have its regional director present at this meeting. Failure to attend this meeting shall result in the LHSAA appointing the regional director for that region and possible other sanctions and/or fines as deemed appropriate by the LHSAA.
- 13.5.6** Qualifying Plans and Special Rules for Regional Meets (Boys and Girls):
1. The top eight teams from each region shall qualify for the state meet in Divisions I, II, III, IV, and V.
 2. Any athlete in the Top 25 at the regional meet shall also qualify for the state meet.
 3. The girls' and boys' meets shall be contested at the same site on the same day.
 4. Site of Meet: Shall be within the region of the participating schools.
 5. Breaking Ties: Eighth-place ties shall be resolved by scoring the sixth runner. Should one of the teams involved in the tie have only five scored runners and the other team has more than five, the team with a minimum of six runners shall be awarded the higher team finish.
 6. Awards and Expenses: Participating schools shall be assessed an entry fee determined at the regional meeting to pay for the meet's awards and administration expenses. The admission price for the meet shall be set at the regional meeting. The host school shall retain concession sales revenue for expenses relating to facilities, workers and equipment.
 7. Regions to be determined by school location each classification year.
- 13.5.7** A school with a delinquent regional entry form may still enter its contestants in the meet no later than two hours prior to the run by paying a \$50 fine for one contestant or a \$100 fine for two or more contestants along with the entry fee. The fine shall be paid by a school check payable to the LHSAA.

13.6 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 13.6.1** The boys' and girls' state cross country meets shall be conducted on Monday of the 20th week of the NFHS calendar. Divisions I, II, III, IV, and V will all be run on the same day.
- 13.6.2** Both boys' and girls' state meets shall be conducted at the same site. The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the state championship meet(s) and present them to the Executive Committee for selection.
- 13.6.3** The LHSAA shall organize and administer the state meets.
- 13.6.4** A state boys' and girls' cross-country bulletin including official entry forms shall be placed on the website and schools notified when available.
- 13.6.5** Designating Team Members
- Coaches with a full team (five runners) shall designate at the team packet pick-up area prior to each run a maximum of seven runners to represent the team in the meet.
 - Substitutions shall be allowed only at the team packet pick-up area no later than one hour prior to the run in each division.
 - Substituted runners' names shall be listed on the official entry form.
- 13.6.6** **Scoring** - Runners shall be awarded points according to their finish as follows:

Place Finished	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Points Awards	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- 13.6.7** **Distance:** The boys' and girls' state meet shall be run over 3.0-3.2 miles.

13.7 ENTRY INFORMATION

- 13.7.1** A qualifying school may enter 12 contestants in the state meet, but only seven contestants may compete in the state meet. A school must have at least five runners to have a complete team.
- 13.7.2** A qualifying school shall send a list of contestants on the official state cross country entry form signed by the principal and a school check payable to the LHSAA for \$10 per contestant for up to seven runners for a maximum fee of \$70. The fee is \$70 for a boys' team and \$70 for a girls' team.
- 13.7.3** The entry form and fee shall be sent by certified, return receipt requested mail postmarked by the date listed in Bylaw 13.1, "Important Dates" section. A qualifying school with a delinquent entry form or fee may still participate by paying a \$50 fine for one contestant or a \$100 fine for two or more contestants along with the entry fee. The fine shall be paid by school check payable to the LHSAA.
- 13.7.4** A qualifying school shall be represented by a faculty coach/representative or an LHSAA-approved non-faculty coach at the mandatory team packet pick-up area prior to the run in each division. If an eligible representative does not pick-up a school's packet, the school shall pay a \$100 fine before it can participate in the run; the fine shall be paid by school check payable to the LHSAA.
- 13.7.5** If a school with one or two qualifying contestants is represented by a faculty coach/representative, or an LHSAA-approved non-faculty coach from any other school/school system entered in the meet, the representative shall present written permission from both schools to the meet director at the team packet pick-up area.

14.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, July 29, 2024	4th	1 st Practice for schools that opted out of spring practice during the previous school year (helmet only permitted). (Current medical, history/exam, athletic participation/ Parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, August 5, 2024 - Saturday, September 21, 2024	5th - 11th	Fall Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, August 5, 2024	5th	1 st Practice for schools that participated in spring practice (helmet only permitted). (Current medical, history/exam, athletic participation/ Parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, August 5, 2024	5th	Practice permitted with helmet and shoulder pads for schools that opted out of spring practice during the previous school year.
Thursday, August 8, 2024	5th	Practice permitted in full gear for schools that opted out of spring practice during the previous school year.
Monday, August 12, 2024 - Sunday, September 1, 2024	6th - 9th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, August 12, 2024	6th	Practice permitted with helmet and shoulder pads for schools that participated in spring practice.
Thursday, August 15, 2024	6th	Practice permitted in full gear that participated in spring practice.
Monday, August 19, 2024	7th	Deadline for submitting Online Application for Jamboree approval
Monday, August 19, 2024	7th	Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Eligibility must be submitted online)
Thursday, August 29, 2024 - Saturday, August 31, 2024	8th	Jamborees
Thursday, September 5, 2024	9th	1 st Contest (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, October 7, 2024	14th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Saturday, October 26, 2024	16th	Last date to add a game for power rating purposes
Saturday, November 9, 2024	18th	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (All Classes and Divisions)
Sunday, November 10, 2024	19th	Playoff Pairings Announced
Thursday, November 14, 2024 - Saturday, November 16, 2024	19th	Playoffs - Bi-District
Thursday, November 21, 2024 - Saturday, November 23, 2024	20th	Playoffs - Regional
Thursday, November 28, 2024 - Saturday, November 30, 2024	21st	Playoffs - Quarterfinals
Thursday, December 5, 2024 - Saturday, December 7, 2024	22nd	Playoffs - Semifinals
Saturday, December 7, 2024	22nd	Superdome Qualifiers' Meeting (Mandatory for All Classes)

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Thursday, December 12, 2024 – Saturday, December 14, 2024	23rd	State Championship Finals – Caesars Superdome
Friday, January 10, 2025	27th	Deadline to Declare Spring Football Practice Session
Monday, January 13, 2025 – Saturday, February 8, 2025	28th – 31st	Winter Practice – Spring Session
End of Schools’ Season – End of School	TBD	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, April 28, 2025 – End of School	43rd – End of School	Spring Practice – Spring Session
Monday, May 5, 2025	44th	Deadline for submitting schedules online
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

14.2 CONTEST LIMITS

14.2.1 Pre-Season:

1. A team shall be limited to one fall pre-season scrimmage.
2. A team shall be limited to one jamboree.

14.2.2 Season: A team shall be limited to the following:

1. Ten regular season contests
2. One bowl game per postseason per Bylaw 6.1.7, “Athletic Contests” section.

14.2.3 Calendar Week: A team shall be limited to one contest per week. (Sunday-Saturday)

14.3 GENERAL

14.3.1 Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A and shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools. Football schools shall be sub-divided into select admission and non-select admission schools for postseason competition.

14.3.2 Schools with enrollment numbers that place them in Classes C, B or A will have the option of declaring to participate as a Class C or B school, depending on their enrollment numbers, or as a Class A non-football school. If the choice is to participate in Class A non-football, schools will be required to follow all rules pertaining to Class A. Class A non-football school will not be able to start basketball until the official start date for Class A.

14.3.3 In varsity competition, a visiting team shall furnish the home team with a list of players’ full names, jersey numbers, positions, and classifications at least ten days prior to the contest.

14.3.4 The home team shall wear dark jerseys and the visiting team shall wear white jerseys, according to NFHS rules.

14.3.5 All tied games, district, non-district, and playoff games shall be played until a winner is decided by applying the ten-yard overtime procedure as outlined in the NFHS Football Rules Book. *Exception: Beginning with the third extra period, teams scoring a touchdown must attempt a two-point try. A one-point try by Team A will not score a point.*

14.3.6 By mutual agreement of the opposing schools’ principals, a half time may be extended to a maximum of five minutes (15-minute halftime is standard). The home schools’ principal shall inform the referee of this extension.

14.3.7 During the months of August and September, there shall be a mandatory heat time-out at the six-minute mark of every quarter. These time-outs shall be official time-outs and will allow the players to rest briefly and hydrate their bodies.

14.3.8 If anyone connected with a school or acting at the instructions or request of anyone connected with one school is detected using any type of radio scanning device or other scanning device to intercept radio and/or wire transmissions from coaches of the opposing school during a game, the offending school shall be ruled ineligible for district play for the season and postseason play and fined \$5,000 along with other penalties that may be assessed under the wholesome competition rule located in Section 5 "Penalty Code".

14.3.9 Point Differential in Sanctioned Football Games:

1. When one team leads by 42 or more points at any time during the game, the officials shall use a running clock to time the game; 2. If the score differential becomes less than 42 points at any time during the game, the officials shall not revert to regular timing; 3. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, 1) a running clock may be used at any time during the game or 2) any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.

2. Running Clock Operations:

- A. The clock will be run continuously when: First down is awarded to either team, including following a change of possession; Ball or runner with the ball goes out of bounds; Legal or illegal forward pass is incomplete; Penalty enforcement that does not require deliberation with captains.
- B. The clock shall be stopped for: End of a period; Scores (touchdown, field goal, safety); Try plays following a touchdown; Touchback; Free kick following a fair catch or awarded fair catch; Charged team time-out; Coach-referee conference; Official's time-out for injury, faulty equipment, or other situations as required; First down measurement; Penalty enforcement that requires deliberation with captains; Inadvertent whistle.
- C. Following a clock stoppage, the clock will start when the ball is: Marked ready for play, or legally touched on the free kick following a score, or; after a fair catch or awarded fair catch.

14.4 **ADDING THE SPORT OF FOOTBALL**

14.4.1 In a classification year a school which was non-football the preceding year but desires to participate in varsity football the coming season shall notify the LHSAA Executive Director in writing by October 15, which shall be prior to the classification committee's first meeting.

14.4.2 A school officially declaring in writing to field a varsity football team for the first time shall be required to post a \$10,000 bond in the name of the LHSAA or deposit \$10,000 with the LHSAA to be held in trust for two years prior to being classified a football school. The bond shall remain in effect for the first two years that the school fields a varsity football team that is placed in a district and competing for postseason play. The bond shall be distributed to schools with signed contracts, should the school cancel the scheduled varsity game(s) for any reason. The Executive Director will determine how the bond money will be distributed to the school(s) affected by the cancellation of a scheduled game.

14.5 **DISCONTINUING FOOTBALL**: A school voluntarily discontinuing varsity football shall not resume the sport at the varsity level for two years from the date of discontinuance. The school may resume football at the sub-varsity level only after one calendar year from the date it was discontinued. The forfeit of two or more scheduled games shall be considered discontinuing the sport. When a school discontinues varsity football, its scheduled games shall be null and void, and no game shall count for or against any team for postseason play.

14.6 **PRE-SEASON PRACTICE** - Beginning with the first official practice day, teams shall practice a minimum of three days in shorts for conditioning purposes. Helmets and shoulder pads may be worn during the three-day conditioning period. Practice in full gear may begin after the three-day conditioning period. Interschool scrimmages may begin with the 7th week of the NFHS calendar and after the minimum three days practice in shorts and minimum three days in full pads.

14.7 **SUSPENDED AND CANCELED CONTESTS**

14.7.1 The host school principal or designated representative and the head official (referee) shall have mutual authority to delay the start of a game any time weather conditions are considered hazardous to life or limb. The referee, once a game has started, shall have the authority, by rule, to suspend a game any time weather conditions are hazardous to life or limb. If severe weather develops while a game is in progress and the administration feels safety is questionable, but the game officials have not acted, the host principal or designated representative shall intervene by informing the referee who shall cause the contest to be suspended.

- 14.7.2** Once the game has been suspended, it shall only be resumed when the principals of both schools or their designated representatives and the referee agree it is safe to do so.
1. If after a delay of a maximum of 45 minutes the hazardous weather has not subsided, the decision to suspend shall be made by the principals of both schools and their designated representatives after consultation with the referee.
 2. If there are extenuating circumstances such as extreme travel distances or a rescheduling problem, the principals of both schools and their designated representatives may ask for an additional 30 minutes of waiting time.
 3. If the principals of both schools or their designated representatives and the referee cannot mutually agree that weather conditions are safe, the game shall be suspended.
- 14.7.3** If opposing schools' principals and coaches do not agree to call a game a "complete game," the game shall be completed from the point of suspension as if it were never suspended. A Thursday or Friday night suspended game shall be completed the following day or by mutual agreement on any day before midnight Monday of the following week. A suspended Saturday game may be completed on Sunday by mutual agreement but shall be completed no later than midnight Monday of the following week.
- 14.7.4** If, by mutual agreement, a district game is canceled, the game shall be disregarded for district honors. If, by mutual agreement, a non-district game is canceled, it shall be disregarded in determining power rating of the teams involved in the cancellation.

14.8 DISTRICT PLAY

- 14.8.1** Each district shall determine its own method for determining its first-place playoff representative. In the case of a tie, Bylaw 14.8.5 shall be applied. The district shall set the number of district games a school shall play to be eligible for district honors. If a district consists of five or fewer teams, each member school shall play a minimum of five district games or play a round-robin schedule to be eligible for district honors. If two schools do not play the required number of district games and do not play each other, they shall be ineligible for postseason play. However, a school which agrees in writing to play shall not be penalized by this rule.
- 14.8.2** If a school lacks sufficient district games and another school in the district refuses to play it, the school may present a letter to the LHSAA by September 1 explaining the deficiency. However, if that school is offered a district game on any playing date other than the one on which a district game is already scheduled, it shall be accepted within one year.
- 14.8.3** District first-place representatives shall be named by district committees and reported to the LHSAA by the district chairperson no later than 8:00 p.m. on the Saturday of the 10th playing date. District chairperson(s) are asked to certify automatic qualifiers in the district by 10:00 p.m., Friday, of the 10th playing week. A regular season football game played on the Saturday of the 10th playing date shall not begin after 5:00 p.m.
- 14.8.4** A playoff game shall not be played to break a district tie. If a district championship is tied, all teams shall represent the district in the playoffs. If a division or class has a 16-team bracket and there is a first-place tie between three or more teams that played each other during the season, the district constitution shall determine which of the teams shall be the first-place playoff representative. If there is not a tie-breaking rule in the district constitution, then the representative shall be determined by the team with the highest power ranking. The district chairperson shall report these results to the LHSAA by the established deadline.
- 14.8.5** A district with 11 or more teams may subdivide and the games they play in sub-district shall count as district games. Teams in one sub-district may schedule games against the other sub-district's teams, but the games shall not count as district games. The game between the sub-district winners shall decide the first-place team on the tenth playing date and shall count as a district game.

14.9 WILDCARD PROGRAM

<u>NON-SELECT DIVISIONS</u>	QUALIFIERS	<u>SELECT DIVISIONS</u>	QUALIFIERS
<u>I</u>	<u>28</u>	I	<u>24</u>
<u>II</u>	<u>28</u>	II	<u>24</u>
<u>III</u>	<u>28</u>	III	<u>24</u>
<u>IV</u>	<u>28</u>	IV	<u>24</u>

14.10 CRITERIA FOR WILDCARD SELECTION: Only the team that is certified as the first-place representative from the district or all teams that finish in a tie for first place in the district shall automatically qualify for the state playoffs from that district. In completing the playoff bracket, all other teams qualifying for the state playoffs shall be selected based on the established power rating scheme. Each district shall use Bylaw 14.8.5, to certify its first-place team when ties exist. The remainder of the byes on the bracket will be filled with wildcard teams (teams that did not automatically qualify) using the highest power rating in descending order to fill the bracket.

14.11 SEEDING THE BRACKET

14.11.1 Non-select [Divisions I-IV teams shall be seeded](#) according to their power rating. All select [Divisions I-IV](#) teams shall be seeded [1-24](#) according to their power rating.

14.11.2 When two teams have an identical power rating, the following criteria shall be used for seeding purposes:

1. If the two schools played each other during the season, the winning school shall be seeded higher.
2. If the two schools did not play each other during the season, the tie shall be broken by determining each school's strength factor as stated in Bylaw 14.13.1. The school with the higher strength factor will be the higher seed.
3. If a tie exists after applying the above rules, the tie shall be broken by using the following criteria in this order:
 - a. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record(s) against all teams, including district and non-district games, in the school's same classification shall be selected for the playoffs.
 - b. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record(s) in district play shall be selected for the playoffs.
 - c. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record against all teams played shall be selected for the playoffs.

14.11.3 When three or more teams have an identical power rating, the following criteria shall be used for seeding purposes:

1. The tie shall be broken by determining each school's strength factor as stated in Bylaw 14.13.
2. If two teams are tied in the strength factor rating and played each other during the season, the team that defeated the other team shall be awarded the higher seeded position.
3. If a tie still exists after applying the above rules, the tie shall be broken by using the following criteria in this order:
 - a. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record(s) against all teams, including district and non-district games, in the school's same classification shall be selected for the playoffs.
 - b. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record(s) in district play shall be selected for the playoffs.
 - c. The team(s) with the best won-lost percentage record against all teams played shall be selected for the playoffs.

14.12 DETERMINING POWER RATING

14.12.1 The power rating for each school shall be rounded to the nearest hundredth (two decimal places) and be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST	ADD	ADD
Win (10 points) Same Class & Division Higher Class & Division Lower Class & Division	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & Division up N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10
Loss (0 points) Same Class & Division Higher Class & Division Lower Class & Division	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & Division up N/A	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10 Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10
Double Forfeit	Add 1 point to team that defeated both teams forfeiting	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10
Tie (5 points) Out of State	Add ½ point if opponents have tied	Opponent's Wins/Opponent's Games Played x 10

- 14.12.2** A team's power rating shall be the result of the contest plus any additional points for playing a larger classification plus opponent's wins divided by the opponent's games played multiplied by ten to get the total power points of games which is divided by the number of total games played during the regular season rounded to the nearest hundredth (two decimal places). Refer to the LHSAA website for an example of how the power rating is determined.
- 14.12.3** When a team's opponent is an out-of-state team, the classification of the out-of-state team shall be determined by verifying the latest enrollment of the team through its state association and applying its enrollment to the enrollment numbers used in classifying LHSAA schools at the last classification meeting.
1. When a school plays an out-of-state school that has a game remaining on its schedule after the LHSAA's tenth playing date, that game shall not be used in determining the school's power rating.
 2. When a school plays an out-of-state school, all contests played that count on their regular season record shall be used to calculate a school's power rating.
 3. If an out-of-state opponent plays more than ten regular season games by the time of the LHSAA's tenth playing date, only the results of the first ten games it played shall be applied in the LHSAA's Wild-Card Program.
- 14.12.4** When a team's opponent is a junior varsity or "B" team, the result of that game shall not be used in determining the team's power rating or the strength factor.
- 14.13** **DETERMINING STRENGTH FACTOR:** The opponent's strength factor shall be determined by adding the sum of the opponent's class to the sum of the opponent's wins and dividing the result by the total number of games played. Refer to the LHSAA website for an example of how the strength factor is determined.
- 14.14** **FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS**
- 14.14.1** Playoff games include all games played after the tenth playing date, not including the state championships.
- 14.14.2** In all rounds of playoff games, the Officials' Association will be assigned by the LHSAA's Director of Officials.
- 14.14.3** Ticket prices shall be set by mutual agreement of the participating teams. If an agreement cannot be reached, a coin flip shall be conducted to decide the ticket price.
- 14.14.4** Game time shall be set by mutual agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 7:30 p.m.
- 14.14.5** If a stadium conflict exists and/or a game time cannot be mutually agreed upon, then the home team shall set the starting time. The starting time shall not be before 5:00 p.m. and no later than 8:00 p.m.
- 14.14.6** Unless participating teams mutually agree to play a Thursday night or Saturday night, playoff games shall be played Friday nights. Participating teams shall mutually agree to play on Thursday or Saturday night if stadium conflicts exist Friday night. If a stadium conflict exists Friday night and teams cannot mutually agree to play Thursday or Saturday night, a coin flip shall be conducted to determine if the game shall be played Thursday or Saturday.
- 14.14.7** Schools shall be required to distribute and sell numbered tickets from the first round through the semifinal round for all state football playoff games. Both teams shall possess the right to be directly involved in the collection and accounting for and selling of all tickets. A school shall not be allowed to use season tickets as admission to any playoff game.
- 14.14.8** Through the semifinal round, the home team may use its regularly used home field as its playoff game site. If the home team chooses to use a field other than its regularly used home field, opposing schools shall agree to the change.
- 14.15** **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**
- 14.15.1** The traveling team shall receive \$4.00 per mile, one way, map mileage in all classes.
- 14.15.2** With the exception of contest officials, the home team shall furnish the stadium, ticket sellers, gatekeepers, guards, janitors, advertising, printed tickets, and other items incidental to the game. The cost of these obligations shall not be charged against game receipts. The home team shall maintain concession rights.
- 14.15.3** Gross ticket receipts, including pre-game sales, shall be divided as follows: Teams shall share 50-50 after the following deductions: ten percent of gross ticket receipts, including pre-game sales, shall be paid to the LHSAA before paying for contest officials' travel and fees and visiting team's travel.
- 14.15.4** If gate receipts do not cover the cited expenses, the visiting team shall receive the balance of the receipts after payments to the LHSAA and contest officials. The home team shall not be liable for any traveling team's expenses not covered by gate receipts.

14.15.5 When both playoff teams are from the same metropolitan area and play in a municipal stadium (one that is not located at either school's facility, but instead is contracted, scheduled, and rented, and neither school has concession rights) the following shall apply:

1. The LHSAA shall receive ten percent of gross receipts, including pre-game sales, before paying contest officials.
2. Both teams shall share other necessary expenses.
3. No travel allowance shall be applied.
4. Net receipts shall be split 50-50.

14.16 SUPERDOME PREP CLASSIC

14.16.1 The LHSAA shall conduct the state championship finals in the Ceasars Superdome.

14.16.2 The participating schools' principals or their designee and the head coaches shall meet at a designated time ~~at the LHSAA office~~ on the Saturday following the semifinal games to review plans for the Classic. ~~and pick up pre game tickets. Schools failing to attend shall not be issued a practice time nor receive pre game tickets.~~

14.16.3 The state championship finals shall be played on the dates listed in Bylaw 14.1, "Important Dates" section.

14.16.4 Subject to approval of the Executive Committee, the playing time schedule shall be determined by the Executive Director.

14.16.5 If the LHSAA realizes financial loss after the following expenses have been paid, the loss shall be deducted on a pro-rata basis from the 18 participating teams' guarantees.

1. Superdome rental charges
2. Superdome staffing and game administration charges
3. Superdome ticket-servicing charges
4. Press room charges.
5. Ten percent of gross ticket sales to the LHSAA
6. Team expenses

14.16.6 If possible, team guarantee checks shall be mailed to each participating school within 30 days following the LHSAA receiving the funds from the venue:

DIVISION	GUARANTEE PER TEAM	TOTAL GUARANTEE
Division I	\$15,500	\$31,000
Division II	\$13,500	\$27,000
Division III	\$11,500	\$23,000
Division IV	\$9,500	\$19,000

Each participating school shall receive \$5.00 per mile, one way, map mileage in all classes.

14.16.7 Teams participating in the Superdome Classic shall be allowed to use any NFHS authenticated football.

14.17 SPRING PRACTICE

14.17.1 Spring practice shall be limited to 10 days with or without pads and shall be conducted either Weeks 28 through 31 or beginning Week 43 of the NFHS calendar. Every school shall declare to the LHSAA whether it will participate in spring practice Weeks 28 through 31 or after Week 43 or will not participate in spring at all. A school can participate in either one but not both and cannot split the ten days between the two time periods. Any school choosing not to participate in spring at all, may start their fall practice on Monday of Week 5 of the NFHS calendar and start in full gear on Thursday of Week 5.

14.17.2 Students in grade 8 may participate in spring practice at a member school if the following guidelines are met:

1. The student shall live in the attendance zone of the memberschool.
2. If the student attends a traditional middle/junior high school located outside of his/her home attendance zone for the entire 8th-grade year that is located in the attendance zone of the member school.
3. The student must be pre-enrolled at the member school and once pre-enrolled and attends one practice, the student shall have established eligibility at that member school.
4. The member school shall have on file a written statement signed by one or both parents/guardians explaining to them that once the student participates in practice with that school, that school shall become the student's school of eligibility and a subsequent transfer to another LHSAA member school without a corresponding bonafide move shall cause the student to become ineligible for a period of one calendar year from the date of his/her enrollment.
5. The student shall be registered with the LHSAA prior to participating in a practice.
6. The student shall meet all other LHSAA rules and regulations.
7. The student shall have on file a medical examination, medical history, parental permission, and substance abuse/misuse form on file prior to participating in a practice.

14.17.3 One interschool scrimmage shall be allowed during the ten days of spring practice for Weeks 28-31 or Weeks 43 to the end of school.

14.18 SUMMER ACTIVITIES

14.18.1 During the summer months before regular practice, players may meet with coaches for chalk talks and supervised participation in a weight program, calisthenics, conditioning drills, and other drills without pads. Helmets shall be permitted.

14.18.2 Players may attend summer football camps and clinics but may not participate in any activity while wearing pads.

14.18.3 Student-athletes shall be allowed to wear protective football pads (shoulder pads, hip pads, thigh pads) only during the football sports season in the fall and during the allowable spring practice period. A student-athlete may wear a helmet at any time during the year. Any student-athlete found in violation of this rule may be declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation in the sport of football for at least one contest and/or may be declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic participation in the sport of football not to exceed one calendar year.

Rules in this section shall pertain to boys' and girls' golf unless otherwise specified.

15.1 **IMPORTANT DATES**

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	First Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Match (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 6, 2025 – Sunday, January 19, 2025	27th – 29th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, January 13, 2025 – Saturday, March 1, 2025	28th – 33rd	Spring Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, March 3, 2025	35th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Thursday, April 17, 2025	41st	Deadline for Girls' Regional Tournament Entries
Monday, April 21, 2025 – Thursday, April 24, 2025	42nd	Boys' District Tournament
Thursday, April 24, 2025	42nd	Deadline for Boys' Regional Tournament Entries
Monday, April 28, 2025 – Thursday, May 1, 2025	43rd	Boys' and Girls' Regional Tournament
Monday, May 5, 2025 – Tuesday, May 6, 2025	44th	Boys' and Girls' State Tournament
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

15.2 **CONTEST LIMITS**

15.2.1 A team may participate in an unlimited number of golf matches/tournaments in a season during a school year. The sports seasons rule shall not apply to golf.

15.2.2 A team shall be limited to one 18-hole match/tournament or two 9-hole matches/tournaments during a school week. (Monday-Friday) Each school shall be limited to one 36-hole tournament during the school week between March 1 and the regional tournament.

15.2.3 A school shall not compete during instructional time (Monday-Friday) during the regular season. This rule is explained in bylaws in Section 9, "Athletics and Instructional Time." This rule shall be waived for the state playoffs. *Exception: A school shall be allowed to participate in two boys' and two girls' 18-hole golf matches or tournaments during a school day from March 1 through the week prior to the regional golf tournament provided the contest does not begin before 11:00 am and provided the school participates in no more than one match or tournament during that week.* If a student is receiving a failing grade in any class at the time, he/she shall not be permitted to be released from school to participate in the match or tournament. There is no limit to the number of golf tournaments played when a school is out of session.

15.3 **GENERAL** (The general rules apply to both boys and girls in regular season, district, regional, and state competition.)

- 15.3.1** Boys' golf shall be divided into four equal or nearly equal divisions. Girls' golf shall be divided into two equal or nearly equal divisions. Golf divisions shall be based on a school's October 1st enrollment that is certified to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution-Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fourths for boys and equal halves for girls shall begin with lowest and end with the highest golf school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. A school may elect to play in the next higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA by 12:00 noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. The declaration shall apply for the next two years.
- 15.3.2** The LHSAA shall place each boy's golf school into one of four equal or nearly equal districts and shall place each girl's golf school into one of two equal or nearly equal regions.
- 15.3.3** United States Golf Association's (USGA) rules shall prevail, except where modified by LHSAA and/or local course rules approved by the tournament director/committee. A course's rules shall be clearly defined in writing to coaches and his/her golfers. In questionable situations involving the rules of play or the course, golfers shall abide by the decisions made by the local professional and his/her staff.
- 15.3.4** Anyone, including coaches, parents, and/or marshals, shall be allowed to assist a golfer in searching for a lost ball.
- 15.3.5** A contestant shall not be allowed to have a cell phone, smart watch, CD player with headphones, or any other communication device on the course at any time during actual competition. Violation of this rule shall be a two-stroke penalty. Use of a range finder and GPS device are permitted. *Exception: At the discretion of the tournament director, players may use a cell phone to input scores into a scoring program or app specified by the tournament director. Use of the device for any other purpose, including communicating with teammates or coaches, is expressly prohibited.* Written scorecards will remain the official record of each player's score.
- 15.3.6** No contestant shall use any form of tobacco at the competition site. Violation of this rule shall be a two-stroke penalty. No coach or other school personnel shall use any form of tobacco at the competition site. Violation of this rule shall be a two-stroke penalty assessed to the team score or to the individual golfer(s) score if there is only medalist(s) entered in the competition.
- 15.3.7** A medalist is defined as any golfer who records a legal score. A medalist may be a member of an official LHSAA team or an individual golfer from a school that does not have enough golfers entered in the regional/state tournament to field an LHSAA defined team. Individual medalists from the same school that qualify to the regional/state tournament, two girls or four boys shall constitute a team and score as a team.
- 15.3.8** Coaches shall be prohibited from playing golf on the competitive course during the regional and state golf tournaments. Violation of this rule shall result in the school being disqualified for the tournament.
- 15.4** **GENERAL RULES FOR DISTRICT, REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS (Boys and Girls)**
- 15.4.1** Only teams and medalists that are listed on the official entry blank shall compete in the district, regional, or state tournament.
- 15.4.2** The head golf coach and assistant coaches shall be allowed to coach and/or converse with his/her golfer(s) at any time during the competition. ~~Assistant coaches shall be allowed to coach and/or converse with his/her golfer(s) only from the green to the next tee box and only once all players in that playing group have completed the hole. Example: Once a player of Team A steps onto the tee box to tee off, the other assistant coach(es) of Team A shall have no further verbal contact with their player. The tournament director/committee shall provide some method to identify a coach who is allowed to give advice (armband, neck tag, etc.). Violation of this rule shall be a two stroke penalty to the individual golfer. The individual golfer shall be disqualified by tournament officials and the coach shall lose coaching privileges for a second offense of this rule. Coaching and/or conversing with the golfers should in no way affect the pace of play.~~
- 15.4.3** During the tournament, non-coaching spectators (parents, friends, and other golfers) shall be allowed on the course to observe golfers during play. The following rules shall apply to observers:
1. Spectators shall be notified that they are spectators, and it is not their responsibility to report possible rule violations.

2. Spectators shall remain a reasonable distance (at least 50 yards) from golfers at all times.
3. After play has started, spectators shall not “coach or advise” players by having either verbal or visual communication with golfers or interfere with play in any way at any time. On course encouragement, support, applause, etc. is not considered coaching or advice; therefore, it is permissible.
4. On the first violation of this rule the individual golfer shall be assessed a two-stroke penalty and the spectator shall be warned. The individual golfer shall be disqualified by tournament officials if the coaching continues, and the spectator shall be removed from the course.

- 15.4.4** Girl’s Attire: School team members shall be attired in the same color shirts and the same color pants, skirts, or shorts, the pants, skirts, or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Shorts and skirts should be of appropriate length and style. Golfers shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans, denim, “cut-off” shorts, or nylon running or tempo shorts. Additionally, all caps/visors must be worn with the bill facing forward at all times during play. In summary, all golfers must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing. A golfer that is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the regional/state tournament.
- 15.4.5** Boy’s Attire: School team members shall be attired in the same color shirts consisting of a collar or a mock turtleneck shirt that meets local course rules and the same color pants or shorts. The pants or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Golfers shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans, denim, or “cut-off” shorts. Additionally, all shirts must be tucked in at all times and all caps/visors must be worn with the bill facing forward at all times during play. In summary, all golfers must be neat in appearance with respect to personal grooming and clothing. A golfer who is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the regional/state tournament.
- 15.4.6** All golfers shall walk during the round(s) of play. A golfer shall carry his/her own clubs or use push/pull carts. Golfers shall not be allowed to use a caddy.
- 15.4.7** If possible, the tournament director/golf pro may provide a date and time for a practice round prior to the round of play. A golfer shall arrange his/her practice round tee time. Participating schools shall pay their own green fees. Participating schools may be required to pay green fees for tournament participation.
- 15.4.8** Practice on the playing course shall be prohibited after the tournament begins, except as outlined in Rule 5.5b of the USGA Rule Book.
- 15.4.9** As per USGA rules, a golfer may be allowed to begin play after receiving a two-stroke penalty and catchup with his/her playing partners, if he/she arrives at the tee box within five minutes of his/her appointed time. If a golfer fails to make his/her tee time, he/she shall be disqualified from the tournament. If a golfer is not on the tee box at the appointed time, he/she shall be ruled as missing his/her tee time. In the state tournament, he/she shall be disqualified from the tournament as a medalist but not as a team member. He/she can still compete on the second day as a team member.
- 15.4.10** Golfers shall be required to adhere to proper sportsmanship while on the course. Unsportsmanlike conduct is defined as profane, vulgar and/or abusive language audible to others; carelessly and/or deliberately throwing clubs and/or slamming a club to the ground; verbalizing with intent of intimidation; or exhibiting behavior not in accordance with the spirit of fair play. Violation of this rule shall result in the following penalty structure:
1. First Offense – Warning
 2. Second Offense – Two stroke penalty
 3. Third Offense – Disqualification (*Note: If a golfer is disqualified because of an unsportsmanlike act, the act shall be reported in writing to the LHSAA.*)
- 15.4.11** If a golfer is disqualified during the round, his/her recorded score to that point shall be disregarded for team or individual honors.
- 15.4.12** If a golfer is disqualified in a district golf tournament and his/her team qualifies for the regional and/or state tournament; he/she shall be permitted to compete as a team member only in the regional and/or state tournament.
- 15.4.13** If a golfer is disqualified in a regional golf tournament and his/her team qualifies for the state tournament; he/she shall be permitted to compete as a team member only in the state tournament.

- 15.4.14** In the state tournament, if a golfer is disqualified, he/she shall be allowed to participate in the other round of the tournament.
1. If disqualified in the first round, he/she may participate in the second round.
 2. If disqualified in the second round, he/she may use his/her score from the first round.
- 15.4.15** In regional and state competition, whenever possible, the tournament director, shall provide an adult to serve as a monitor who shall be assigned to each group to observe play, assist with rulings, request professional rulings and unofficially compute scores for each golfer in the group. These individuals should not be placed in positions to make decisions about students from their school.
- 15.4.16** In regional and state competition, a player shall pick up his/her ball and record a ten after the ninth stroke of the hole. If a player continues to play, the player is not disqualified, but must count all shots played.
- 15.4.17** Competitor's scorecards shall be exchanged on the first tee. Each competitor will serve as a "marker" for his fellow competitor. After each hole the "marker" shall check the score with the competitor and record it on the scorecard. Competitors should also keep their own score to verify that each hole is correct. After completion of the round, the competitor should check his/her score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the tournament director before the scorecard is signed. The tournament director's decision shall be final. The competitor is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his/her scorecard. If he/she returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, he/she shall be disqualified. If he/she returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned shall stand. The competitor shall ensure that the marker has signed the card, countersign the card himself/herself and return the card to the tournament director. The tournament director or committee shall be responsible for the addition of scores. When all scores have been posted on the official scoreboard and approved by the rules committee/tournament director, the results are deemed to have been officially announced. The competition closes when the results have been officially announced and the results shall be final.
- 15.4.18** Ties for Team/Medalist Honors at District and Regional Tournaments: Only ties affecting the advancement of a team or an individual to the next level of play, must be broken. If the team scores are tied after the final round of play, the winner shall be determined by each tied team's coach selecting a golfer to represent the team in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with a hole chosen by the golf pro/tournament director. If a tie exists between individuals, the tied golfers shall settle the tie in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with a hole chosen by the golf pro/tournament director. All sudden-victory playoffs shall be decided independent of each other.
- 15.4.19** The LHSAA shall not present awards at district or regional tournaments.
- 15.4.20** In girls' play, in all divisions, a maximum of three golfers may be entered in a regional or state tournament. The two lowest legal scores recorded, each day by the team's golfers, shall be totaled to determine the teamscore.

Example of Team Scoring:

GOLFER	1ST ROUND SCORE	2ND ROUND SCORE	TEAM SCORE
#1	76*	74*	1st Round - 159
#2	83*	89	2nd Round - 158
#3	90	84*	Total Team Score - 317

**Two best scores each day*

- 15.4.21** In boys' play, in all divisions, a maximum of five golfers may be entered in a district, regional or state tournament. In boys' tournament play, the scores of the four boy golfers posting the lowest legal scores each day will be totaled to determine the team's score.

Example of Team Scoring:

GOLFER	1ST ROUND SCORE	2ND ROUND SCORE	TEAM SCORE
#1	76*	78*	1st Round - 303
#2	81*	70*	2nd Round - 300
#3	74*	85	Total Team Score - 603
#4	83	79*	
#5	72*	73*	

** Four best scores each day*

- 15.4.22** Refer to the LHSAA website (www.lhsaa.org) for the most current district and regional assignments, regional and state tournament information, including sites, dates, times, are posted on the LHSAA website. Please note that changes may occur in sites, times, etc., even near the scheduled event, so check shortly before the appropriate date to make sure there are no last-minute changes. The pairings will be made in the LHSAA office. Tee times will not be available until 24-48 hours prior to the regional and/or state tournaments.
- 15.4.23** In district, regional, and state tournaments, no golfer, whether a competitor that has completed his/her round or a non-competitor team member, may drive or ride in a golf cart on the course during competition. Special exemptions will be made for golfers who meet ADA requirements.
- 15.4.24** In district, regional, and state play, golfers shall be grouped so that team members compete in consecutive groups. In district and regional play and in the first round of the state tournament, teams with the lowest qualifying scores shall have the earliest tee times. Players on teams shall be paired from lowest to highest qualifying scores. In the final round of state play, teams with the lowest qualifying scores shall have the latest tee times. Players on teams shall be paired from highest to lowest qualifying scores. In all levels of play, individuals shall be placed in the field according to the discretion of the tournament director.
- 15.5 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT (Boys Only)**
- 15.5.1** A district tournament shall be over one round of 18 holes. The course selected shall be an 18-hole course, if one is available, unless agreed upon by all participating schools.
- 15.5.2** If a district tournament is canceled because of inclement weather, it shall be rescheduled and completed prior to the date of the regional tournament.
- 15.5.3** Boys' Golf – District Meet – Each district shall determine its policies for hosting a district golf meet for the purpose of determining its first, second, third, and fourth place team and individual medalists to advance to the regional meet. District tournaments shall be conducted the week before the regional tournament by the deadline cited in Bylaw 15.1, "Important Dates" section. If possible, district tournament courses shall be determined before the LHSAA's Annual Meeting in January. Sites for district, regional and state tournaments shall be different. District tournaments shall be held on courses that will not be used for regional or state tournaments in that division.
- 15.5.4** Boys' Golf – Qualifiers from District Meet to Regional Meet. Each of the four districts shall qualify the first, second, third, and fourth place teams and the first, second, third, and fourth place individual medalists to one of the two regional competitions. The individual medalist(s) to advance to regional competition shall be the four highest ranked individuals who are not on one of the four advancing teams. If the four individual medalists that qualify to the regional tournament are from the same school, they shall constitute a team and score at the regional tournament.
- 15.5.5** Follow-up Responsibilities: At the completion of district tournaments, each tournament director shall immediately send a copy of his/her district tournament results to the LHSAA and maintain a copy of results in the event the LHSAA does not receive them.
- 15.6 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT (Boys and Girls)**
- 15.6.1** The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the boys' and girls' Regional Golf Tournaments and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' regional golf tournaments shall be conducted by hosts selected by the Executive Committee.
- 15.6.2** A regional tournament shall be over one round of 18 holes. The course selected shall be an 18-hole course.
- 15.6.3** If a regional tournament is canceled because of inclement weather, it shall be rescheduled and completed prior to the date of the state tournament.
- 15.6.4** Girls' Golf – Qualifiers from Regional Meet to State Meet. Each of the two regions shall qualify the first, second, third, and fourth place teams and the first, second, third, and fourth place individual finishers to state competition. The individual medalists to advance to state competition shall be the four highest-ranked individuals who are not on one of the four advancing teams. If the four (4) individual medalists that qualify to the state tournament are from the same school, they shall constitute a team and score at the state tournament.
- 15.6.5** Girl's ~~and Boys'~~ Golf – If a student-athlete scores double par or higher after nine holes, ~~they are she is~~ disqualified from the ~~girls'~~ regional golf tournament. No score will be posted and included in the team score. *Note: This disqualified student-athlete will only advance to the state tournament if ~~their her~~ team qualifies.*

- 15.6.6** Boys' Golf – Qualifiers from Regional Meet to State Meet. Each of the two regions shall qualify the first, second, third and fourth place teams and the first, second, third, and fourth place individual finishers to state competition. The individual medalists to advance to state competition shall be the four highest ranked individuals who are not on an advancing team.
- 15.6.7** A school's official entry form shall be completed, signed by the principal, and sent to the LHSAA by mail postmarked no later than the date listed in Bylaw 15.1, "Important Dates" section. Names of the competing golfers and alternate golfers shall be listed on the official LHSAA entry form. In boys' competition, only those teams and individual medalists that qualified from the district need to send in an official entry form to the LHSAA. Entry forms shall be accompanied by school check payable to the LHSAA, totaling \$10 per golfer entered. If a school fails to submit its entry form and fee to the LHSAA by the deadline, its golfer(s) shall be allowed to participate in the tournament and the school shall pay a \$50 fine for one golfer or a \$100 fine for two or more golfers by the end of the coach's meeting on the first day of play. Substitutions shall be on the alternates' list. Any player whose name is on the school's entry form and is eligible to participate may be substituted on the team prior to the start of play. There will be no substitutes for individual medalists or medalists who qualify as individuals but constitute a scoring team for the regional or state tournament.
- 15.6.8** If a school or individual medalist that qualifies for the regional golf tournament wishes to withdraw, the school's principal should submit a signed statement to the LHSAA Executive Director requesting not to be entered in the tournament as soon as possible after the completion of the district tournament. The team and/or individual player with the next lowest score from the same district may be substituted prior to the pairings being set. If a school fails to withdraw its team or individual medalist from the regional tournament after the pairings have been set and the team withdraws, forfeits, or fails to show up for the tournament, then the school may be fined \$200.
- 15.6.9** After receiving all entry forms, the tournament director/committee shall group golfers and assign each group a tee time for each round of play. If possible, each group shall be formed so that groups consist of golfers from different schools in each round of play. Golfers shall be grouped according to the qualifying scores reported on the team's entry form.
- 15.6.10** A coaches' meeting shall be scheduled before the round of tournament play begins. All coaches/faculty representatives shall be present at the meeting. If this rule is violated, the school shall be fined \$50 for one golfer or \$100 for two or more golfers to allow them to participate in the tournament. The school will be invoiced for this fine and the student athlete(s) shall be allowed to participate provided that their coach or faculty representative is present at the time of play.
- 15.6.11** Follow-up Responsibilities: At the completion of regional tournaments, each tournament director shall immediately send a copy of his/her regional tournament results to the LHSAA and maintain a copy of results in the event the LHSAA does not receive them.
- 15.7 STATE TOURNAMENT (Boys and Girls)**
- 15.7.1** The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the boys' and girls' state golf tournaments and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' state golf tournaments shall be conducted by hosts selected by the Executive Committee.
- 15.7.2** To participate in the state tournament, a golfer shall be a member of a team that qualifies to the state tournament from the regional tournament in his/her division, or he/she shall qualify as an individual medalist at the regional tournament. Refer to Golf Bylaw 15.3.7.
- 15.7.3** If a school or individual medalist that qualifies for the state golf tournament wishes to withdraw, the school's principal should submit a signed statement to the LHSAA Executive Director requesting not to be entered in the tournament as soon as possible after the completion of the regional tournament. The team and/or individual player with the next lowest score from the same regional may be substituted prior to the pairings being set. If a school fails to withdraw its team from the state tournament after the pairings have been set and the team withdraws, forfeits, or fails to show up for the tournament, then the school may be fined \$200.
- 15.7.4** A state tournament shall consist of two rounds of 18 holes for a 36-hole competition. The course selected shall be an 18-hole course. Interrupted Competition: If competition is interrupted due to darkness, inclement weather, or any other valid reason as approved by the tournament director/committee, if at all possible, the competition shall

be completed the next day from the point of interruption. If this is not possible due to the availability of the course or other valid reason as approved by the tournament director/committee, if one round of 18 holes of play is canceled because of inclement weather, the state championship shall be determined by the recorded scores after one 18-hole round. If a round of play is canceled because of inclement weather before all of the competitors have completed play on that day, the entire round shall be:

1. Canceled if this occurs on the first day of play.
2. Canceled if this occurs on the second day of play and the first day of play has been completed.
3. Suspended if this occurs on the second day of play and the first day of play has been canceled because of inclement weather and shall be completed on the next playable day that is approved by the Executive Director.
4. If one 18-hole round of play is completed on either day one or day two and every player in the competition completed the same nine holes on the other day of competition, then those nine holes will be computed into the team and individual scores to get a 27-hole total recorded to determine the state championship.

15.7.5 Ties for Team/Medalist Honors: If team scores are tied for first place after the final round of play, the tie shall be determined by each tied team's coach selecting a golfer to represent the team in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with a hole chosen by the golf-pro/tournament director. If team scores are tied for second place after the final round of play, both teams shall be declared state runner-up and receive a runner-up trophy. If a tie exists between first-place medalists, the tied golfers shall settle the tie in a sudden-victory playoff beginning with a hole chosen by the golf-pro/tournament director. If a tie exists between second and/or third- place medalists, the tied golfers shall be declared co-second or co-third place finishers and all medalists that are tied shall receive the appropriate medal. All sudden-victory playoffs shall be decided independent of each other. If a sudden-victory playoff cannot be completed or contested due to darkness, inclement weather, or any other valid reason as approved by the tournament director/committee, the tie in team competition shall be resolved by computing the aggregate scores of the four golfers for boys or two golfers for girls on the final day of 18-hole competition beginning with the first hole of play until the tie is broken. If the sudden-victory playoff cannot be completed in medalist play due to darkness, inclement weather, or any other valid reason as approved by the tournament director/committee, all medalists tied for first place shall be declared co-champions.

Rules in this section shall pertain to boys' and girls' gymnastics unless otherwise specified.

16.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Meet (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 13, 2025 - Saturday, March 1, 2025	28th - 34th	Spring Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, March 3, 2025	35th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Monday, March 31, 2025	39th	Deadline for Boys' and Girls' State Meet Entries
Friday, April 11, 2025 - Saturday, April 12, 2025	40th*	Boys' and Girls' State Meet
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin
*Easter Conflict State Championship moved from 41st week to the 40th week		

16.2 CONTEST LIMITS

- 16.2.1** Season: The number of meets in which a school may participate in during a school year shall be unlimited. Gymnastics shall not be affected by the sports season rule.
- 16.2.2** School Week: The number of meets in which a school may participate in during a school week (Monday-Friday) shall be unlimited.

16.3 STATE MEETS - GENERAL

- 16.3.1** A state championship meet shall be conducted in both boys' and girls' gymnastics and schools shall compete for both boys' and girls' state championship honors in an open division. Conducting meets for qualifying to the state meet shall be unnecessary; any eligible student may be entered in the state meet.
- 16.3.2** The LHSAA shall host the state meet and shall, in turn, select the sites for the state meet(s) each year. Boys' and girls' state meets may be conducted at different sites. If the LHSAA cannot secure a host for either or both state meets, a state champion shall not be decided that year.
- 16.3.3** The meet director(s), with the LHSAA's approval, shall organize and administer the meet.
- 16.3.4** In administering the state meet, the host school shall be in compliance with all LHSAA constitutional rules and bylaws.
- 16.3.5** LHSAA gymnastic teams shall compete in all LHSAA meets, including the state meet, according to the rules published by the United States of America Gymnastics (USAG).
- 16.3.6** Official entry forms for the boys' and girls' state meets shall be completed, signed by the school's principal, and sent with the school's entry fee to the appropriate meet director by certified, return-receipt-requested mail postmarked no later than the date listed in Bylaw 16.1, "Important Dates" section.

- 16.3.7** The entry fee shall be \$15 per contestant entered in the meet and shall be paid by school check payable to the LHSAA. The entry fees collected shall be retained by the LHSAA. If a school is delinquent in sending the entry form to the meet director, it shall be assessed either a \$50 fine for one contestant entered or a \$100 fine for more than one contestant entered in order for its gymnasts to participate in the meet. The deadline for paying the delinquent fee in order to participate shall be 48 hours prior to the start of the first day of the meet. After the 48-hour deadline, no more entries shall be accepted.
- 16.3.8** Both boys' and girls' state meets shall be conducted at the same site. The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the state championship meet(s) and present them to the Executive Committee for selection.
- 16.4 BOYS' STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET**
- 16.4.1** Gymnasts shall compete in only one of the following divisions:
- Division I – competition in "Optional" as defined in the Men's International Gymnastics Federation Code of Points for Completion I – Optional Events.
- Division II – competition in the United States of America Gymnastics Level 4 Compulsory routines.
- 16.4.2** The following events shall be offered in each division: floor exercise, pommel horse, still rings, vaulting, parallel bars, and horizontal bars.
- 16.4.3** Only scores of the top three gymnasts in each event shall count toward team scores in each division.
- 16.4.4** The team score in Division I shall be determined by adding the top three individual scores for each team from each of the six events. Awards shall be given to the Division I champion and runner-up team's members and to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Division I event. Awards shall also be given to the first, second, and third place all-around gymnasts.
- 16.4.5** The team score in Division II shall be determined by adding the top three individual scores for each team from each of the six events. Awards shall be given to the Division II champion and runner-up team's members and to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Division II event. Awards shall also be given to the first, second, and third place all-around gymnasts.
- 16.4.6** To determine overall team scores, the Division I and Division II team scores for each team shall be added. Team trophies shall be presented to the overall champion and runner-up teams. Individual awards shall be presented to the overall champion and runner-up teams' members.
- 16.4.7** The host school's meet director shall secure regulation, USAG-approved equipment as well as officials, scorers, and other necessary attendants to conduct the state gymnastics meet.
- 16.4.8** A coach may list unlimited names on the school's entry form, a coach shall be allowed to submit as many names as he/she desires on the entry blank in each event in the compulsories and in each event in the optionals. Contestants must meet all LHSAA eligibility requirements.
- 16.4.9** Substitutions or additions shall be prohibited after the deadline. If a contestant is ill, injured, or unable to compete for any reason, he shall withdraw from the competition without a replacement.
- 16.4.10** Coaches' conduct shall be mandated by USAG rules.
- 16.4.11** Contestants shall dress in sleeveless competition shirts (tank-top style) and gymnastics pants. Gymnastics shorts (close-fitting) shall be permitted in floor exercise and vaulting.
- 16.4.12** In accordance with USAG guidelines, no protest shall be allowed. Judges shall discuss routines with coaches after the meet only.
- 16.4.13** Minimum admission charges for each session shall be Students - \$2 and Adults - \$3. Each team shall receive 25 passes for gymnasts, coaches, and school elected, uniformed cheerleaders. The admissions fees collected from each session shall be retained by the host site.

16.5 GIRLS' STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

16.5.1 Gymnasts shall compete in one of the following divisions:

Division I – competition in optionals with difficulty defined in Level 8 of optionals.

Division II – competition in compulsories only in Level 4 as written.

Division III – competition in compulsories only in Level 3 as written.

16.5.2 Difficulty Limitations on Level 8 optionals as per USAG.

16.5.3 High school gymnasts who are registered USAG competitors shall compete in the high school division comparable to her level; however, she may compete higher than her level. The USAG SCALE is as follows:

Level 8 or above	LHSAA Division I
Level 6 or 7	Left to Discretion of Coach
Level 4 or 5	LHSAA Division II
Level 3	LHSAA Division III

16.5.4 The following events shall be offered in each division: floor exercise, balance beam, uneven parallel bars and vaulting.

16.5.5 A school's total entries in each division shall be unlimited. Gymnasts shall compete in only one division.

16.5.6 Only scores of the top three gymnasts in each event shall count toward team scores in each division.

16.5.7 Table to be followed in determining the overall championship team:

<i>DIVISION</i>	<i>SCORES TO COUNT</i>
I	Highest score in each of the 4 events
II	Top two scores in each of the 4 events
III	Top three scores in each of the 4 events

16.5.8 Awards shall be given to each division's champion and runner-up teams' members and to the first, second, and third place finishers in each event/division. Awards shall also be given to the first, second, and third place all-around gymnasts.

16.5.9 Team trophies shall be presented to the overall champion and runner-up teams when considering the team scores of all three divisions. Individual awards shall be presented to the overall champion and runner-up teams' members.

16.5.10 The host school's meet director shall secure regulation, USAG-approved equipment as well as officials, scores, and other necessary attendants to conduct the state gymnastics meet.

16.5.11 Substitutions or additions after the deadline shall be prohibited. If a contestant is ill, injured, or unable to compete for any reason, she shall withdraw from competition without a replacement.

16.5.12 Coaches' conduct shall be mandated by USAG rules.

16.5.13 Contestants shall be dressed in leotards.

16.5.14 Prior to the finals, the order of events shall be determined by the meet director. The order of events in the finals shall follow "Olympic Order" as specified by the USAG.

16.5.15 Protests shall be made by school representatives only and shall be submitted to the meet director no later than 30 minutes following the meet's final event. The meet director shall ensure that the protest is resolved according to USAG guidelines.

16.5.16 Minimum admission charges for each session shall be as follows: Students - \$2 and Adults - \$3.

Rules in this section shall apply to both boys' and girls' powerlifting unless otherwise specified.

17.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 12, 2024 - Saturday, November 23, 2024	6th - 20th	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, October 21, 2024 - Saturday, December 7, 2024	16th - 22nd	Winter Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, November 25, 2024	21st	1st Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, December 16, 2024	24th	1st Regular Season Meet (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 6, 2025	27th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Wednesday, February 12, 2025	32nd	Entries/Intent to Enter Regional Meets - All Regions (Girls')
Wednesday, February 19, 2025	33rd	Entries/Intent to Enter Regional Meets - All Regions (Boys')
Saturday, February 22, 2025	33rd	LHSPLA Regional Meets (Girls')
Saturday, March 1, 2025	34th	LHSPLA Regional Meets (Boys')
Tuesday, March 18, 2025	37th	Entries to State Meet
Wednesday, March 26, 2025 - Saturday, March 29, 2025	38th	State Meet (Divisions I-V)
Sunday, March 30, 2025 - End of School	39th - End of School	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

17.2 CONTEST LIMITS

17.2.1 Calendar Week: A team shall be limited to one meet per week during the regular season. (Sunday-Saturday)

17.3 GENERAL

17.3.1 Schools may field boys' teams and/or girls' teams. Each boys/girls team can consist of up to but no more than 11 team members, with no more than two team members representing one weight category.

17.4 RULES OF COMPETITION (Boys & Girls)

17.4.1 Schools shall compete using the most recent version of the Technical Rules of the Louisiana High School Powerlifting Association. A copy of the rules can be downloaded and printed from the LHSAA website (www.lhsaa.org). All powerlifting meets shall be conducted in accordance with the LHSPLA rule book and constitution. Special rules may be adopted to facilitate meet management.

17.4.2 The Louisiana High School Powerlifting Association (LHSPLA) recognizes the following lifts, which shall be taken in all three-lift competitions conducted under the sanction of the LHSPLA:

Lifts and Sequence

1. Squat
2. Bench Press
3. Deadlift

NOTE: A combination of the best lift in each of the above three lifts (excluding fourth attempts) will constitute the total.

17.4.3 Recognized titles for each weight category:

<u>Boys</u>		<u>Girls</u>	
Up to 114.5 lbs.	181.8 lbs.	Up to 97 lbs.	148.8 lbs.
123.5 lbs.	198.3 lbs.	105.8 lbs.	165.3 lbs.
132.3 lbs.	220.3 lbs.	114.5 lbs.	181.8 lbs.
148.8 lbs.	242.5 lbs.	123.5 lbs.	198.3 lbs.
165.3 lbs.	275.5 lbs.	132.3 lbs.	220.3 lbs.

Over 275.5 lbs. (Super heavyweight)

Over 220.3 lbs. (Super heavyweight)

17.4.4 Regional meets shall be conducted prior to the state meet to qualify individual contestants. The boys' and girls' regional meets shall be conducted during the week established in Bylaw 17.1, "Important Dates" section. A school shall be required to compete at a regional qualifying meet in order to qualify to compete in the state powerlifting meet. Only those sanctioned regional meets hosted by member schools of the LHSPLA during the current powerlifting season shall be recognized as qualifying meets.

17.4.5 Member schools shall be aligned for regional powerlifting competitions as follows:

North: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Claiborne, DeSoto, East Carroll, West Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union, Webster, Winn.

South: Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Washington.

East: East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana.

West: Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jeff Davis, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermillion.

Central: Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Sabine, Rapides, Vernon.

Bayou: Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, St. Mary's, Terrebonne.

17.4.6 Schools shall submit to the regional directors a list of participants that will compete in regional competitions, either electronically or by mail, by the deadline established (one calendar week prior to competition) in Bylaw 17.1, "Important Dates" section. A \$20 entry fee per powerlifter shall be paid by school check made payable to the host school before a school's participants shall be allowed to weigh-in at a regional meet. A school with a delinquent declaration of its list of participants may still enter its lifters but must do so electronically with the regional meet director between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and noon on the day following the entry deadline established in Bylaw 17.1, "Important Dates" section. Declarations received in the late period shall incur a \$20 fine per entry, including alternates, in addition to the standard fee. The late declaration shall include the school's name and the name of the athlete(s) and their gender and prospective weight class.

17.5 STATE MEETS (Boys and Girls)

17.5.1 The boys' and girls' state powerlifting meets shall be conducted during the week established in Bylaw 17.1, "Important Dates" section.

17.5.2 The State Meet shall be hosted by the LHSPLA.

17.5.3 The meet host shall appoint the meet director.

17.5.4 The organization and administration of the meet shall be left to the discretion of the meet host in accordance with the LHSPLA rule book and Constitution and LHSAA Constitutional and Bylaws.

17.5.5 The meet shall be conducted at a meet site approved by the LHSAA Executive Committee.

17.5.6 The state meet shall be divided into five divisions:

Division I – Class 5A (Boys/Girls)
 Division II – Class 4A (Boys/Girls)
 Division III – Class 3A (Boys/Girls)

Division IV – Class 2A (Boys/Girls)
 Division V – Classes 1A, B and C (Boys/Girls)

- 17.5.7** To participate in the state tournament, a lifter shall qualify from a sanctioned regional tournament. A lifter shall compete in the same weight class at the state meet that they qualified in at the regional level of competition.
- 17.5.8** A \$20.00 entry fee per powerlifter shall be sent by school check made payable to the LHSPLA state meet director by the deadline established in Bylaw 17.1, “Important Dates” section. The LHSPLA shall reimburse the LHSAA for any expenses incurred.
- 17.5.9** Entry Forms: All qualifiers to the state meet shall be prepared and submitted electronically to the state meet director no later than the deadline established in Bylaw 17.1, “Important Dates” section. Schools that qualify lifters from the regional meet to the state meet shall declare any scratches from those qualifying to the state meet no later than 12:00 noon on the deadline established in Bylaw 17.1, “Important Dates” section. It shall be the responsibility of the school that scratches a qualified lifter to notify qualifier from the alternate school by noon on the deadline established in Bylaw 17.1, “Important Dates” section. Schools failing to scratch qualifiers prior to noon on the established deadline shall be fined \$20 per lifter unless a letter from a doctor or the principal stipulates that the lifter was unable to compete due to medical reasons or other unusual circumstances. Scratches to the state meet shall be emailed to the state meet director on school letterhead signed by the principal and the coach.
- 17.5.10** A school with a delinquent declaration of its participants to the state meet director may still enter its lifters to the state meet but must do so electronically with the state meet director between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on the day following the entry deadline established in Bylaw 17.1, “Important Dates” section. Declarations received in the late period shall incur a \$20 fine per entry, including alternates, in addition to the standard fee. The late declaration shall include the school’s name and the name of the athlete(s) and their gender and the weight class the qualified in at the regional level. If a qualifying lifter from the regional meet must be scratched from a weight class and the alternate lifter from the same weight class is not notified prior to 12:00 noon on Tuesday of the state meet week, there shall be no replacement allowed in that weight class.

Rules In This Section Shall Apply to Both Boys' And Girls' Soccer Unless Otherwise Specified.

18.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 12, 2024 – Sunday, October 14, 2024	6th – 15th	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, September 23, 2024 – Sunday, October 13, 2024	12th – 15th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, October 14, 2024	15th	1st Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, October 21, 2024 – Saturday, December 7, 2024	16th – 22nd	Winter Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Saturday, November 9, 2024	18th	Deadline for submitting schedules online.
Monday, November 11, 2024	19th	1st Contest (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 6, 2025	27th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Tuesday, January 14, 2025	28th	Deadline for submitting All-Star Nominations
Friday, January 17, 2025	28th	All-Star Selection Committee Meeting
Saturday, January 25, 2025	29th	Last date to add game for power rating purposes.
Monday, January 27, 2025	30th	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (Girls and Boys – All Divisions)
Tuesday, January 28, 2025	30th	Playoff Pairings Released (Girls and Boys – All Divisions)
Wednesday, January 29, 2025 – Sunday, February 2, 2025	30th – 31st	First Round (Girls and Boys – All Divisions)
Monday, February 3, 2025 – Thursday, February 6, 2025	31st	Second Round (Girls and Boys – All Divisions)
Friday, February 7, 2025 – Tuesday, February 11, 2025	32nd	Third Round (Girls and Boys – All Divisions)
Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – Saturday, February 15, 2025	32nd	Semifinals (Girls and Boys – All Divisions)
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 – Saturday, February 22, 2025	33rd	State Tournament (Girls and Boys – All Divisions)
End of Schools' Season – End of School	TBD	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

18.2 CONTEST LIMITS

18.2.1 Pre-Season - A team shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages.

18.2.2 Season: A team shall be limited to the following:

1. 34 total contests per regular season in any combination of regular season games and tournament games.
2. A school may play an unlimited number of doubleheaders in a season. The doubleheader may be played against two different opponents. Any competition against more than two different opponents in a day shall be registered as a tournament.

18.3 GENERAL

- 18.3.1** Boys' and girls' schools shall be divided into four equal or near equal divisions. Soccer divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution-Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fourths shall begin with the lowest and end with highest soccer school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. The LHSAA shall district soccer schools in each division.
- 18.3.2** Team areas shall be specifically designated on the same side of the field and separated by an official's area for incoming substitutes, scorers, and timers.
- 18.3.3** The home team shall secure and pay officials.
- 18.3.4** If a soccer match, other than a state playoff match, is terminated before the expiration of regulation time, the following rules shall apply:
1. If the second half of play has not started, it shall be suspended and resumed at a later date as if it had never been interrupted.
 2. If the match is in the second half of play and the score is not tied, it shall be called a completed match, and the score of the match at the time of interruption shall be the final score. If the score is tied, the match shall be suspended and resumed at a later date as if it had never been interrupted.
- 18.3.5** An 8-goal differential secured at the end of the first half or secured during the second half shall terminate the game.
- 18.3.6** The official scorer in all soccer matches shall be stationed at ground level on the same side of the field and between both teams' benches.
- 18.3.7** Players may wear knit type stocking caps during inclement weather. All caps must be alike in color. (Recommended: color should be the same as the jersey)
- 18.3.8** Tie-breaker Criteria-Regular Season (Non-district) - For all regular season matches, including district matches that end in a tie at the finish of regulation play there shall be no overtime and each team shall receive a tie on their official record.
- 18.3.9** Tie-breaker Criteria (District) - If a district decides to use overtime and/or NFHS penalty kicks (shootout) to break a tie in the district standings for district reporting purposes only, it shall be communicated to the game officials prior to the match. The overtime shall be played as determined in the respective by-laws of each district in dealing with tiebreakers in district standings.
- 18.3.10 Tie-breaker Criteria-Invitational Tournaments**
1. A tournament contest that has been suspended because of inclement weather, darkness, or mechanical problems shall be resumed from the point of interruption.
 2. For all invitational tournament matches during the regular season that end in a tie at the finish of regulation play, there shall be no overtime and each team shall receive a tie on their official record.
 3. If a tiebreaker is needed to determine which team shall move to the next round of a tournament, the tournament shall use its own discretion to decide advancement.
- 18.3.11 Tie-breaker Criteria-State Playoffs**
1. For the state playoffs, the tournament progression tie-game procedure as outlined in the NFHS Soccer Rules, numbers 1-5. Number 6 was not adopted as the LHSAA does not recognize co-champions.
 2. A playoff contest that has been suspended because of inclement weather, darkness or mechanical problems shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

18.4 DISTRICT PLAY

- 18.4.1** A district meeting called to schedule district contests shall be announced in writing to the members by the district chairperson ten days prior to the meeting. Member schools shall declare at this meeting if they intend to compete for district honors. Minutes of a district meeting listing district schedules shall be valid when adopted and signed by a majority of the district's principals.

- 18.4.2** Each district shall determine its own method of selecting its automatic qualifier.
- 18.4.3** In case of a tie within a sub-district or district, a team may play as many contests as necessary in a week; however, a two-out-of-three series shall not be allowed. The fewest possible contests shall be played.
- 18.4.4** The district chairperson shall report the automatic qualifier from the district by the deadlines cited in Bylaw 18.1, "Important Dates" section.

18.5 WILDCARD PROGRAM

- 18.5.1** The 32 highest seeded teams shall be placed on the bracket of each Division boys and girls.
- 18.5.2** Wildcard teams shall be allotted in each division as follows:

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u># OF DISTRICTS</u>	<u># AUTO. QUALIFY</u>	<u>#WILDCARD TEAMS</u>	<u># BYES REMAINING</u>
I (Boys)	8	1 st	24	0
II (Boys)	8	1 st	24	0
III (Boys)	8	1 st	24	0
IV (Boys)	8	1 st	24	0
I (Girls)	8	1 st	24	0
II (Girls)	8	1 st	24	0
III (Girls)	8	1 st	24	0
IV (Girls)	8	1 st	24	0

- 18.5.3** The Executive Director's office shall verify playoff wildcard teams and place them on each division's bracket.

18.5.4 Criteria for Wildcard Selection:

- Only the team certified as the first place from the district shall automatically qualify for the state playoffs.
- The remainder of the byes on the bracket shall be filled with wildcard teams, teams that did not automatically qualify, by placing them on the bracket starting with the highest power ranking and continuing in descending order.

18.5.5 Determining the Power Rating:

- The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

<u>RESULT OF CONTEST</u>	<u>ADD</u>	<u>ADD</u>
Win	5 points	Opponents' Wins (100%)
Loss	0 points	Opponents' Wins (50%)
Tie*	2.5 points	Opponents' Wins (75%)

**a tie will be considered 0.5 of a win and 0.5 of a loss; a non-district game that is tied after regulation shall be considered a tie if the LHSAA tie-breaking criteria is not used to decide the game.

- A school's power rating shall be the total power points of games played divided by the number of total games played during the regular season. Refer to the LHSAA website for an example of how the power rating is determined.
- Contests played against out of state opponents, sub-varsity opponents and district playoff (tiebreaker) games shall not count in determining a school's power rating.

18.6 SEEDING THE BRACKET

- 18.6.1** Teams in divisions shall be seeded 1-32 according to their power ranking.
- 18.6.2** All teams that automatically qualify for the playoffs and those teams selected as wildcard teams shall be seeded in each division.
- 18.6.3** Schools that failed to play at least 15 games during the regular season, including district play and invitational tournament play shall be ineligible to compete in the post season unless they are the district representative (champion) for their district.
- 18.6.4** Tie breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating:
 1. If two schools are tied and played each other during the season, the school that won the most games against the other school shall be the higher seeded team.
 2. If after applying the first criterion and the tie is not broken or if the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in a tie, the tie shall be broken by applying class play percentage (schools that were played in the individual school's classification). The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher seeded team.
 3. If after applying the second criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percent in division play shall be the higher seeded team.
 4. If after applying the third criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in overall regular season play shall be the higher seeded team.
 5. If a tie still remains, the higher seeded team shall be determined by having a "draw" conducted in the LHSAA office by the soccer seeding committee.

18.7 PLAYOFFS

- 18.7.1** The LHSAA shall select a site and conduct the finals and develop guidelines in administering the boys' & girls' playoffs.
- 18.7.2** All contests above district play shall use four officials. Opposing coaches shall mutually agree on officials. The LHSAA shall not assign officials for soccer.
- 18.7.3** Both schools shall mutually agree on the playing time and date of the match. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 3:30 p.m. and the deadline date for completion for that round listed in Bylaw 18.1, "Important Dates" section.
- 18.7.4** The home team shall have the option to name the site it normally uses as its home field as the playoff game site. If the home team chooses a playing field other than its normally used home field, both teams shall agree to the change.
- 18.7.5** If a playoff contest is postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, or mechanical problems, the contest shall be rescheduled for the next day (except Sunday). The contest may be rescheduled for Sunday by mutual agreement of the schools involved. Depending on the playing conditions at the time, the contest shall be rescheduled on a day-to-day basis.
- 18.7.6** In all divisions, the boys' and girls' finals shall be conducted in tournament play. The Executive Director's office shall be responsible for developing the plans for the tournament and designating a school to be responsible for tournament management.
 1. If the dates of the soccer tournament conflict with the dates of Mardi Gras, the Executive Director shall have the authority to adjust the dates of the tournament.
 2. The LHSAA shall assign the officials for all divisions of the boys' and girls' finals.
 3. In all divisions, once a team qualifies for boys' and girls' finals, it shall not practice on the game field. A school that violates this rule shall forfeit the contest.

18.8 FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 18.8.1** In the first round through semifinal contests, the home team shall furnish ticket sellers, gatekeepers, security, scorers, tickets, and all other game incidentals. In the first round through semifinal contests, teams shall split the gate 50-50 after the following deductions:
1. Five percent of gross ticket sales to LHSAA (before any deductions)
 2. Officials
 3. Security personnel
 4. Travel: \$1.00 per mile, one way, map mileage
- 18.8.2** If the game receipts are not sufficient to pay for the expenses cited, the following payments shall be made, and the visiting team shall retain the revenue that remains:
1. Payment of 5 percent gross ticket receipts to LHSAA before any other payments
 2. Payment to contest officials
- 18.8.3** Admission prices to “home and away” games shall be by mutual agreement.
1. The home team shall not be responsible for visiting team’s travel expenses if not covered by gate receipts.
 2. If the “home” school does not charge admission to the game for any reason, it shall be required to pay the visiting team’s travel expenses and an additional \$50 each to the visiting team and the LHSAA.
- 18.8.4** Participating teams in the final round of the State Tournament shall receive a financial guarantee of \$500.
- 18.8.5** The home team shall control concessions from the first round through the semifinal contests.

19.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, November 11, 2024 – Saturday, December 14, 2024	19th – 23rd	Pre-season evaluation period
Monday, December 23, 2024 – Sunday, January 19, 2025	25th – 29th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, January 13, 2025 – Saturday, March 1, 2025	28th – 34th	Spring Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, January 20, 2025	29th	1st Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical history/ exam, athletic participation/ parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Thursday, February 6, 2025	31st	Deadline for submitting online application for jamboree and/ or Invitational Tournament approval
Thursday, February 13, 2025 – Saturday, February 15, 2025	32nd	Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Tuesday, February 18, 2025	33rd	1st Contest (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Saturday, February 22, 2025	33rd	Deadline for submitting working schedules online.
Monday, March 3, 2025	35th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Tuesday, March 11, 2025	36th	Softball All-Star Nominations Due
Saturday, April 5, 2025	39th	Last day to add game for power rating purposes
Tuesday, April 15, 2025	41st	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named
Wednesday, April 16, 2025	41st	Playoff Pairings Named
Saturday, April 19, 2025	41st	Bi-District Round Deadline
Wednesday, April 23, 2025	42nd	Regional Round Deadline
Saturday, April 26, 2025	42nd	Quarterfinal Round Deadline
Friday, May 2, 2025	43rd	State Tournament - Semifinal Round (Frasch Park, Sulphur, LA)
Saturday, May 3, 2025	43rd	State Tournament -Finals (Frasch Park, Sulphur, LA)
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

19.2 CONTEST LIMITS**19.2.1 Pre-Season:**

1. For the two-week period prior to practice officially starting, a school is permitted to also throw and condition as part of the strength and conditioning workouts after school. This throwing is limited to warming up and long toss. Bullpen workouts and infield/outfield drills are not allowed during these workouts.
2. Between the 19th week and the 23rd week of the NFHS calendar, a school shall be permitted a pre-season evaluation period. The evaluation period shall run from the Monday of the 19th week to the Saturday of the 23rd and is limited to 20 hours of coach/student-athlete contact. There is no restriction on the type of softball equipment that can be used during the evaluation period. An interschool scrimmage is not allowed during the evaluation period. An evaluation period can be used as a tryout.
3. A team shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages.
4. A team shall be limited to one jamboree.

19.2.2 Season:

1. A team shall be limited to 34 games per regular season with no limit to the number of tournaments a team may participate in as long as they do not exceed the 34-game limit during the regular season as well as the four-game limit in any one tournament.
2. Each game in a tournament shall count as one game toward the 34 games allowed in the season.
3. A team shall be limited to two 7-inning games in one day.

19.2.3 Doubleheaders:

1. A school may play an unlimited number of doubleheaders ~~(two games on the same day against the same team)~~ in a season. The doubleheader may be played against 2 different opponents. Any competition against more than two different opponents in a day shall be registered as a tournament.
2. All doubleheaders shall count as two games.

19.2.4 Tournaments:

1. There shall be no limit to the number of tournaments a team can play in as long as the 34-game limit for the regular season is not exceeded.
2. A team shall be limited to four games in a tournament, including out-of-state events.
3. No tournament shall begin prior to Thursday of any week except during a holiday period when school is not in session. To compete in a tournament that begins prior to Thursday, the school shall be out of school because of a holiday period.
4. In all regular season invitational tournaments, for the game to be declared an official game and count in determining a school's power ranking, it shall meet the guidelines of an official game as outlined in Bylaw 19.4. The tournament director has the authority to elect to use the LHSAA-adopted tie-breaker procedure outlined in the NFHS softball playing rules. The decision to use this tie-breaker procedure shall apply to all games in the tournament and shall be announced to the team's head coach prior to its first game. Umpires shall also be made aware of this decision prior to the start of the tournament. Once this procedure is used, it shall be used for the remainder of the game and for all other tied games throughout the tournament. If the score is tied after the teams have played six innings, the tie-breaker procedure may be applied. While using the tiebreaker, each half-inning begins by placing a runner on second base. That runner is the player in the batting order who preceded the leadoff batter in the inning. The game then proceeds to a fulling inning or until a winner is determined in that inning. This tie-breaker procedure shall not be used in any other regular season games, district and non-district, or any state playoff games including the state tournament.

- 19.3 GENERAL** - Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and Divisions I, II, III, and IV ~~and V~~ in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools.

- 19.3.1** For playoff competition, Class B and Class C shall be placed in separate brackets according to classes as approved by classification. ~~schools that are classified as select schools shall compete in divisions as determined by the select schools, or a committee from their number. A select school may choose to compete for postseason play in a division higher than assigned. The declaration to compete in a higher division is sport specific and shall be in effect for two years.~~

- 19.3.2** The number of innings a pitcher may pitch during a calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) shall be determined by the school's principal.

19.3.3 The optic yellow softball shall be used as the official game ball in all regular season games including all invitational tournaments, state playoff games, and the state tournament.

19.4 OFFICIAL GAME

19.4.1 A regulation game shall be seven innings unless shortened by inclement weather or darkness after it has become official or been extended to extra innings because of a tied score after seven innings.

19.4.2 If a game is terminated before it has been completed, the following stipulations shall apply:

1. It shall be an “official game” in accordance with the NFHS Softball Playing Rules.
2. A game that is terminated for any reason prior to becoming an “official game” shall be suspended, and if continued at a later date, it shall be resumed from the point of suspension (interruption) as if the game had not been terminated. If possible, each team’s lineup and batting order shall be exactly the same (subject to the rules of the game) as at the time of suspension.
3. A tied game that is terminated at any point before it has been played to completion shall be suspended. If continued at a later date, the game shall resume as outlined in the NFHS Softball Playing Rules.
4. If a tie exists when reverting to the last completed inning in an official game that was terminated at the end of one-half inning before it had been played to completion, the game shall be suspended. If continued at a later date, the game shall resume as outlined in the NFHS Softball Playing Rules.
5. A game terminated at any time for mechanical reasons (light failure, etc.) shall be treated as a suspended game and resumed as outlined in the NFHS Softball Playing Rules.

19.4.3 The 15-run rule shall apply after three innings of play, or the 10-run rule shall apply after five innings. This rule shall be mandatory in regular and postseason contests.

19.5 DISTRICT PLAY

19.5.1 Each district committee and all district schools shall comply with the constitutional provisions pertaining to competition within the district. This requirement is explained in the Constitution in Article 6, “District Affairs.”

19.5.2 As long as the LHSAA’s constitution is not violated, a district shall determine its own method for determining first place representatives in state playoffs by the deadline cited in Bylaw 19.1, “Important Dates” section.

19.5.3 Before a district game forfeit can become official, it shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the district’s principals. All principals in the district shall be afforded an opportunity to vote.

19.6 REPORTING TEAMS FOR PLAYOFF COMPETITION

19.6.1 Each district champion shall submit an official LHSAA District Final Standing Form by 10:00 pm on the deadline cited in Bylaw 19.1, “Important Dates” section and must be verified and signed by the head coach and the school’s principal. Failure of the district champion to submit the required information by the established deadline dates shall be fined \$100. Additionally, the school shall be placed in the lowest position of the rankings and is subject to being excluded from playoff consideration. Additional days to certify a district’s playoff representative shall not be honored. Completed forms must be submitted via email.

19.7 QUALIFYING PROGRAM

19.7.1 Qualifying teams shall be allotted to each class and division as follows:

<u>NON-SELECT DIVISIONS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS</u>	<u>SELECT DIVISIONS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS</u>
<u>I</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>II</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>III</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>IV</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>V</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>8</u>
<i>Class B</i>	<i>24-16</i>		
<i>Class C</i>	<i>24-16</i>		

If a bye(s) on the bracket exists due to any qualifiers not being represented from a district, the bye(s) may be filled using the remaining teams from those being considered for wildcard.

19.7.2 Criteria for Wildcard Selection

1. Only the teams certified as first-place district representatives shall automatically qualify for the state playoffs.
2. The remainder of the byes on the bracket shall be filled with wildcard teams, (teams that did not automatically qualify), by placing them on the bracket starting with the highest power ranking and continuing in descending order.

19.7.3 Determining Power Rating:

1. The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST	ADD	ADD
Win (20 points) Same Class & Division Higher Class & Division Lower Class & Division	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & Division up N/A	Opponent's Wins Opponent's Wins Opponent's Wins
Loss (0 points) Same Class & Division Higher Class & Division Lower Class & Division	N/A Add 2 points for each Class & Division up N/A	Opponent's Wins Opponent's Wins Opponent's Wins
Double Forfeit	Add 1 point to team that defeated both teams forfeiting	Opponent's Wins
Tie (5 points)	Add ½ point if opponents have a tie	Opponent's Wins

2. A school's power rating shall be the total power points of games played divided by the number of total games played during the regular season.
3. Contests played against sub-varsity opponents and district playoff (tiebreakers) games shall not count in determining a school's power rating.

19.8 SEEDING THE BRACKET

19.8.1 Class B shall be seeded 1- ~~16~~ **24** and Class C shall be seeded 1-16. [Select Divisions I - IV, all teams](#) shall be seeded 1-~~26~~ according to their power ranking. In [Select Divisions I - IV](#), teams shall be seeded 1-~~24~~ according to their power rankings.

19.8.2 All teams that automatically qualify for the playoffs and those teams selected as wildcard teams shall be seeded in each class and division.

19.8.3 In completing the playoff bracket, all other teams qualifying for the state playoffs shall be selected on the basis of the established power rating system. Schools that fail to play 15 contests during the regular season, including district play and tournament games, shall be ranked separately using the same ranking system that is used to rank schools that played at least 15 contests or more during the regular season. These schools shall be ranked at the bottom of the bracket and seeded accordingly until all remaining positions on the bracket are filled.

19.8.4 Tie-breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating:

1. If two schools are tied and played each other during the season, the school that won the most games against the other school shall be the higher-seeded team.
2. If after applying the first criterion and the tie is not broken or if the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in a tie, the tie shall be broken by applying class play percentage (schools that were played in the individual school's classification). The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher-seeded team.
3. If after applying the second criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in district play shall be the higher-seeded team.

4. If after applying the third criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in overall regular season play shall be the higher-seeded team.
5. If a tie still remains, the higher-seeded team shall be determined by having a “draw” conducted by the LHSAA office.

19.9 PLAYOFFS

- 19.9.1** In all rounds of playoff games, the officials’ association shall be assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.
- 19.9.2** In “home and away” games, both schools shall mutually agree on the date and playing time of the contest. If the date of the game cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the game shall be played on the deadline cited in Bylaw 19.1, “Important Dates” section. If the game time cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the starting time shall be 3:30 p.m. for the home team that does not have lights. Starting time for the home team that does have lights should be 4:30 p.m. Playoff games shall not be played on dates that conflict with district, regional, or state track and field meets without mutual agreement of both schools.
- 19.9.3** If a playoff game is postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, or some other approved unforeseen reason, the Executive Director may grant an extension for the game. The following shall apply in granting the extension:
1. The playoff schools shall request a day-by-day extension to play the game.
 2. The game shall be played on the next day if possible.
 3. In all rounds of play, both schools shall mutually agree before a game may be played on a Sunday.
 4. The game site may be moved to another location in the state so that play can be completed by the deadline.
 5. If a postponed game is played on the day before or after the next scheduled round, the Executive Director shall not grant an extension to the school that won the postponed game. The game shall be played the next day unless that day is a Sunday or unless a game on that day conflicts with a district, regional, or state track and field meet.
- 19.9.4** Any class that has a bye in their bracket has the opportunity to play an “Exhibition” game with another team that has a ‘bye’ on their bracket. Exhibition games must be played after the End of the Regular Season/District Representatives Names date listed in Bylaw 19.1, “Important Dates” section, and before their first playoff games.

19.10 PLAYOFF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 19.10.1** Admission prices prior to the game shall be set by the home team.
- 19.10.2** In all classes, through the quarterfinal round, the home team retains rights to concession sales.
- 19.10.3** Disbursement of revenue from ticket receipts (after officials are paid) in both home and away games shall be divided equally among schools.
- 19.10.4** In all classes, through the quarterfinal round, the cost of umpires (at least two) shall be split between the schools from total gross receipts.
- 19.10.5** In all classes, through the quarterfinal round, the visiting team is responsible for its own travel expenses.
- 19.10.6** In all classes, through the quarterfinal round, the home team is responsible for:
1. Official Scorer
 2. Ticket Sellers and Takers
 3. Ground Crew
 4. Security (maximum two)
 5. Game Softballs and other items necessary to conduct game

19.11 STATE TOURNAMENT

- 19.11.1** The Executive Committee shall select a host site for the state tournament. The state tournament shall be conducted at the selected location on the dates cited in Bylaw 19.1, “Important Dates” section. The state tournament shall be conducted on as many days as necessary so that no team has to play two games on any one day.

- 19.11.2** The tournament shall be organized and administrated by the Executive Director and his/her staff.
- 19.11.3** Each tournament game shall be officiated by umpires selected by the LHSAA Director of Officials from a neutral association. If possible, officials shall be from the same association.
- 19.11.4** The quarterfinal round winners in all classes shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament.
- 19.11.5** Games shall be seven innings.
- 19.11.6** The 15-run rule after three innings and 10-run rule after five innings shall be in effect.
- 19.11.7** Games that are not completed the day they are scheduled shall be terminated according to NFHS Fast-Pitch Softball Rules as outlined in Bylaw 19.4, "Official Game" section.
- 19.11.8** Teams shall be allowed a maximum of 24 35 individuals to enter the tournament for free. Those 24 35 individuals must include any/all coaches, players in legal uniforms, managers, trainers and/or statisticians any/all LHSAA registered coaches and athletes, student managers/statisticians, and athletic trainers and must be listed on the required Team Roster form. Once a Team Roster has been submitted per Bylaw 6.13.6, "Athletic Contest" section, it shall be considered final. Additional tickets shall be purchased at the ticket window for full price. Any additional tickets purchased must enter through the spectator entrance and will not be allowed in the dugout. Only one team bus driver, per bus, will be allowed to enter through the Team Entrance and must have a school I.D. Any member school(s) and/or including by not limited to the individuals mentioned above, found in violation of this Bylaw shall be fined under the "Penalty Code" section.
- 19.11.9** The LHSAA shall not honor a protest regarding a contest official's judgment call and/or playing rule interpretation.
- 19.11.10** Postponed or suspended games shall be rescheduled for Sunday and/or Monday if necessary.
- 19.12** From the gross ticket receipts, less the LHSAA Building Surcharge, the LHSAA shall receive 80% of the ticket receipts. The host organization shall receive 20% of the ticket receipts. From the 80% of the LHSAA share of the ticket receipts, each participating non-select team shall receive 60% of the ticket receipts pro-rated on per a game played basis and \$200 for a semi-final game played and \$300 for a final game played.
- 19.13** If the LHSAA realizes a financial loss after the following expenses have been paid, the loss shall be deducted on a pro-rated basis from the participating team guarantee:
1. Facility rental
 2. Staffing and game administration charges
 3. Contest officiating fees and mileage
 4. Rooming charges for officials

Rules in this section shall apply to both boys' and girls' swimming unless otherwise specified.

20.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 5, 2024 – Saturday, September 21, 2024	5th – 11th	Fall Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, August 12, 2024	6th	1st Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/ Parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, September 2, 2024	9th	1st Meet (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, October 7, 2024	14th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Monday, November 11, 2024	19th	Boys' and Girls' Entry to State Meet
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 - Thursday, November 21, 2024	20th	Boys' and Girls' State Meet (Division III and IV)
Friday, November 22, 2024 and Saturday, November 23, 2024	20th	Boys' and Girls' State Meet (Division I and II)
Saturday, December 7, 2024	22nd	LHSCA All-Star Meet of Champions
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

20.2 CONTEST LIMITS

20.2.1 Schools may participate in interscholastic competitions until the close of the school year.

20.3 GENERAL

20.3.1 State competition and honors shall be separate for boys and girls.

20.3.2 Boys' and girls' swimming shall be divided into four equal or nearly equal divisions. Swimming divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution-Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fourths shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest swimming school enrollment. All-girl schools shall be included in the counting to achieve equal divisions. All-boy schools shall be classified according to their enrollment after the swimming schools have been divided. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. A school may elect to play in the next higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA by noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. The declaration shall apply for the next two years.

20.3.3 The current NFHS Swimming Rules shall govern the order of events, scoring, and rules for contestants.

20.4 STATE MEET

20.4.1 The LHSAA shall select the site for the state swim meet each year.

20.4.2 The state swim meet for each division shall be held over a two-day period with the preliminary rounds being held on Day 1 and the finals shall be held on Day 2.

20.4.3 Rules for Contestants

1. Each team may enter a maximum of four entries in an individual event.
2. Each team may enter a maximum of one team in a relay event.
3. Contestants entered as alternates for a relay may be entered in only two other events.
4. A competitor may enter a maximum of four events; no more than two shall be individual events.

Example: 2 individual events – 2 relays or 3 relays – 1 individual event

20.4.4 Order of Events

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 - 200 yard medley relay | 7 - 500 yard freestyle |
| 2 - 200 yard freestyle | 8 - 200 yard free relay |
| 3 - 200 yard individual medley | 9 - 100 yard backstroke |
| 4 - 50 yard freestyle | 10 - 100 yard breaststroke |
| 5 - 100 yard butterfly | 11 - 400 yard freestyle relay |
| 6 - 100 yard freestyle | |

20.5 QUALIFYING TIMES

- 20.5.1** In Divisions I, II, and III, the 27th place time from the previous year's preliminaries shall be used as the qualifying time in each individual event.
- 20.5.2** A committee of swim coaches appointed by the LHSAA will meet at the annual meeting and present cut-off times for those events in which less than 24 participants compete all in Divisions.
- 20.5.3** The qualifying times that are developed yearly by the LHSAA based on the previous year's results shall be met during the current season to qualify for that school year's state meet. The qualifying times for the current year shall be posted on the LHSAA website www.lhsaa.org and shall be updated annually.

20.6 SCORING

- 20.6.1** Individual: Sixteen places shall be scored in each event as follows:

1 st - 20	5 th - 14	9 th - 9	13 th - 4
2 nd - 17	6 th - 13	10 th - 7	14 th - 3
3 rd - 16	7 th - 12	11 th - 6	15 th - 2
4 th - 15	8 th - 11	12 th - 5	16 th - 1

- 20.6.2** Relays: Individual points possible for that place shall be doubled.
- 20.6.3** Any swimmer who does not achieve the qualifying time in the preliminaries or the finals in an event may not score points in that event in the state meet.
- 20.7 ENTRY FEES**
- 20.7.1** The entry fee shall be \$15 per contestant and per alternate listed on the entry form.
- 20.7.2** Checks shall be payable to the LHSAA and mailed with the invoice to the state meet director. Online payments shall be made by the deadline established in Bylaw 20.1, "Important Dates" section.
- 20.7.3** Entries shall be created using HY-TEK software and emailed no later than the deadline established in Bylaw 20.1, "Important Dates", to the state meet director. Entries shall not be accepted if emailed after this date.

Rules in this section shall apply to both boys' and girls' tennis unless otherwise specified.

21.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
1st Day of School	1st Day of School	1st Official Practice/Match (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission and substance misuse forms must be on file. Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 6, 2025 – Sunday, January 19, 2025	27th – 29th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, January 13, 2025 – Saturday, March 1, 2025	28th – 34th	Spring Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, March 3, 2025	35th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Monday, March 17, 2025	37th	Deadline to submit schedule online
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	40th*	Boys' and Girls' Regional Entry Fees Due
Monday, April 14, 2025 – Wednesday, April 16, 2025	41st*	Boys' and Girls' Regional Playoffs
Thursday, April 17, 2025	41st*	Boys' and Girls' State Qualifying Entries Due by Regional Directors only through LHSAA member site
Monday, April 28, 2025 – Friday, May 2, 2025	43rd	Boys' and Girls' State Championships
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin
*Dates updated due to Easter holiday.		

- 21.1.1** Boys' and girls' tennis shall be divided into four equal or nearly equal divisions. Tennis divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution- Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fourths shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest tennis school enrollment. All-girl schools shall be included in the counting to achieve equal divisions. All-boy schools shall be classified according to their enrollment after the tennis schools have been divided. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may elect to play in the next higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA by noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. The declaration shall apply for the next two years.

- 21.1.2** The LHSAA shall place each school into one of four equal or nearly equal regions based on geographic location.

21.2 CONTEST LIMITS

- 21.2.1** Season: Schools may participate in interscholastic competition from the first until the last day of the school year.

21.2.2 Contest Limitation

1. Maximum three matches per day per contestant.

21.3 GENERAL

- 21.3.1** Boys' and girls' state competitions and honors shall be separate.
- 21.3.2** Teams shall qualify from the regional tournament to the state tournament.
- 21.3.3** The USTA publication "Friend at Court" shall be the official LHSAA rules. An LHSAA rule shall supersede a USTA rule. The competition bracket to be used at regional tournaments shall be the sample brackets from "Friend at Court."
- 21.3.4** Coaches shall be allowed to instruct their players during regular season matches and regional and state tennis tournaments. Coaching may be done on odd-game changeovers and when players split sets. Only the team coach and/or assistant coach shall be allowed to instruct.
- 21.3.5** All matches in all tennis events shall be played on hard-surface courts; it shall not be allowed to conduct matches on clay surface courts and grass-surface courts.
- 21.3.6** All match results shall be entered in the LHSAA member system by the home team prior to the next scheduled match.

21.4 SCORING

21.4.1 The point system shall be used to decide overall team honors in tournaments.

1. A school shall be credited with one point per winning match in boys' or girls' competition.
2. No entry shall count as a bye. One point shall be awarded for a bye only if the team wins the next match.
3. Two points shall be awarded to a player winning a second match and having a bye in the first round in both regional and state competitions.
4. If a team is "entered," the entry shall be official. If a team fails to compete after entering, one default point shall be awarded to the other team in the bracket. The other team shall not have to win the next round match to be awarded this point.
5. If the LHSAA declares a team ineligible prior to the start (posted time of team's event) of a tournament, or after play has started, the entry becomes a "no entry" and is treated as a bye.

21.4.2 Tie Breaker: Ad scoring shall be used for regional and state competition. No-Ad scoring may be used in inclement weather. A 12-point tie breaker shall be used in all regional and state tournament matches when the score is tied in a set of six games all. The first player who gets seven or more points with a 2-point advantage in a 12-point tie breaker shall win the set.

21.4.3 **Penalty System**

1. A point-penalty system shall be used in all matches as follows: first – point; second – game; third – default (based on consultation with the tournament director and/or referee).
2. The point-penalty system shall be cumulative during the match. Doubles' players shall be penalized as a team, not individual players.

21.5 SEEDING

21.5.1 **Criteria for Seeding Singles at the Regional Tournament**

1. Players shall be seeded according to their (a) UTR rating unless there is verifiable evidence of head-to-head competition and (b) their current high school performance.
2. The tournament's regional chairman shall notify all head coaches in their region of the location, date, and time of the seeding meeting.

21.5.2 **Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the Regional Tournament**

1. Players shall be seeded according to their (a) UTR rating unless there is verifiable evidence of head-to-head competition and (b) their current high school performance.
2. In seeding doubles teams for the regional tournament, a school's first- and second-place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.
3. The third-place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket and in a different quarter of the bracket.
4. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.

21.5.3 **Criteria for Seeding Singles at the State Tournament**

1. The LHSAA will place regional qualifiers on the pre-determined state tournament bracket.
2. The LHSAA will post unofficial brackets and allow for a regional dispute time before making brackets official.
3. Regional runner-up contestants qualifying for the state tournament shall be placed in the opposite half of the bracket from the same region's champion.

21.5.4 **Criteria for Seeding Doubles at the State Tournament**

1. Seeding for the state tournament shall specifically be in the following order:
 - a. All Regional Qualifiers will be seeded on a pre-determined bracket.
 - b. All other entries shall be placed on the bracket per their regional finish.
2. In seeding doubles teams for the state tournament, a school's first and second place teams shall be placed on opposite sides of the bracket.
3. The third-place team shall be placed on either side of the bracket and in a different quarter of the bracket.
4. Teams from the same school shall not meet in the first round of play.

21.6 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAY

21.6.1 Each year's regional tournament winners shall select the site and host the tournament the following year.

21.6.2 In individual competition, each of the four (4) regions shall qualify the first through eighth place players in girls' singles competition and the first through eighth place players in boys' singles competition to advance to state competition; giving 32 automatic qualifiers to the state competition.

- 21.6.3** In doubles competition, each of the four (4) regions shall qualify the first through eighth place teams in girls' doubles competition and the first through eighth place teams in boys' doubles competition to advance to state competition; giving 32 automatic qualifiers to the state competition.
- 21.6.4** Each region shall be responsible for securing its regional tournament site. The previous year's regional champions shall automatically be the regional chairperson and be responsible for either hosting the tournament or securing another school within his/her respective region to be the regional tournament's host. When a previous year's regional champion changes districts or classifications in a classification year, that region's schools shall meet to determine the site and host for that year's regional meet. All tennis regional sites and hosts shall be determined by January 1 each year. No entries shall be accepted from schools outside an area.
- 21.6.5** Each contestant named on the entry form shall pay a \$15 entry fee.
1. Checks shall be made payable to the LHSAA and sent with the official entry form by certified, return-receipt requested mail to the LHSAA. The entry form shall also be sent to the regional tournament director.
 2. Entry forms and checks shall be postmarked no later than the deadline established in Bylaw 21.1, "Important Dates" section.
 3. Late entries (in writing) with the entry fee and fine shall be accepted up to the beginning of the seeding meeting.
 4. No entries shall be accepted after the seeding meeting begins.
 5. The fine shall be \$50 for one entry up to a maximum of \$100 for more than one entry.
- 21.6.6** **Entries**
1. Girls and boys in all divisions shall be allowed to enter one event.
 2. Teams in all divisions shall be allowed to enter one player/team in each of the categories listed below. (Total of 8 entries per school)
 - No. 1 singles and No. 2 singles (Boys & Girls)
 - No. 1 doubles and No. 2 doubles and No. 3 doubles (Boys and Girls)
 3. Singles may only substitute prior to the regional brackets being built. Singles substitutes shall be listed on the LHSAA entry form.
- 21.6.7** No trophies or medals shall be awarded by the LHSAA in the regional tournaments.
- 21.7** **STATE TOURNAMENT PLAY**
- 21.7.1** The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the boys' and girls' state tennis tournaments and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' state tennis tournaments shall be conducted by hosts selected by the Executive Committee.
- 21.7.2** A player may substitute on a doubles team if he/she has not participated in any regional tournament event and all eligible substitutes shall be listed on the LHSAA entry form.
- 21.7.3** Only regional tournament qualifiers shall be entered to compete in the state tournament.
- 21.7.4** Immediately following each regional tournament, the director shall provide the LHSAA with the names of all participants in all four categories who qualify for the state tournament.
- 21.8** **REGIONAL AND STATE PLAYING RULES**
- 21.8.1** A coaches' meeting shall be held at the court site 30 minutes prior to tournament time.
- 21.8.2** Players on the same school team competing in boys' or girls' regional/state tournament shall be attired in the same color shirts and the same color pants or shorts; the pants or shorts may be a different color from that of the shirt. Players shall not be allowed to wear blue jeans or "cutoff" shorts. The same color shirts shall be worn by all team members the entire first set; a member may then change shirts with the referee's approval. A player that is not in compliance with this rule shall not be allowed to compete in the regional/state tournament.
- 21.8.3** The meet director may delay a match's starting time up to 30 minutes if he/she is notified of a possible delay by the contestant(s)' school representative and if the delay is considered unavoidable.
- 21.9** **REGIONAL & STATE CHAMPIONS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY:**
- 21.9.1** Using the basis of one point per win, calculate the most points scored during the tournament.
1. The winner of the finals match shall receive 1.5 points and the runner up receives 0.5 points.
 2. If the total points scored is tied, the team with the most individual overall winners shall be the champion.
 3. If total points scored and most individual overall winners are tied, the team with the most semifinalists shall be the champion.
 4. If total points scored, individual overall winners, and semifinalists are tied, the teams shall be co-champions or co-runners-up.

Rules in this section shall apply to both boys' and girls' indoor track and field unless otherwise specified.

22.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 5, 2024 – Sunday, December 15, 2024	6th – 24th	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, October 21, 2024 – Saturday, December 7, 2024	16th – 22nd	Winter Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, December 16, 2024	24th	1st Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Saturday, January 4, 2025	26th	1st Meet (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Saturday, February 15, 2025	32nd	End of Regular Season
Monday, February 17, 2025	33rd	Entry to State Meet (Boys' and Girls')
Saturday, February 22, 2025	33rd	Boys' and Girls' State Meet
Monday, February 24, 2025 – End of School	34th – TBD	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

22.2 CONTEST LIMITS - A team shall be limited to one meet per calendar week during the regular season. (Sunday - Saturday)

22.3 GENERAL

22.3.1 Uniforms - Contestants shall adhere to all articles under RULE 4 – SECTION 3 COMPETITOR'S UNIFORM IN TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY in the NFHS Track and Field and Cross-Country rules book.

22.3.2 A regular season indoor track and field meet conducted by a Louisiana college and university, in which LHSAA schools participate shall be co-hosted by an LHSAA school. The principal of the LHSAA School co-hosting the Louisiana collegiate meet shall obtain written permission to co-host the meet at least 14 calendar days prior to the meet.

1. All entry fees for qualifying meets shall be set by the host organization.
2. All authorized LHSAA and LHSCA membership cards shall be honored for admission to all indoor track and field meets conducted in Louisiana in which LHSAA schools participate.
3. An LHSAA school shall not participate in a Louisiana collegiate meet that is not co-hosted by an LHSAA school and approved by the LHSAA.
4. An LHSAA school shall not participate in any event in any Louisiana collegiate meet that is not permitted under the LHSAA by-laws that pertain to this sport. Contestants shall not run in any event that is not sanctioned by the LHSAA.
5. A school shall not compete in any manner in any Louisiana collegiate meet against independent teams, recreation teams, junior colleges or community teams, four-year colleges, or university teams, professional or semi-professional teams or individuals who compete "unattached" in high school events. *Exception: Participation against club teams.*
6. In the sports of boys' and girls' indoor track and field, member schools shall be allowed to compete against individuals from club teams under the following restrictions. The meet shall be conducted without recording any team points and score and without awarding any team honors; all participants on the club team shall be high school age and shall meet the eligibility requirements of their respective state high school athletic association and of the high school they attend. The uniform rules of the NFHS shall be strictly enforced.

7. The practice of having the times/distances or heights recorded by LHSAA contestants officially compared against the times recorded by the contestants from teams cited in the previous rule or the times, distances or heights recorded by “unattached” individuals for the purpose of determining place of finish in the meet for awarding meet honors shall be a violation of the Independent Team Rule found in Section 4 of the By-laws.
8. An LHSAA school(s) or individual(s) that fails to comply with this rule shall be subject to the penalties outlined in Section 5, “Penalty Code.”

22.4 RULES OF COMPETITION

22.4.1 All indoor track and field meets shall be conducted in accordance with the NFHS Track and Field Rules. Special rules may be adopted to facilitate meet management. All LHSAA indoor track and field rules shall apply.

22.4.2 Events:

<u>Running Events</u>	<u>Field Events</u>
60 Meter Dash	Pole Vault
60 Meter Hurdles (39" – Boys)	Shot Put – plastic
60 Meter Hurdles (33" – Girls)	High Jump
400 Meter Dash	Long Jump
800 Meter Run	Triple Jump
1600 Meter Run	
3200 Meter Run	
4 x 200 Meter Relay	
4 x 400 Meter Relay	
4 x 800 Meter Relay	

22.5 STATE MEET

- 22.5.1** The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the state meet and present them to the Executive Committee for selection.
- 22.5.2** The meet host shall appoint the meet director.
- 22.5.3** The organization and administration of the meet shall be left to the discretion of the meet host as long as the meet complies with LHSAA constitutional rules and by-laws.
- 22.5.4** Schools shall compete for state championship honors in the following divisions:
 Division I - Classes 5A and 4A - Boys and Girls
 Division II - Classes 3A, 2A, 1A, B, and C - Boys and Girls
- 22.5.5** A school shall be required to compete in a preliminary qualifying meet in order to compete in the state indoor meet. Only those meets hosted by Louisiana State University and McNeese University during the current indoor season shall be recognized as qualifying meets.
- 22.5.6 Entry Forms:** All entries to the state meet shall be prepared and submitted electronically, via Direct Athletics no later than the deadline established in Bylaw 22.1, “Important Dates” section. A school with a delinquent declaration may still enter its contestants but must do so electronically with the meet director between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon the day following the end of the entry deadline established in Bylaw 22.1, “Important Dates” section. Declarations received in the late period shall incur a \$30 fine per entry, including alternates, in addition to the standard entry fee. The late declaration shall include the school’s name, athlete’s name and gender; event relays should include the names of all athletes and any alternates.
- 22.5.7 Entry Restrictions:**
1. A school shall enter no more than two individual contestants who meet the qualifying standard in each event.
 2. A school shall enter only one relay team in a relay event.
 3. Each contestant shall only be allowed to enter four events.

22.5.8 Entry Fees: A school shall pay separate entry fees for boys' and girls' teams. The required entry fees shall be paid with a school check payable to the LSU Track and Field Officials' Association at the meet during packet pickup. \$150 per team (boys or girls) with ten or more contestants or \$15 per contestant for a team with fewer than ten.

22.5.9 Qualifying for Running Events:

1. Official entry lists shall be the basis for seeding events and drawing lanes.
2. Boys and girls will qualify to compete in the state meet under the following plan:

60 Meter Dash	Top 16 times from all qualifying meets
60 Meter Hurdles	Top 16 times from all qualifying meets
400 Meter Dash	Top 12 times from all qualifying meets
800 Meter Dash	Top 12 times from all qualifying meets
1600 Meter Run	Top 12 times from all qualifying meets
3200 Meter Run	Top 12 times from all qualifying meets
4 X 200 Meter Relay	Top 12 times from all qualifying meets
4 X 400 Meter Relay	Top 12 times from all qualifying meets
4 X 800 Meter Relay	Top 12 times from all qualifying meets

3. In case of ties in qualifying times, the games' committee will determine those qualifying to the state meet.

22.5.10 Qualifying for Field Events:

1. In the trials each contestant shall be given three attempts in the long jump, triple jump, and shot put. The seven contestants with the best performances in these events shall qualify for the finals and shall be allowed three more attempts.
2. Boys and girls will qualify to compete in the state meet under the following plan:

Pole Vault	Top 16 12 from all qualifying meets
Shot Put	Top 16 12 from all qualifying meets
High Jump	Top 16 12 from all qualifying meets
Long Jump	Top 16 12 from all qualifying meets
Triple Jump	Top 16 12 from all qualifying meets

3. In case of ties in qualifying marks, the games' committee will determine those qualifying to the state meet.

22.5.11 Team Scoring:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Points</u>
1 st	10
2 nd	8
3 rd	6
4 th	4
5 th	2
6 th	1

22.5.12 Special Rules:

1. The no-false-start rule shall be observed; a contestant shall be disqualified on one false start.
2. If a runner is lapped in a distance race, an official shall move him/her to the inside of the track. A minimum of ten runners shall remain in the race at all times.

22.5.13 Check-in for Coaches: Coaches shall check-in between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on the day of the state meet. Team packets with meet heat sheets shall be distributed during check-in.

22.5.14 Check-in for Contestants

1. Running Events: Runners shall check-in with the clerk of course at the check-in area one event prior to the event in which they shall compete.
2. Field Events: Contestants shall check-in with the event's head judge at the event site 30 minutes prior to the event in which they shall compete.

22.5.15 Weigh-in for Shot Put: Weigh-in for shot put will begin two hours prior to the event start time and will end one-half hour prior to the event start.

22.5.16 Final Results:

1. Individual results shall be posted at the conclusion of the event.
2. Final results shall be posted on the LHSAA website at www.lhsaa.org.

22.5.17 Interrupted Competition: If competition is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative officials, the competition shall be completed the next day from the point of interruption. If this is not possible, the meet must be resumed within 72 hours following the cancellation of the original meet. If the meet cannot be completed within 72 hours, there shall be no team champions named in that class/division unless the points earned by any school(s) competing will not change the outcome of the meet.

Rules in this section shall apply to both boys' and girls' outdoor track and field unless otherwise specified.

23.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 5, 2024 – Sunday, February 2, 2025	6th – 31st	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, January 13, 2025 – Saturday, March 1, 2025	28th – 34th	Spring Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, January 6, 2025 – Sunday, February 16, 2025	27th – 33rd	Outdoor Track and Field Rules Clinic
Monday, February 3, 2025	31 st	1st Practice (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, March 3, 2025	35th	1st Meet (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, March 3, 2025	35th	Deadline for Submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – Saturday, April 26, 2025	42nd	District Meets (All Classes – Boys' and Girls')
Saturday, April 26, 2025	42nd	End of Regular Season (All Classes – Boys' and Girls')
Friday, May 2, 2024	43rd	Regional Meet Deadline (All Classes)
Thursday, May 8, 2025	44th	State Meet (Classes 1A, B and C)
Friday, May 9, 2025	44th	State Meet (Classes 3A and 2A)
Saturday, May 10, 2025	44th	State Meet (Classes 5A and 4A)
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

23.2 CONTEST LIMITS

23.2.1 Season: The number of meets in which a school may participate during a season shall be unlimited.

23.2.2 Calendar Week: (Sunday-Saturday): The number of interschool meets in which a student may participate shall be limited to two during a calendar week.

23.3 GENERAL

23.3.1 Track and field meets shall adhere to the Outdoor Track and Field Rule Book published by the NFHS and to LHSAA constitutional rules and by-laws.

23.3.2 To qualify for a regional meet in its classification, a school (except Class C) shall participate in a district meet prior to the regional meet. In all classes (except Class C) each district shall conduct a meet to qualify regional contestants.

23.3.3 A school shall not conduct or enter a contestant in a decathlon.

- 23.3.4** The host school of any relay carnival or regular season invitational meet may include and/or omit any track and field event of its choice to include the following with a maximum of twelve running events and seven field events for the girls and twelve running events and seven field events for the boys.

RUNNING EVENTS

1. 100 – meter dash
2. 200 – meter dash
3. 400 – meter dash
4. 800 – meter run
5. 1600 – meter run
6. 3200 – meter run
7. 100 – meter hurdles (33" girls) 110 – meter hurdles (39" boys)
8. 300 – meter hurdles (30" girls) 300 – meter hurdles (36" boys)
9. 400 – meter relay
10. 800 – meter relay
11. 1600 – meter relay
12. 3200 – meter relay

FIELD EVENTS

1. Long Jump
2. Triple Jump
3. High Jump
4. Pole Vault
5. Shot Put
6. Discus
7. Javelin

- 23.3.5** A regular season meet's starting time shall be left to the discretion of the host school. Regular season and non-district scratch meetings shall not be conducted during a school day. A school shall not participate in a meet conducted during a school day. *Example: School "A" dismisses each day at 3 p.m., while school "B" dismisses at 3:30 p.m. School "A" hosts a track and field meet which starts at 3:15 p.m. Ruling: School "B" shall not compete in any event which begins prior to 3:30 p.m. To prepare for a travel to the meet, a school shall use the time allotted in the athletic release time Bylaw explained in the by-laws in Section 9: Athletics and Instructional Time.*
- 23.3.6** Contestants shall adhere to all articles under RULE 4 – SECTION 2 PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY LIMITATIONS in the NFHS Track & Field and Cross-Country rules book for all regular and postseason track & field meets.
- 23.3.7** In dual or tri-school meets, the maximum number of contestants one school may enter in an event shall be the same as the number of places for which points are scored in that event.
- 23.3.8** The host of a regular-season and postseason meet shall comply with the order of running events and contest the field events as stated in SECTION 2 ORDER OF RUNNING EVENTS and SECTION 3 FIELD EVENTS in the NFHS Track & Field Rules Book. There shall be at least a 10-minute time allotment between running events. *Exception: Classes C, B and 1A shall not contest the 4x800-meter relay in postseason.*
- 23.3.9** When preliminary events are required, the following order of events established under SECTION 2 RUNNING EVENTS ARTICLE 1b in the in the NFHS Track & Field Rules Book is recommended.

23.3.10 Converting English Time to Metric Time - The following table shall be used:

To convert time from:

100-yards to 100-meters	Add	.9 second
220-yards to 200-meters	Subtract	.1 second
440-yards to 400-meters	Subtract	.3 second
440-yard relay to 400-meter relay.....	Subtract	.2 second
880-yards to 800-meters	Subtract	.7 second
880-yard relay to 800-meter relay	Subtract	.5 second
Mile relay to 1600-meter relay	Subtract	1.1 second
Mile run to 1600-meter run	Subtract	1.6 second
2-mile run to 3200-meter run	Subtract	3.4 seconds

To convert hurdle time from:

110-yard low hurdles to 110-meter low hurdles	Subtract .1 second
120-yard high hurdles to 110-meter high hurdles.....	Time is the same

23.3.11 Scoring System of the NFHS: The following table shall be used for scoring individual events and relay events in all non-district, district, regional, and state meets unless otherwise announced by the games committee:

No. of Teams Competing	Points for Individual	Points for Relay Scoring
2 Teams	5-3-1	5
3 Teams	5-3-2-1	5-3
4 Teams	6-4-3-2-1	6-4-2
5 Teams	8-6-4-2-1	8-6-4-2
6 Teams	10-8-6-4-2-1	10-8-6-4-2

23.3.12 A regular season outdoor track and field meet conducted by a Louisiana college or university in which LHSAA schools participate shall be co-hosted by an LHSAA school. The principal of the LHSAA school co-hosting the collegiate meet shall obtain written permission to co-host the meet at least 14 calendar days prior to the meet. An LHSAA school shall not participate in a Louisiana collegiate meet that is not co-hosted by an LHSAA school and approved by the LHSAA. LHSAA school shall not participate in any event in any Louisiana collegiate meet that is not permitted under the LHSAA By-laws that pertain to this sport. Contestants shall not participate in any event that is not sanctioned by the LHSAA. A school shall not compete in any manner in any Louisiana collegiate meet against independent teams, recreation teams, club teams, junior colleges or community teams, four-year colleges, or university teams, professional or semi-professional teams or individuals that compete “unattached” in high school events. The practice of having the times/distances or heights recorded by LHSAA contestants officially compared against the times recorded by the contestants from teams cited in the previous rule or the times, distances or heights recorded by “unattached” individuals for the purpose of determining place of finish in the meet for awarding meet honors shall be a violation.

23.4 DISTRICT MEETS (Boys and Girls)

23.4.1 Boys’ and girls’ track and field teams shall compete in the LHSAA Classification Committee’s assigned districts in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, and B.

23.4.2 Schools within their assigned districts in all classes may qualify individual competitors and relay teams for the state meet. In all classes, each district in outdoor track and field shall qualify the same number of individuals (4) and relay teams (4) to the regional meet, regardless of the number of districts in a region.

23.4.3 A district committee shall select a meet site, set its meet’s starting time, and conduct its district meet prior to the deadline for qualifying individual contestants and relay teams to the regional meet.

23.4.4 In organizing the meet, the district committee shall comply with the order of events and time schedule explained in Bylaw 23.3.8.

23.4.5 A school may enter a maximum of two contestants for individual and one team in each relay event.

23.4.6 A district relay winning school may substitute contestants in that event at the regional meet if the substitute’s name has been listed on the relay entry form submitted by the district meet director to the regional meet director.

23.4.7 Schools may enter alternate contestants until the end of the scratch meeting.

23.4.8 At the conclusion of a district meet, the meet director shall immediately do the following:

1. Record first, second, third, fourth, and fifth place (if applicable) winner’s times in running events.
2. Record heights and distances of first, second, third, fourth, and fifth place (if applicable) winners in all field events.
3. Send the results to the regional meet’s director by 10:00 p.m. on the day after the deadline in which the district meet may be conducted.

23.4.9 This information shall be used to seed regional competitors.

23.4.10 If the district meet is conducted on a track constructed in yards, running events shall be conducted in metric or equivalent distances.

23.4.11 The English measurement system shall be applied in measuring heights and distances in field events.

- 23.4.12** Seeding for running events shall be established according to the seeding procedure explained in Bylaw 23.6.16(9). The meet director shall draw for lanes in the presence of witnesses from another school in the district when seeding the contestants in lanes.
- 23.4.13** The 200-meter dash shall be run on the curve.
- 23.4.14** A jury of appeals shall be formed to consider appeals filed at the meet and to make other decisions within its authority as specified in the Outdoor Track and Field Rule Book.
- 23.4.15** A coaches' scratch meeting shall be conducted prior to the meet. Coaches shall attend the scratch meeting.
- 23.4.16** Because many track and field facilities are without lights and, therefore, cannot be used for night competition and because more than one classification and/or district may be required to use the same facility on the same day, district track and field meets may begin at 1:00 p.m. with the scratch meeting beginning no earlier than 12:00 noon.
- 23.4.17** **Scoring:** The scoring method explained in Bylaw 23.3.11 shall be used to score all district meets.
- 23.4.18** **Special District Rules for Class 1A (Boys and Girls)**
For Class 1A schools only, in a district where four or fewer schools participate with a full track team, three individuals shall be allowed to participate in each event. The exception shall be in the relays when only one relay team from each school participates. Schools may enter a maximum of two contestants in each event for individual competitors unless there are four or fewer schools in a district; otherwise, three individuals shall be allowed to participate in each event. The exception shall be in the relays when only one relay team from each school participates.
- 23.5** **REGIONAL MEETS (Boys and Girls)**
- 23.5.1** Regional meets shall be conducted in all classes during the week prior to the state meet to qualify individual contestants and relay teams.
1. The boys' and girls' regional meets shall be conducted during the week established in Bylaw 23.1, "Important Dates" section.
 2. The dates of the girls' regional meet and the state softball tournament shall not conflict.
 3. The boys' and girls' regional outdoor track and field meets shall be completed as listed in Bylaw 23.1, "Important Dates" section.
- 23.5.2** The regional meet committee shall set the meet's starting time. The instructional time rule shall be waived for all regional meets.
- 23.5.3** Neither the regional meet committee nor the meet director shall modify the order of events or time-interval schedule in any way. The order of events and time-interval schedule explained in Bylaw 23.3.8 shall be applied to the regional meet.
- 23.5.4** **Scoring:** Meet scoring shall adhere to Bylaw 23.3.11.
- 23.5.5** Preliminary running events shall not be conducted if the track consists of enough lanes to accommodate each event's entries. Preliminary running events, if necessary, shall be conducted following the order of events schedule explained in Bylaw 23.3.8.
- 23.5.6** The first, second, and third place winners in the individual events and relay teams shall automatically qualify in regionals for the state meet. Classes shall qualify a maximum of nine contestants in each event from the regional to the state meet. The number of contestants each regional may qualify to the state meet is explained in Bylaw 23.6.21.
- 23.5.7** **Scratch Meeting/Team Packets**
1. There will be no scratch meeting for the regional meet. Schools that qualify contestants from the district meet to the regional meet shall declare by 12:00 noon two (2) days prior to the regional meet any scratches for those qualifying to the regional meet. It will be the responsibility of the school that scratches a contestant to notify the alternate school qualifier by 12:00 noon two (2) days prior to the regional meet. Schools failing to scratch contestants prior to 12:00 noon two (2) days prior to the regional meet shall be fined \$50 per contestant unless a letter from a doctor or the principal stipulates that the contestant was unable to compete due to medical reasons or other unusual circumstances. Scratches to the regional meet shall be emailed to the host school on school letterhead signed by the head coach.
 2. Team packets containing heat sheets, time schedule, meet information, appeal form, etc. may be picked up at the host school two hours prior to your school participating.

3. Coaches must pick up their packets and pay fees prior to participation in any event.
4. If a school enters no more than two contestants in the meet, the student(s) may be accompanied by a faculty coach/representative or an LHSAA-approved non-faculty coach from any other school/school system entered in the meet if both schools' principals give written permission. The written permission shall be presented to the meet director at the packet pickup area.
5. If a qualifying contestant from the district meet is scratched and the alternate is not notified by noon, two days prior to the meet, there shall be no replacement allowed.

23.5.8 Substitutions on Relay Teams: A coach may substitute a contestant to participate with his/her relay team if the contestant's name is listed on the relay entry form provided to the regional meet director by the respective district meet directors at the conclusion of the district meet and if the substitute's participation limit of four events is not exceeded.

23.5.9 Running events shall be conducted in metric distances unless track events are conducted on a 440-yard track. In this case, the events shall be conducted in yards, and the results of the events shall be converted from English to metric time when reporting the results to the LHSAA. This information shall be used to seed contestants in the running events at the state meet. The Metric Conversion Table in Bylaw 23.3.10 shall be used to convert English to metric time.

23.5.10 The English measurement system shall be used to determine heights and distances in all field events.

23.5.11 Principal's Regional Meet Committee in All Classifications:

1. The regional meet chairperson shall be the principal of the preceding year's regional meet winner.
2. A regional meet chairperson shall call a meeting of regional participants' principals or his/her designee at least six weeks prior to the meet. The regional committee shall:
 - A. Select a host school
 - B. Select the meet site.
 - C. Select the date(s) of the meet.
 - D. Set the meet's starting time.
 - E. Select the meet director.
 - F. Appoint the games committee to organize and administer the meet.
 - G. Select the track referee, field referee, and other meet officials.
 - H. Select a jury of appeals.
 - I. Establish financial provisions for the meet.
 - J. Set admission prices.
3. Regional meet committee decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of the principals, or his/her designee present at the meeting.

23.5.12 Substitutions: A school may list a maximum of eight contestants for each relay event and only contestants whose names are listed on the official relay entry form shall participate in those events. If a contestant's name is not listed on the relay entry form submitted from the district meet director to the regional meet director, the contestant shall not be a substitute in that relay event at the regional meet.

23.5.13 Withdrawal from the Meet: If a contestant elects to withdraw from an event or the entire meet, the alternate contestant's school shall notify the meet director and coach of the alternate contestant of this withdrawal no later than 10:00 a.m. on the Monday prior to the meet.

23.5.14 Responsibility of Regional Meet Directors - Immediately after the regional meet, the meet director shall:

1. Email backup copy of Hytex with complete and accurate meet results to the LHSAA.
2. Ensure that schools which qualified relay teams have a complete list of contestants (including alternates).
3. Maintain copy of meet results sent to the LHSAA.
4. Provide the LHSAA with a telephone number where he/she may be contacted (day and night) to obtain clarifications or additional information.
5. Any person who will serve as a regional meet director shall be required to attend a meeting for information and instruction at the Louisiana Track and Field Coaches Association clinic that will be held in January at a designated date and time. Each region is responsible to have its regional director present at this meeting. Failure to attend this meeting shall result in the LHSAA appointing the regional director for that region with the expenses of that director being billed to the region.

23.5.15 Qualifying Plans and Special Rules for Regional Meets (All Classes - Boys and Girls)

1. The girls' and boys' meets shall be contested at the same site on the same day.
2. Site of Meet: Shall be within the region of the participating schools: preferably at a state university/college or at a centrally located high school.
3. Track Surface: Shall be an all-weather surface with a minimum of eight lanes around two turns. For Classes 1A and C, it shall be a minimum of six lanes around two turns. Lane widths shall be at least 36" (preferably 42"). It is recommended that it shall be marked for use in more than one direction for 100/110- meter hurdles and 100-meter dash.
4. Timing Device: Shall be fully automatic timing device (FAT), if available. Semi-automatic timing device is acceptable if FAT is unavailable.
5. Landing Pits for Pole Vault, High Jump, Long Jump, and Triple Jump shall meet standards specified in NFHS's Outdoor Track and Field Rule Book.
6. Runways for Jumping and Vaulting Events shall meet minimum lengths specified in NFHS's Outdoor Track and Field Rule Book and shall be marked for use in either direction, except for Class 1A.
7. Recording Trials: Jumps, vaults, and throws shall be measured and recorded.
8. Breaking Ties: Fourth-place ties shall be resolved at the meet so that state meet alternates can be decided.
9. Seeding Process: Contestants in qualifying events shall be seeded according to their district meet times. If fully automatic time (FAT) is available, all qualifying shall be against time. If FAT timing is unavailable or the timing device malfunctions, qualifiers shall be seeded according to the places they finished in each heat. In all other events, contestants shall be seeded/flighted according to time and/or performance.
10. Awards and Expenses: Participating schools shall be assessed an entry fee determined by the regional meet committee to pay for the meet's awards and administration expenses. The admission price for the meet shall be set by the regional meet committee. The host school shall retain gate receipts and concession sales revenue for expenses relating to facilities, workers, and equipment.

Regions by Classification

Class 5A:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>DISTRICTS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS TO REGIONAL MEET*</u>
1	1, 2, 3	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
2	4, 5, 6	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
3	7, 8, 9, 10	4 individuals, 4 relay teams

Class 4A:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>DISTRICTS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS TO REGIONAL MEET*</u>
1	1, 2, 3	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
2	4, 5, 6	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
3	7, 8, 9, 10	4 individuals, 4 relay teams

Class 3A:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>DISTRICTS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS TO REGIONAL MEET*</u>
1	1, 2, 4	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
2	3, 5, 6	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
3	7, 8, 9, 10	4 individuals, 4 relay teams

Class 2A:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>DISTRICTS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS TO REGIONAL MEET*</u>
1	1, 2, 3	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
2	4, 5, 6, 7	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
3	8, 9, 10	4 individuals, 4 relay teams

Class 1A:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>DISTRICTS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS TO REGIONAL MEET*</u>
1	1, 2, 3	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
2	4, 5, 6, 7	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
3	8, 9, 10	4 individuals, 4 relay teams

Class B:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>DISTRICTS</u>	<u>QUALIFIERS TO REGIONAL MEET*</u>
1	1, 2, 3	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
2	4, 5	4 individuals, 4 relay teams
3	6, 7	4 individuals, 4 relay teams

Class C:

<u>REGION</u>	<u>DISTRICTS</u>
1	1, 2
2	3, 4, 5
3	6, 7, 8

*Alternates: Fifth-place finishers in each event in all district meets

23.6 STATE MEET (Boys and Girls)

- 23.6.1** The state track and field meet shall be organized and administered according to rules outlined in this section.
- 23.6.2** The LHSAA shall accept and consider bids to host the outdoor track and field meet on a one- or two-year basis. The Executive Committee shall review the bids and select the state meet's host and site.
- 23.6.3** In conjunction with the host, the LHSAA shall conduct the state meet at the same site on the same date for all classes in both boys' and girls' outdoor track and field.
- 23.6.4** The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the state meet and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The boys' and girls' outdoor track and field state championship meet for all classes shall be held over a three-day period during the 44th calendar week on the dates listed in Bylaw 23.1, "Important Dates" section. Classes B, C, and 1A shall be conducted on Thursday, Classes 2A and 3A shall be conducted on Friday, and Classes 4A and 5A shall be conducted on Saturday.
- 23.6.5** Prior to the state meet, the LHSAA shall place a state meet memorandum on its website and notify all schools when available. Each head track coach shall be notified by email as to when the heat sheets are available. Once notified the participating schools shall have four hours to review, appeal, or dispute the school's heat sheets which are posted on the LHSAA website. The only changes that will be considered at this time shall be errors in reporting/posting by the Regional Meet Director or the LHSAA administration. Omissions/errors by the participating schools are not appealable or disputable.
- 23.6.6** The Executive Director, Assistant Executive Directors, and the Executive Committee shall be the games' committee for the meet and perform the following duties:
1. Appoint a meet director and assistant director.
 2. Appoint a track referee and field referee.
 3. Appoint a jury of appeals.
 4. Establish and administer an appeals process that permits a coach to question in writing a meet official's decision.
 5. Establish team packet pick-up times (prior to starting time) for all meet days.
 6. Each day's starting meet time shall be set by the games' committee.
 7. Each event's starting time shall be set by the games' committee.
- 23.6.7** Individual and relay team seeding shall be based on regional meet performances. The seeding procedure shall adhere to Bylaw 23.6.16(9).
- 23.6.8** Running events shall be in metric distances. If regional track events were on a 440-yard track, each event's results shall be converted from English to metric time to seed state meet contestants. The Metric Time Conversion Table to be used in converting English to metric time is explained in Bylaw 23.3.10.
- 23.6.9** English measurement shall be used when determining heights and distances in field events.
- 23.6.10** Each class shall determine its own individual contestants' and relay teams' qualifying methods from the regional to the state meet. In devising its qualifying plan, a class shall comply with LHSAA constitutional rules and by-laws and NFHS's Outdoor Track and Field Rule Book.
- 23.6.11** Each class shall be limited to a maximum of nine qualifying individual contestants and relay teams in each event from its regional to the state meet.
1. Each class's schools shall qualify individual contestants and relay teams in each event from the regional meets conducted the week prior to the state meet.
 2. Only contestants and relay teams (including alternate contestants) that qualify in a regional meet shall compete in the state meet.
 3. All classes' first-, second- and third-place finishers in regional individual and relay events shall automatically qualify for the state meet.
 4. If fewer than nine regional meet individual contestants and relay teams in a Class C automatically qualify to the state meet, ~~the class may develop a plan to qualify additional individual contestants and relay teams in each event as long as total qualifiers in each event do not exceed nine. then to fill the field with nine participants for each event the state meet coordinator would use the next best time or mark from the three regions reported to LHSAA to fill the event. No school would be allowed to have more than one relay team or two individuals in an event. The best times and marks would be used until each event has nine participants.~~
 5. Each class shall develop a state meet qualifying plan for alternate contestants and relay teams.

23.6.12 Team Packets

1. There will be no scratch meeting for the state meet. Schools that qualify contestants from the regional meet to the state meet shall declare by noon on Tuesday of the week of the state meet any scratches for those qualifying to the state meet. It will be the responsibility of the school that scratches a contestant to notify the alternate school qualifier by noon on Tuesday of the week of the state meet. Schools failing to scratch contestants prior to noon on Tuesday of the state meet shall be fined \$50 per contestant unless a letter from a doctor or the principal stipulates that the contestant was unable to compete due to medical reasons or other unusual circumstances. Scratches to the state meet shall be emailed to the LHSAA office on school letterhead signed by the coach and school principal.
2. Team packets containing heat sheets, track & field facilities diagram, participant passes, appeal form, and other information may be picked up two hours prior to your school participation. Coaches shall receive participant passes for all relay alternates in this package.
3. A coach must pick up his/her packet and distribute participant passes to all qualifiers prior to participation in any event.
4. If a school enters no more than two contestants in the meet, the student(s) may be accompanied by a faculty coach/representative, or an LHSAA-approved non-faculty coach from any other school/school system entered in the meet if both schools' principals give written permission. The written permission shall be presented to the meet director at the packet pick-up area.
5. If a qualifying contestant from the regional meet is scratched and the alternate is not notified prior to noon on Tuesday of meet week, there shall be no replacement allowed.

23.6.13 Substitutions on Relay Teams: A coach may substitute a contestant to participate with his/her relay team if the contestant's name is listed on the relay entry form provided to the LHSAA by the respective regional meet director at the conclusion of the regional meet, and if the substitute's participation limit of four events is not exceeded.

23.6.14 Order of Events and Time-Interval Schedule

1. The order of events and time-interval schedule explained in Bylaw 23.3.8 shall apply.
2. The LHSAA shall incorporate the different classes for the boys' and girls' teams into the order of events when formulating the schedule of events for the state meet.
3. The boys' and girls' 3200-meter run shall be scheduled after the 200-meter dash, back-to-back, with the 1600-meter relay in each sport alternating with that respective class.

Example in Classes B and C (boys and girls)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Class</u>
3200-meter run	Girls	C
3200-meter run	Boys	C
1600-meter relay	Girls	C
1600-meter relay	Boys	C
3200-meter run	Girls	B
3200-meter run	Boys	B
1600-meter relay	Girls	B
1600-meter relay	Boys	B

Classes 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A shall be scheduled in the same manner.

23.6.15 Special Rules Adopted by Games Committee (Field Events)

1. The field events' time schedule shall be followed as closely as possible with appropriate consideration given to contestants competing in other track and/or field events.
2. A contestant competing in another event shall report to the field judge conducting the respective field event by the time of the final call to inform the field judge he/she is competing in a simultaneous field event.
3. Throwing implements (shot, discus, and javelin) shall be weighed, measured, and marked by an official during a designated 1-1/2-hour period prior to that field event's start.
4. A contestant may not compete until his/her equipment has been approved and marked by an appropriate meet official.

5. Each contestant shall be allowed a maximum of three preliminary throws, jumps, and vaults in each respective meet.
6. The seven contestants with the best distances in a throwing event shall be given an additional three throws.
7. In the shot put and discus events, a contestant shall remain in the circle until he/she is released by the event official. A contestant shall exit through the back half of the circle.
8. Starting heights for the high jump and pole vault shall be available at the state meet.

23.6.16 Special Rules Adopted by Games Committee (Running Events)

1. After the initial running event's starting time, all other running events' starting times shall be approximate. If the required time interval is allowed between running events, the running events' portion of the meet may proceed ahead of schedule.
2. The International Exchange shall be used in all relay events.
3. The following starts/staggers shall be used in relay events:
 - A. 800-meter run with one-turn stagger (runner may move to the inside beyond the flag on the back straightway if he/she has more than a one-stride advantage on the inside runners)
 - B. 1600- and 3200-meter runs with waterfall start (runner may move to the inside if he/she has more than one-stride advantage on the inside runners)
 - C. 1600-meter relay with a three-turn stagger
4. Relay teams shall provide their own batons which shall comply with NFHS's Track and Field Rule Book's specification. Batons shall be checked for legality at check-in prior to each event.
5. The meet host shall provide starting blocks. A runner shall not use his/her own starting block.
6. After each running event, a runner shall remain in his/her designated lane and return to the finish line in order for official determination of the finish order.
7. Preliminary qualifying heats in running events shall not be conducted at the statemeet.
8. Runners shall be seeded in lanes according to their best regional meets' recorded times.
9. The following running events shall be seeded from the middle to outside lanes: (Automatically seeded by computer program):
 - A. 800-meter relay
 - B. 400-meter relay
 - C. 1600-meter relay
 - D. 400-meter run
 - E. 100/110-meter hurdles
 - F. 200-meter dash
 - G. 100-meter dash
 - H. 300-meter hurdles
10. The following events shall be seeded from the first to ninth lanes: (Automatically seeded by computer program.)
 - A. 800-meter run
 - B. 1600-meter run
 - C. 3200-meter run

<u>PLACES AND TIMES</u>	<u>SEED IN LANES</u>
Fastest	1
2 nd fastest	2
3 rd fastest	3
4 th fastest	4
5 th fastest	5
6 th fastest	6
7 th fastest	7
8 th fastest	8
9 th fastest	9

11. The 200-meter dash shall be run on the curve.
12. At the final call, contestants shall report to the clerk of course in legal track uniforms, ready to run.

23.6.17 Uniforms and Schools

1. Contestants shall adhere to all articles under RULE 4 – SECTION 3 COMPETITOR’S UNIFORM IN TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY in the NFHS Track and Field and Cross-Country rules book.

23.6.18 Calls and Check-in Procedures

1. Two calls shall be made for each event. The first call shall be 30 minutes prior to the event. The second and final call shall be 20 minutes prior to the event. Calls shall be made at the check-in area.
2. Contestants shall report to their respective check-in stations on the first call and no later than the second and final call. After a contestant has officially checked in, he/she may continue to warm up or participate in another event.
3. Coaches, managers, or spectators may not be in the check-in area.
4. A coach, manager, school trainer, or team attendant may not be on the track or in a field event’s area during competition.
5. After completion of the regional meet, the state meet’s facility shall be off limits for practice by a competing school’s team until the state meet. Violation of this rule may result in the school’s disqualification from the state meet.
6. Each qualifying and alternate contestant who attends the state meet shall be given a participant pass to admit him/her to the track and field arena on the day he/she is scheduled to compete. This pass shall be non-transferable. When not participating or preparing to participate, contestants shall remain in the stands.

23.6.19 Scoring: The following scoring method shall be used to determine the number of points awarded to the first six place finishers in each event (individual and relay events):

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>POINTS AWARDED</u>
1 st	10
2 nd	8
3 rd	6
4 th	4
5 th	2
6 th	1

23.6.20 Procedure for appealing official ruling

1. A coach may appeal an official’s decision to the track referee or the field referee by following the appropriate appeal procedure.
2. A coach may appeal a track and/or field referee’s decision to the jury of appeals by following the appropriate appeal procedure.
3. An appeal shall be written on the official appeal form included in each school’s packet distributed at the state meet. Additional appeal forms may be obtained from an LHSAA official in the press box.
4. A completed appeal form shall be presented to an LHSAA official in the press box.
5. The LHSAA official shall deliver the form to the LHSAA Assistant Executive Director who shall serve as the associate meet director.
6. The appeal shall be referred to the appropriate referee who shall review it and render a written decision. The referee shall have the authority to overrule the decision of an event official.
7. If necessary, an appeal may be referred to the jury of appeals which shall review the appeal and render a written decision. The jury of appeals shall have the authority to overrule a referee’s decision. The jury’s decision shall be final.
8. A written ruling shall be returned to the coach who made the appeal.
9. If necessary, the coach may be allowed to enter the track infield by LHSAA officials for a discussion regarding the appeal.
10. If a referee/jury of appeals overturns a ruling, the referee shall make the appropriate placement and scoring adjustments with meet officials.
11. Verbal appeals shall not be accepted.
12. Appeals submitted 30 minutes after an event has ended shall not be accepted.
13. Appeals shall be judged in accordance with the Outdoor Track and Field Rule Book and/or special rules passed by the games committee.

23.6.21 Qualifying Plans from Regional Meet to State Meet

<u>CLASS</u>	<u># OF REGIONS</u>	<u># QUALIFIERS FROM EACH REGION TO STATE</u>	<u>ALTERNATES FROM EACH REGION</u>
5A - Boys	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
5A - Girls	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
4A - Boys	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
4A - Girls	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
3A - Boys	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
3A - Girls	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
2A - Boys	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
2A - Girls	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
1A - Boys	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
1A - Girls	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
B - Boys	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
B - Girls	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
C - Boys	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finisher in each event
C - Girls	3	3 individuals/3 relay teams in each event	4 th -place finishers in each event

23.6.22 Interrupted Competition: If competition is interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative officials, the competition shall be completed the next day from the point of interruption. If this is not possible, the meet must be resumed within 72 hours following the cancellation of the original meet. If the meet cannot be completed within 72 hours, there shall be no team champions named in that class/division unless the points earned by any school(s) competing will not change the outcome of the meet.

23.7 WHEELCHAIR TRACK AND FIELD

23.7.1 The following track and field events shall be sanctioned in outdoor track and field as individual events for wheelchair participants:

200-meter dash 400-meter dash 800-meter run Javelin
Shot put Discus

23.7.2 Rules governing wheelchair track and field shall follow the guidelines of the Games Uniting Mind and Body (GUMBO) Resource Guide, as it applies to wheelchair track and field in Louisiana and the LHSAA. The LHSAA encourages all meet directors to contact a GUMBO representative to be on site at all district and regional meets.

23.7.3 In addition to all eligibility rules of LHSAA, the following shall apply to wheelchair students participating in LHSAA outdoor track and field meets:

1. Wheelchair participants shall compete against each other only.
2. Wheelchair participants shall compete in school-issued uniforms.
3. A wheelchair participant shall have a permanent muscular or neuromuscular disability which significantly limits the ability to move or a permanent skeletal deformity or abnormality which significantly affects ambulation. This disability must prevent the student from participating in other sanctioned sports. Permanent orthopedic impairment shall be verified by a licensed physician and maintained on permanent file at the school.
4. A wheelchair participant shall compete in track and field events in a wheelchair or throwing chair that meets legal specifications as follows:
 - A. A track wheelchair should have a minimum of three wheels.
 - B. A track wheelchair shall be manually operated with no mechanical gears or levers used to propel the chair.
 - C. Only one hand rim shall be attached to each large wheel.
 - D. The field chair's seat, including the cushion, shall not exceed 25 inches in height. The chair need not be a wheelchair.
5. Wheelchair participants competing in track events must wear helmets during competition.

- 23.7.4** A meet's order of events shall be determined by meet management.
- 23.7.5** A wheelchair participant shall compete for individual and team honors in the classification in which his/her team competes in the meet. Meet scoring for wheelchair participants shall be as follows:
- 1 participant - 1 point
 - 2 participants - 2 - 1 points
 - 3 participants - 3 - 2 - 1 points
 - 4 participants - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 points
 - 5 participants - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 points
 - 6 participants - 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 points
- 23.7.6** Points scored by a wheelchair participant shall count toward his/her team score in all outdoor track and field meets including all regular season, district, regional and/or state meet.
1. However, if the points scored by a wheelchair participant enables his/her team to tie or exceed the highest team point total of other team(s) then the team with the wheelchair participant(s) will be declared the co-champion and the other team(s) without the wheelchair participant(s) will be declared outright champion(s). This same rule will apply in determining the runner-up position. This includes all regular season, district, regional and state meets. *Example #1 - Team "A" has one wheelchair participant who scores 4 points. Team "B" does not have a wheelchair participant entered in the meet. Team "A" has the highest score of the meet with 65 points (includes 4 wheelchair points). Team "B" is second highest with 62 points (no wheelchair points). Ruling: Team "B" shall be declared the champion and Team "A" shall be declared the co-champions of the meet. (The same ruling would apply when determining the runners-up team).* *Example #2 - Team "A" has two wheelchair participants entered in two events each. They score 2 points each (4 total points). Team "B" has one wheelchair participant entered in one event and he/she scores 2 points. Team "A" finishes first with 73 points. Team "B" finishes second with 71 points. Ruling: Team "A" and "B" are declared co-champions. (The same ruling would apply when determining the runners-up team).*
 2. If the team on which the wheelchair contestant participates would have won the meet without counting the points scored by the wheelchair contestant, it shall be declared the outright champion or runner-up. This includes all regular season, district, regional and state meets. *Example #3 - Team "A" has one wheelchair participant entered in four events and scores 4 points. Team "B" does not have a wheelchair participant in the meet. Team "A" finishes first with 60 points. Team "B" finishes second with 50 points. Ruling: - Team "A" is declared the outright champion. (The same ruling would apply when determining the runners-up team.)* *Example #4 - Team "A" has one wheelchair participant entered in two events and scores 4 points. Team "B" has one wheelchair participant entered in one event and scores 2 points. Team "A" finishes with 51 points plus 4 wheelchair points and team "B" finishes with 51 points plus 2 wheelchair points. Ruling: - Teams A & B are declared co-champions. (The same ruling would apply when determining the runners-up team.)*
- 23.7.7** If a wheelchair participant competes against another wheelchair participant in the same sport (boys/girls), in the same classification and in the same event, the contestant that finishes first shall be declared the champion and shall score 2 team points. The other contestant in that event shall score one point. For three wheelchair participants, the points awarded shall be 3-2-1. This scoring shall continue to a maximum of 6 wheelchair participants. Each athlete is required to meet the minimum standards listed in Bylaw 23.7.8 below at the local, district, and regional meets in order to score points for his/her team. *Note: Track standards do not apply to cinder tracks.*
- 23.7.8** If a wheelchair athlete competes alone in a sport (boys/girls) at the local, district, and regional level, he/she shall be required to meet standards in order to win first place in the event and score one team point in the event as a wheelchair contestant. If a contestant fails to meet the required standard at the local, district, and regional meets in an event, he/she shall not be awarded a place or any points in the event. Minimum required standards at the local, district, and regional level shall be:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>BOYS</u>	<u>GIRLS</u>
200-meter dash	1:00 minutes	1:30 minutes
400-meter dash	1:30 minutes	2:30 minutes
800-meter run	3:00 minutes	4:00 minutes
Discus	25'0"	19'0"
Shot Put	8'0"	6'0"
Javelin	22'0"	16'0"

Note 1: Track standards do not apply to cinder tracks.

Note 2: The size of the discus and shot put and javelin for wheelchair participants shall be the same as all other male and female participants.

23.7.9 When competing in the outdoor state track and field meet, all wheelchair participants shall be required to compete on the same day of the meet regardless of their school's classification. Their points will be added to their team's total before a championship is awarded.

23.7.10 Wheelchair participants shall qualify for the district, regional and state meets following the same qualifying procedures as other participants in the same class. Only four (4) individual events allowed. Qualifying times must be met at the district and regional meets.

23.8 PARA-AMBULATORY TRACK AND FIELD

23.8.1 The following track and field events shall be sanctioned in outdoor track and field as individual events for Para ambulatory participants:

100-meter dash	200-meter dash
400-meter run	Javelin
Discus	Shot Put

23.8.2 Rules governing Para ambulatory track and field shall follow the guidelines of the Games Uniting Mind and Body (GUMBO) Resource Guide, as it applies to disabled ambulatory track and field in Louisiana and the LHSAA. The LHSAA encourages all meet directors to contact a GUMBO representative to be on site at all district and regional meets.

23.8.3 In addition to all eligibility rules of LHSAA, the following shall apply to Para-ambulatory participants in LHSAA outdoor track and field meet:

1. Para-ambulatory participants shall compete in school-issued uniforms.
2. A para-ambulatory participant shall have a permanent orthopedic, neuromuscular, or other physical disability. Permanent orthopedic impairment shall be verified by a licensed physician and maintained on permanent file at the school.
3. A para-ambulatory participant must have either a GUMBO classification or national disability classification.

23.8.4 When competing in the outdoor state track and field meet, all para-ambulatory participants shall be required to compete on the same day of the meet regardless of their school's classification. A para-ambulatory participant shall compete for individual honors only in one open division mandated by meet management. A meet's order of events shall be determined by meet management. The contestant's performances shall not be counted in the meet's overall team scoring.

23.8.5 Para-ambulatory participants shall qualify for the district, regional and state meets following the same qualifying procedures as other participants. A participant shall be limited to a maximum of four (4) individual events. Each Para-ambulatory participant is required to meet minimum standards listed below at the local, district and regional meets. If a contestant fails to meet the required standard in an event, he/she shall not be awarded a place in the event. Minimum required standards for local, district, and regional meets shall be:

EVENT	BOYS	GIRLS
100-meter dash	0:35	0:45
200-meter dash	1:00	1:30
400-meter run	2:00	3:00
Discus	25'0"	19'0"
Shot put	8'0"	6'0"
Javelin	22'0"	16'0"

Note 1: Track standards do not apply to cinder tracks.

Note 2: The size of the discus shot put and javelin for Para Ambulatory participants shall be the same as all other male and female participants.

24.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, July 29, 2024 - Sunday, August 25, 2024	4th- 8th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, August 5, 2024 - Saturday, September 21, 2024	5th - 11th	Fall Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, August 12, 2024	6th	1st Official Practice/Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical history/ exam, athletic participation/parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, August 12, 2024	6th	Deadline for submitting online application for jamboree and/or Invitational Tournament approval.
Monday, August 26, 2024 - Saturday, August 31, 2024	8th	Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Saturday, August 31, 2024	8th	Deadline for submitting working schedules online.
Monday, September 2, 2024	9th	1st Contest (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Tuesday, September 24, 2024	12th	Deadline for Volleyball All-Star Nominations
Monday, October 7, 2024	14th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Saturday, October 26, 2024	16th	Last date to add a match for power rating purposes.
Saturday, November 2, 2024	17th	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named
Monday, November 4, 2024	18th	Playoff Pairings Named
Wednesday, November 6, 2024	18th	Divisions III, IV, and V Bi-District Round Deadline
Thursday, November 7, 2024	18th	Divisions I and II Bi-District Round Deadline
Friday, November 8, 2024	18th	Divisions III, IV, and V Regional Round Deadline
Saturday, November 9, 2024	18th	Divisions I and II Regional Round Deadline
Thursday, November 14, 2024	19th	State Tournament - Quarterfinals - Cajundome, Lafayette, LA
Friday, November 15, 2024	19th	State Tournament - Semifinals - Cajundome, Lafayette, LA
Saturday, November 16, 2024	19th	State Tournament - Finals - Cajundome, Lafayette, LA
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

24.2 CONTEST LIMITS**24.2.1 Pre-Season:**

1. A team shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages.
2. A team shall be limited to one jamboree.
3. A team shall be limited to one official scrimmage.

24.2.2 Season:

1. A team shall be limited to a maximum of 46 games in a season. (This includes tournaments and regular season.)
2. Regular season varsity matches (non-tournament) shall be played, the best three of five.
3. The maximum tournament matches allowed would be six. Matches can be played the best two of three.

24.3 GENERAL - Girls' volleyball shall be divided into five equal or nearly equal divisions. Volleyball divisions shall be based on a school's October 1st enrollment that is certified to the LHSAA under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the Constitution - Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal fifths shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest volleyball school enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. The LHSAA shall district volleyball schools in each division. A school may elect to play in the next higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA by noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. The declaration shall apply for the next two years.

24.3.1 During regular season matches, including tournament play and state tournament matches, a school competing in any match at any level of play shall be allotted a minimum of 15 minutes in which to conduct its pre-match warm-up drills.

24.3.2 The use of flags for line judges is mandatory.

1. The school shall provide the flags for line judge's use.

24.3.3 All Varsity Matches (Regular Season, District, and State Tournament Play) shall be conducted according to NFHS rules for rally scoring using the following criteria:

1. Best three out of five games
2. 25-point game - no cap (1st four games)
3. 15-point game- no cap (5th game)
4. Must win by two points.

24.3.4 All Sub-Varsity Matches (Regular Season) shall be conducted according to NFHS rules for rally scoring using the following criteria:

1. Best two out of three games
2. 25-point games - no cap (1st two games)
3. 15-point game - no cap (3rd game)
4. Must win by two points.

24.3.5 All Tournament Matches (All Levels) shall be conducted according to NFHS rules for rally scoring using the following criteria:

1. Best two out of three games
2. 25-point games - no cap (1st two games)
3. 15-point game - no cap (3rd game)
4. Must win by two points.

24.3.6 All Tri-Matches (all levels) shall be conducted according to NFHS rules for rally scoring using the following criteria and reported as individual matches online:

1. Best three out of five games.

24.4 DISTRICT PLAY - Each district committee and all district schools shall comply with the constitutional provisions pertaining to competition within the district. This requirement is explained in the Constitution in Article 6, "District Affairs."

24.4.1 As long as the LHSAA's constitution is not violated, a district shall determine its own method for determining first place team representatives in state playoffs by the deadline cited in Bylaw 24.1, "Important Dates" section.

24.5 **REPORTING TEAMS FOR PLAYOFF COMPETITION** - The district champion shall report the name of the first-place team on the official LHSAA District Final Standing Form to the LHSAA by 10:00 p.m. on the deadline cited in Bylaw 24.1, "Important Dates" section. Failure of the district champion to submit the required information by the established deadline dates shall be fined \$100. Additional days to certify a district's playoff representative shall not be allowed. Completed forms must be submitted via email.

24.6 **WILDCARD PROGRAM** - The highest seeded teams shall be placed on the brackets in each division.

24.6.1 **Wildcard teams shall be allotted as follows:**

	# DISTRICTS	# AUTO-QUALIFY	# WILDCARD TEAMS	# BYES REMAINING
Division I	8	1st	24	0
Division II	8	1st	24	0
Division III	9	1st	23	0
Division IV	7	1st	25	0
Division V	9	1st	23	0

24.6.2 **Criteria for Wildcard Selection:**

1. Only the teams certified as the first-place district representative shall automatically qualify for the state playoffs.
2. The remainder of the byes on the bracket will be filled with wildcard teams (teams that did not automatically qualify) using the highest power rating in descending order to fill the bracket.

24.6.3 **Determining Power Rating:** The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

1. Result of Contest

Win (5 points)	Add
Loss (0 points)	Opponents' Wins (100%)
	Opponents' Wins (33%)
2. A school's power rating shall be the total power points of matches played divided by the number of total matches played during the regular season.
3. Contests played against out of state opponents, sub-varsity opponents and district playoff (tiebreakers) matches shall not count in determining a school's power rating.

24.7 **SEEDING THE BRACKET** - All teams shall be seeded 1-32 according to their power ranking. All teams that automatically qualify for the playoffs and those teams selected as wild card teams shall be seeded in each division.

24.7.1 Schools that failed to play at least 20 matches during the regular season, including district play and invitational tournament play, shall be ranked separately using the same ranking system used to rank schools that played at least 20 matches or more during the regular season. These schools shall be ranked at the bottom and seeded accordingly until all the remaining positions on the bracket are filled.

24.7.2 Tie-breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating are as follows:

1. If two schools that are tied played each other during the season, the school that won the most matches against the other school shall be the highest seeded school.
2. If after applying the first criterion but does not break the tie or if the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in the tie, the tie shall be broken by applying the divisional play percentage. The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher seeded school.
3. If after applying the second criterion, the tie is not broken, the school that finished in the highest position in the district shall be the higher seeded school.
4. If after applying the third criterion, the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in district play shall be the higher seeded school.
5. If after applying the fourth criterion, the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in overall regular season play shall be the higher seeded school.
6. If a tie remains, the higher seeded school shall be selected by having a "draw" conducted by the LHSAA office.

- 24.8** **PLAYOFFS** - Refer to Bylaw 24.1, “Important Dates”, for specific playoff dates.
- 24.8.1** Both schools shall mutually agree on the playing time and date of contest unless mandated in Bylaw 24.1, “Important Dates” section. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 5:30 p.m. Admission prices for home and away games shall be set by mutual agreement of the participating schools. Admission shall be a minimum of \$5.00. Game receipts shall be verified and counted by officials of both schools at the conclusion of the game unless prior arrangements have been agreed upon.
- 24.8.2** The site of the playoff match shall be selected by the home team.
1. The court must be a center court and meet the minimum requirements of Rule 2 of the NFHS playing rules.
 2. All game equipment must meet the standards of Rule 3 of the NFHS playing rules.
 3. The seating capacity must be a minimum of 200 permanent bleacher/bench style seats.
- 24.8.3** **Officials:** Unless both schools mutually agree on the officials’ association that shall serve a playoff match, only officials from a neutral LHSAA-sanctioned officials’ association shall officiate playoff the matches. The officials shall be from the same association. If the opposing schools fail to agree on a playoff game’s officials and, consequently, the game is not played by the deadline for that round, both teams shall be eliminated from the playoffs. The LHSAA shall not assign officials for the bi-district and regional rounds of play. Line judges shall be adults and each school shall furnish one for the match. By mutual agreement of both schools, the home team may furnish the two line judges.
- 24.8.4** Regional playoff winners in all divisions shall advance to the state volleyball tournament.
- 24.9** **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS (Through regional round)**
- 24.9.1** Admission prices shall be set by mutual agreement of both schools prior to the match.
- 24.9.2** **Disbursement of revenue:** Teams shall split the gate equally between both schools after the payment of officials.
- 24.9.3** In all divisions the home team shall be responsible for the following:
1. Official scorer
 2. Line judges
 3. Timer
 4. Ticket sellers and takers
 5. Security (maximum of two)
 6. Facility rental
 7. Janitorial services
 8. Game balls
 9. Other items necessary to conduct match
- 24.9.4** In all divisions the home team shall retain rights to concession sales.
- 24.9.5** In all divisions the visiting team shall be responsible for its own travel expenses.
- 24.10** **STATE TOURNAMENT**
- 24.10.1** The LHSAA shall host the state tournament. The Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the state championship tournament(s) and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. The tournament shall be held at the selected site on the dates cited in Bylaw 24.1, “Important Dates” section.
- 24.10.2** The LHSAA shall pay each participating school, \$300 from net gate receipts, for each tournament match in which it plays. In addition, the LHSAA shall pay \$400 from net gate receipts each school that participates in the tournament finals.
- 24.10.3** Teams shall be allowed a maximum of 24 individuals to enter the tournament for free. Those 24 individuals must include any/all coaches, players in legal uniforms, managers, trainers and/or statisticians and must be listed on the required Team Roster form. Once a team roster has been submitted per Bylaw 6.13.6, “Athletic Contests” section, it shall be considered final. Additional tickets must be purchased at the ticket window for full price. Any/all additional tickets purchased shall enter through the spectator entrance and will not be allowed on the bench. Only 1 team bus driver, per bus, will be allowed to enter through the Team Entrance and must have a school I.D. Any member school(s) and/or including, but not limited to the individuals mentioned above, found in violation of this bylaw shall be fined under the “Penalty Code” section.

25.1 IMPORTANT DATES

2024-2025 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 12, 2024 – Sunday, October 6, 2024	6th – 14th	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Monday, September 30, 2024 – Sunday, October 27, 2024	13th – 17th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, October 7, 2024	14th	1st Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical, athletic participation/ parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Monday, October 21, 2024 – Saturday, December 7, 2024	16th – 22nd	Winter Sports - Eligibility Ruling Request Submissions due
Monday, October 28, 2024 – Saturday, November 2, 2024	17th	Takedown Tournaments (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, November 4, 2024	18th	1st Meet (If takedown tournament not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, January 6, 2025	27th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Saturday, February 8, 2025	31st	Posting Wrestler Information on Track Wrestling; Submit State Entries
Saturday, February 8, 2025	31st	End of Regular Season (All Divisions)
Monday, February 10, 2025	32nd	State Tournament Seeding Meeting
Friday, February 14, 2025 - Saturday, February 15, 2025	32nd	State Tournament
Sunday, February 16, 2025 – End of School	33rd	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Sunday, May 18, 2025	46th	Summer Rules Begin

25.2 CONTEST LIMITS

25.2.1 Pre-Season:

1. A team shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages.
2. A team shall be limited to one takedown tournament.

25.2.2 Week: (Sunday-Saturday)

1. The number of interschool meets in which a student may participate shall be limited to two dual meets or one tri-meet per week.
2. One tournament per week.
3. One dual meet or one tri-meet and one tournament per week.
4. A student shall be allowed to participate in two dual meets or one tri-meet and a tournament in a week or two tournaments in a week when school is not in session during the Thanksgiving and/or Christmas holidays.

25.3 GENERAL

- 25.3.1** Boys' Wrestling shall be divided into three equal or nearly equal divisions. Wrestling divisions shall be based on a school's October 1 enrollment that is certified to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association under the guidelines of Article 8.3 of the LHSAA Constitution, Enrollment Calculation. Counting to achieve equal thirds shall begin with the lowest and end with the highest wrestling school enrollment. A school may not participate in a division below that mandated by its enrollment. Schools with equal enrollment that form the dividing line in a division shall play in the lower division. A school may elect to play in the next higher division if it submits a written declaration to the LHSAA by noon on the day of the first classification meeting in a classification year. The school shall play in the higher division for the next two years. Girls' Wrestling shall compete in a single division.
- 25.3.2** The official clock operator and the official scorekeeper at all meets shall be adults.
- 25.3.3** Wrestling season shall end after the state champions are named.
- 25.3.4** Competition in the boys' division shall be divided into the 14 weight classes as adopted by the NFHS Wrestling Rules. Competition in the girls' division shall be divided into 12 weight classes as adopted by the NFHS Wrestling Rules.
- 25.3.5** All bouts conducted during a varsity tournament shall count for seeding purposes and shall be reported on the Track Wrestling website.
- 25.3.6** A wrestler may use an artificial limb that presents no more danger to a competitor than the corresponding limb and does not place an opponent at a disadvantage.
- 25.3.7** Every head coach shall present the opposing coach(es) in a dual or tri-meet and the director in a tournament a copy of the Alpha Master Sheet and Weigh-In Sheet for his/her team.
- 25.3.8** If a coach does not submit the Alpha Master Sheet and Weigh-In Sheet as required, then the team shall be ineligible to compete that day.
- 25.3.9** If one or more wrestlers are omitted from the Alpha Master Sheet and/or Weigh-In Sheet, then only those wrestlers omitted shall be ineligible to compete that day.
- 25.3.10** When a wrestler has successfully tested but his/her information has not been logged into the Track Wrestling system, the initial Weight Certification Form (pink copy) must be presented in the place of the Alpha Master Sheet along with the Weigh-In Sheet.

25.4 TAKEDOWN TOURNAMENTS

- 25.4.1** The following rules shall apply to all takedown tournaments:
1. After each takedown, two points shall be awarded to the successful wrestler. The two wrestlers shall be separated and brought back to the starting (neutral) positions.
 2. The only other earned points shall result from penalties such as illegal holds and stalling.
 3. Times shall be modified from three 2-minute rounds to two 1½-minute rounds with 30 second rest between rounds.
 4. The clock shall continue to run unless wrestlers go out of bounds, or there is an injury time-out.
- 25.4.2** In a tie, the following criteria shall apply:
1. The wrestler with the first takedown shall be the winner.
 2. If there is no takedown, the wrestler with the most stalling shall lose.
 3. The first stalling shall lose.
- 25.4.3** There shall be no warnings for stalling; therefore, penalties shall start at the beginning. Stalling points shall be awarded accordingly: first, one point; second, one point; third, two points; fourth, forfeit.
- 25.4.4** A team participating in a takedown tournament shall not participate in an interscholastic scrimmage thereafter.
- 25.5** **INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS (Refer to Section 6.11):** Exception to Bylaw 6.11.3: Four or more schools in a meet shall equal a tournament.
- 25.6** **WEIGHT CERTIFICATION AND CONTROL PROGRAM**
- (Refer to the Wrestling Policy Manual on the LHSAA website in the sports section under Wrestling)

- 25.6.1** Each wrestler shall undergo and pass a hydration level test and a body fat assessment test prior to participation in a meet. A wrestler's hydration level shall not exceed 1.025 on the refractometer. A wrestler's body fat shall be no lower than seven percent for males and 12 percent for females. Wrestlers who do not take and pass the mandatory tests shall be ineligible to compete at all levels of competition. All tests shall be administered by an LHSA-certified testing team. Schools shall be assessed a fee of \$10 per wrestler tested and \$30 for access to the Track Wrestling website. All fees shall be paid at the time the test(s) are administered. Test dates and sites, as well as make-up dates and sites, will be sent to schools annually.
- 25.6.2** No wrestler may compete until he/she is officially registered on Track Wrestling and their weight loss/descent rate has been established. Exception: The wrestler competes on the same day as the initial certification and submits the initial certification document at weigh-ins. Each wrestler's weight and descent rate shall be monitored on Track Wrestling. Weight loss shall not exceed an average of 1.5 percent a week.
- 25.6.3** No wrestler may wrestle below his/her eligible wrestling weight class as listed on the Track Wrestling site and the weigh-in sheet for each event. The following penalties have been established for a wrestler who wittingly or unwittingly wrestles out of his/her current eligible weight class per Track Wrestling:
- Student-Athlete
1. 1st offense: Suspension from the next scheduled competition and match forfeited if wrestled.
 2. 2nd offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season including postseason.
- 25.6.4 Weight Management System** - The following penalties have been established for a coach who wittingly or unwittingly violates the Track Wrestling weight management system:
1. A coach who allows his/her athlete to compete below his/her current eligible weight class as listed on Track Wrestling shall be as follows:
 - A. 1st offense: \$250 fine, a one-week suspension from all wrestling related responsibilities from the date of the issued penalty document, and completion of the NFHS Sportsmanship course prior to being reinstated.
 - B. 2nd offense: \$500 fine, suspension of the remainder of the season including post-season.
 2. A coach who fails to produce a pre-match weigh-in sheet and/or alpha master sheet for each weigh-in, varsity or sub varsity may be suspended.
 3. A coach who does not record all weigh-ins as required may be suspended.
 4. A coach who does not record all varsity results after a contest and before the next contest on Track Wrestling may be suspended.
 5. A coach who enters inaccurate records to Track Wrestling may be suspended.
 6. The suspension may be for the next contest, tournament, or the LHSA State Tournament.
 7. The LHSA will determine the duration of the suspension in #2-5.
- 25.6.5 Weight Certification Process** - No wrestler or coach shall circumvent, manipulate, and attempt to cheat, or cheat the weight certification process. This includes, but is not limited to the paperwork, the hydration, the height, and the scale portion of the weight certification process. The following penalties have been established for a wrestler or a coach who violates any portion of the weight certification process:
1. Athlete 1st offense: One month suspension from the time of the passed certification and a \$250 dollar fine to the school.
 2. Athlete 2nd offense: Suspension from the remainder of the season including postseason and a \$500 dollar fine to the school.
 3. Coach: Suspension from the remainder of the season including post-season and a \$500 dollar fine to the school.
- 25.6.6** No wrestler shall enter the state tournament unless his/her minimum weight has been properly certified. *Exception: It is possible for a wrestler to participate in the state tournament without previously having wrestled in an interscholastic match prior to the state tournament if he/she has taken and passed the hydration test and body fat assessment prior to the seeding meeting. The deadline to test a wrestler who has not wrestled previously shall be the Thursday immediately prior to the deadline for submitting all wrestlers' information on the Track Wrestling website.*
- 25.6.7** A wrestler may wrestle one weight class above his/her ACTUAL weight. A wrestler who wrestles two or more weight classes above his/her actual weight must re-establish his/her new weight loss descent plan based on higher weight class wrestled. Example: If a wrestler's actual weight is 160.0 and he/she wrestles at the 182 lb weight class, then the wrestler must re-establish his/her new descent rate from 182. The weight shall be adjusted by the testing coordinator.

- 25.6.6** A two-pound growth allowance shall be added to each weight class on December 25 of each year.
- 25.6.7** Every wrestler's weigh-ins and results shall be entered on the Track Wrestling website after the completion of each competition. Failure to submit the results timely shall result in the school being fined \$50 per occurrence. Schools submitting inaccurate or false information shall be fined \$100 per occurrence and the coach shall be penalized.
- 25.7** **STATE TOURNAMENT**
- 25.7.1** The state wrestling tournaments shall be conducted under the auspices of the LHSAA. The state tournament shall be administered by a committee composed of the Executive Director, the Executive Director's Assistant and Executive Committee members. The tournament committee shall set policies for tournament administration.
- 25.7.2** The state wrestling tournament shall be conducted during the 32nd week of the NFHS calendar. If the 32nd week conflicts with Mardi Gras, the date(s) of the tournament shall be adjusted by the LHSAA Executive Committee.
- 25.7.3** The LHSAA shall form a State Tournament committee to select the site of the State Tournament and coordinate the event. The site shall be approved by the Executive Committee. The state tournament will be held at the site selected and, on the dates, listed in Bylaw 25.1, "Important Dates" section. The Executive Director shall secure the services of a physician to serve as the official tournament physician for the state tournament. Any and all decisions of the physician concerning injuries and/or communicable diseases will be final.
- 25.7.4** [Boys'](#) Division I, II and III schools [and Girls' Division](#) shall submit their entries through Track Wrestling. All information must be posted on Track Wrestling no later than the state entries due date cited in Bylaw 25.1, "Important Dates" section. Schools failing to post their wrestler(s) information on the Track Wrestling website by 10:00 p.m. on the date cited in Bylaw 25.1, "Important Dates", shall be fined \$100 and their wrestler(s) shall not be seeded.
- 25.7.5** Each state tournament wrestler shall abide by the weigh-in rules as governed by the NFHS Wrestling Rules.
- 25.7.6** The state tournament's official seeding meeting ([Boys'](#) Divisions I, II, and III, [and the Girls' Division](#)) shall be the Monday night prior to the state tournament. Substitutions shall be allowed until the conclusion of the coaches' meeting the Thursday night before the state tournament. The submitted wrestler(s) shall not be seeded. To substitute (not add) a wrestler(s) at a weight class, they must be a wrestler already designated for that weight class. Individuals already submitted for a particular weight class in the state tournament shall not be moved.
- 25.7.7** A \$15.00 entry fee per wrestler shall be sent to the LHSAA by school check payable to the LHSAA along with a list of qualifiers to the state tournament by the established deadline. Schools that owe any money to the LHSAA for testing and website access shall be ineligible to compete in the state tournament until such fees are paid.
- 25.7.8** The state tournament shall be a double-elimination tournament in all divisions.
1. Division I shall use a 32-man bracket.
 2. Divisions II and III, [and the Girls' Division](#), shall use either a 16-man bracket or a 32-man bracket which shall be determined by the tournament director based on the number of entries per weight class.
 3. All rounds of the tournament shall score, and all byes shall be randomly drawn.
 4. Pigtail matches shall be used for any weight class that has more than 32 competitors in Division I. Division II and III shall be based on the number of entries per weight class. This round shall not score.
 5. The brackets, for a division, shall be re-drawn when a seeded wrestler is not able to wrestle in the tournament on the first day.
- 25.7.9** A wrestler detected destroying or damaging property during the state tournament shall be suspended from competition for the remainder of the tournament and the school shall be required to pay for all damages incurred and fined an additional \$250 for unsportsmanlike and unethical conduct.

GLOSSARY

Accountability shall mean the quality or state of being accountable, especially an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions public officials lacking accountability.

Administrative Staff shall mean workers who provide support to a company. This support might include general office management, answering phones, speaking with clients, assisting an employer, clerical work (including maintaining records and entering data), or a variety of other tasks.

Championship shall mean a contest, match, game, event, or tournament held to determine the best team or individual in a sport/competition.

Chaperone(s) also referred to as Sponsor(s) shall mean someone and/or someone's who is responsible for and tasked with looking after and/or supervising another person or a group of people.

Deadline shall mean the latest time and/or date by which something should be submitted/completed/accepted.

Flagrant shall mean an action taken that is meant to indicate that the degree of a violation of the rule(s) is extremely objectionable, conspicuous, unnecessary, avoidable, or gratuitous.

Head coach shall mean the highest-ranking coach of a coaching staff.

Independent schools shall mean non-member schools governed by an independent board of trustees and primarily supported through tuition payments and charitable contributions.

Mandatory shall mean required by a law or rule.

Member schools shall mean schools that have applied and/or submitted the LHSAA Membership Renewal form therefore agreeing to abide by any and all Constitutional articles and bylaws set for in the Official LHSAA Handbook.

Non-transferable shall mean a document and/or object belonging to one person and cannot legally be given to another person and used by them.

No Re-entry shall mean not being able/allowed to return/gain entrance to a place, organization, or area of activity that you have left.

Playoff shall mean all postseason play, excluding championships, after district play has been completed and shall involve only those schools who have qualified for postseason play as a result of their regular season performances.

Participating Teams (when referenced in championship bulletin) shall mean any group having or taking part in a championship event as defined above.

Personal Responsibility shall mean liable to be called on to answer; the state or fact of being responsible, answerable, or accountable for something within one's power, control, or management.

Postseason shall mean games played after the end of a regular sports season.

Regular season shall mean the period of time in which teams in a specific sport are divided into groups, classes and/or divisions, and each team plays a set number of matches, games contests, or events against a set number of opponents.

Select shall mean private or public schools that have a state or parish approved designation as a lab school, magnet school(s) with one or more magnet component(s), approved charter schools, parish wide approved open enrollment, state recovery district (RSD) application-based parish schools, tuition-based schools and/or any established academic and/or retention-days based criterion schools.

GLOSSARY

Showcase shall be defined as any camp, clinic, game, or event where high level collegiate or professional coaches, scouts, or other official evaluating personnel are in a setting where players may display their ability to their best advantage in order to pursue higher level scholarships and participations.

Submitting shall be when a school principal, using his/her assigned username and password for the LHSAA Member Website, selects eligible, registered students for a particular sport, certifies the information of each student, and submits them to the LHSAA. A student must be resubmitted for each sport that he/she participates in each school year.

Support Group(s) including but not limited to Cheerleaders, Dance Team(s), Pep Squad(s), Band Member(s) shall mean any groups or groups of students, which are enrolled in the same school and/or sister/brother school which provide emotional and moral support for another group at their school and is a Participating Team as referenced above. These groups must be dressed in school issued and/or matching uniforms.

POSITION STATEMENTS

LHSAA MODEL TO SET STANDARDS REGARDING TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, ANABOLIC STEROIDS AND OTHER PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS

SECTION 1 - PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

A. **Statement of Philosophy** - It is the philosophy of the LHSAA member schools that students should be encouraged and supported in their efforts to develop and maintain a lifestyle free from tobacco, alcohol, drugs, anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs.

The LHSAA member schools recognize the use of these substances as a significant health problem for students, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning and the total development of each individual.

The LHSAA member schools believe the close contact of coaches, advisors and students in the class-room or in activity participation provides a unique opportunity to observe, identify and respond to behaviors of concern.

B. **Statement of Purpose** - the purpose of these standards is to:

1. Underscore the importance of health and wellness for students participating in activities while emphasizing the long-term physical and emotional effects of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs.
2. Promote a sense of order and discipline among students.
3. Confirm and support existing state laws, which restrict the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs.
4. Establish standards of conduct for those students who are leaders and standard bearers among their peers.
5. Assist students who desire to resist peer pressure, which directs them toward the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs.
6. Assist and support students who should be referred for assistance or evaluation regarding their use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs.

SECTION 2 - DEVELOPING A CODE OF CONDUCT

A. **Establishing a Code** - A code of conduct should be established by a member school as a set of minimum standards to assist the school in the development of their local policies.

B. A code of conduct should incorporate the following components:

1. Philosophy: Specify the philosophy and basis for recommending a code of conduct.
2. Purpose: State the reasons for setting standards and the educational rationale for assisting students through such standards.
3. Rule Definition: Specify the substances to be included and the time during which the rules are in effect. A sample rule incorporating these standards could read:
4. "During the school year, regardless of the quantity, a student shall not: (1) use a beverage containing alcohol; (2) use tobacco products; or (3) use, consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any other controlled substance including anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs."
5. Consequences for Violations of the Rule
 - a. Define the activities for which the student is ineligible.
 - b. Define student's role in the process.
 - c. Clarify when parents will be informed.
 - d. Give procedures for referring student for help.
 - e. Consequences for rule violations should incorporate the following standards:
 - f. Certainty: An expectation by those to be affected by the rule that it will be applied with a measure of consistency and uniformity to all involved.
 - g. Severity: An expectation that the consequences for the violation are fair for the act committed and that those affected will be encouraged to follow through with the consequences, including coaches, students and parents.
 - h. Celerity: An expectation that the due process will promptly be applied following an alleged violation.
6. Procedures for Due Process: Specify the procedures by which the school officials will investigate reported violations of the rules and apply the consequences for confirmed violations.

POSITION STATEMENTS

LHSAA GENDER EQUITY POSITION STATEMENT

One of the purposes of the LHSAA is to assure that every student-athlete has a fair opportunity to compete. That purpose can only be achieved when there is true equality of opportunity to participate in athletics. Athletic participation in an LHSAA member school is an extension of an integral part of the educational experience for those young people who become student-athletes. These educational experiences should not be reduced in scope and significance by disparities, which limit the participation of any athlete.

The LHSAA believes that gender equity is more than being in compliance with the law. It is a spirit, a personal ethic. It is commitment to do what is right and fair for all student-athletes. It means creating an atmosphere and an environment where opportunities and resources are distributed fairly to boys and girls in an atmosphere where no person experiences discrimination on the basis of gender.

The LHSAA encourages its member schools to monitor their athletic programs to ensure that athletic offerings are equitable and meet the interests and abilities of student-athletes.

While the LHSAA does not have the authority to provide specific interpretations or to rule on compliance issues regarding Title IX, it does believe that all concerned should take steps to be sure that the spirit and intent of gender equity are met.

As part of the Gender Equity Statement, the LHSAA has adopted a position on Gender Identity Participation. While this adopted position of Gender Identification is not LHSAA policy, it is intended to serve as a guideline to help direct the member schools and the LHSAA administration regarding student participation regardless of their gender identity under certain conditions.

A student-athlete shall compete in the gender of their birth certificate.

According to LSA-R.S. 17:443, the term biological sex is defined as follows: "Biological sex" means a statement of a student's biological sex on the student's official birth certificate which is entered at or near the time of the student's birth.

The LHSAA will comply with Louisiana State Law LSA-R.A. 4:444, which states:

- A. Each intercollegiate or interscholastic athletic team or sporting event that is sponsored by a school and that receives state funding shall be expressly designated, based upon biological sex, as only one of the following:
 - 1. Except as provided in Subsection C of this Section, a male, boys, or mens team or event shall be for those students who are biological males.
 - 2. A female, girls, or womens team or event shall be for those students who are biological females.
 - 3. A coeducational or mixed team or event shall be open for participation by biological females and biological males.
- B. Athletic teams or sporting events designated for females, girls, or women shall not be open to students who are not biologically female.
- C. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to restrict the eligibility of any student to participate in any intercollegiate or interscholastic athletic team or sport designated as "male", "mens", or "boys", or designated as "coed" or "mixed".
- D. Nothing in this Chapter is intended to prevent any school from implementing or maintaining a coeducational or mixed athletic team or sporting event which is open to both biological males and biological females so long as a female, girls, or womens athletic team or sporting event is not disbanded for the purpose of creating a coeducational or mixed team or event which would thereby result to the detriment of students of the female biological sex.
- E. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to apply to an intramural athletic team or intramural sport.

LHSAA NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS POSITION STATEMENT

LHSAA bylaws do not prohibit student athletes from engaging in certain commercial activities in their individual capacities. These activities, generally referred to as Name, Image and Likeness (NIL), will not jeopardize a student athlete's amateur status if the student athlete complies with LHSAA Bylaw 1.25 on "Maintaining Amateur Status" as well as all LHSAA Bylaws, policies, and regulations. Compliance with LHSAA Bylaws regarding NIL does not ensure maintenance of eligibility under the eligibility standards of other governing athletic organizations (e.g. NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA, national sport governing bodies, etc.). Student athletes desiring information on the amateur rules of other governing organizations should consult with those organizations.



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