

NJSIAA MISSION STATEMENT

The NJSIAA, a private, voluntary Association serves its student/athletes, members schools and related professional organizations by the administration of education-based interscholastic athletics, which support academic achievement, good citizenship and fair and equitable opportunities.

We believe that member schools, along with their leagues and conferences, share these convictions:

- A safe and healthy playing environment is essential to our mission.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics enhances the educational experience of all students.
- Interscholastic athletics is a privilege.
- Excellence in both academics and athletics is pursued by all.
- Interscholastic participation develops good citizenship and healthy life-styles, fosters involvement of a diverse population and promotes positive school/community relations.
- Rules promote fair play and minimizes risks.
- Cooperation among members advances their individual and collective well-being.
- Training of administrators and coaches promotes the educational mission of the interscholastic experiences.
- Properly trained officials/judges enhance interscholastic competition.
- The NJSIAA is the recognized state authority on interscholastic athletic programs.

IN MEMORIAM

Former Executive Committee Members

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George Henckel
Clarence L. Woodman
Spencer M. Bennett
Phillips R. Brooks
Dr. A.G. Ireland
E. Fred Moller
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**MEMBER OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**

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PURPOSES OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION

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

We believe participation in education-based interscholastic athletics and performing arts programs:

- * Enriches each student's educational experience.
- * Promotes student academic achievement.
- * Develops good citizenship and healthy lifestyles.
- * Fosters involvement of a diverse population.
- * Promotes positive school/community relations.
- * Is a privilege.

The NFHS

- * Promotes and protects the defining values of education-based interscholastic activity programs.
- * Serves as the recognized national authority on education-based interscholastic activity programs.
- * Promotes fair play and seeks to minimize risk for student participants through the adoption of national competition rules and delivery of programs and services.
- * Delivers quality educational programs to serve changing needs of state associations, school administrators, coaches, officials, students, and parents.
- * Provides professional development for NFHS member state association staff believing that cooperation among state associations advance their individual and collective well-being.

In 1942 the NJSIAA became a member of the National Federation.

**EXTRACTS FROM NATIONAL
FEDERATION BYLAWS**

SANCTIONING

Interscholastic activities exist because they provide educational opportunities for youth. When this objective is not accomplished, there is no educational reason for conducting an activities program. If these goals are not realized, the activities program could just as well be conducted by any other organization.

Those conducting the interscholastic program have a responsibility to be certain it is administered so the educational goals are reached. To this end, the organization sponsoring competition has an obligation to sanction all contests in which the students participate. This sanctioning may be done at the local level by designing activities which serve the needs of the students. It also may be done at the conference, district or state levels by establishing events which provide educational opportunities not available in the local situation. These must be so conceived that they serve the participants.

Sanctioning guarantees programs, which are approved, adhere to sound and detailed criteria which meet the specific requirements of a school or a group of schools based upon experience and tradition. This means there will be regulation of the conditions under which the students and teams may compete. Sanctioning is a means of encouraging well-managed competition. It assures the program will provide a broad base of wholesome and constructive competition. The sanctioning program is a positive service to students and schools, not a negative limitation as some non-school promoters believe.

The sanctioning program of the National Federation of State High School Associations has the primary purpose of protecting the welfare of high school students.

A secondary purpose of sanctioning is to protect the existing programs sponsored by member schools. No event may be sanctioned if it simply duplicates a school program, or if it detracts from that school program by luring outstanding competitors away from an existing event. Individual states and schools provide quality competitive programs. There is little need for crossing

state boundaries to gain satisfactory competition except along the borders. There are very few instances in which competitors can find superior opportunities for competition in events which are held out of state. In most cases, there are other objectives than the education of youth for encouraging participation in such meets.

Sanctioning will eliminate abuses of excessive competition. The limitation of the number of multiple-school events in which teams may participate and the limitation of travel distance are concrete examples. Excessive competition works a hardship on the student by interfering with the academic program and detracts from the total program because of the amount of money spent on the few outstanding performers which might better be spent improving the total program for the majority.

A number of non-school organizations sponsor competition for high school students and, because of this, there are problems and conflicts with existing school programs. The school-sponsored competition is interpreted to include that sponsored by colleges or educational agencies in addition to that sponsored by state association member schools. There are three different areas of nonmember school competition which are of concern and include competition sponsored by: (a) local service organizations; (b) colleges involving only state association member schools, and (c) nonmember schools involving member schools. The National Council in its 1969 meeting at Las Vegas, Nevada, adopted the following guidelines to be followed when considering sanction requests:

1. Interstate competition sponsored by non-school-related organizations shall not be sanctioned.
2. All contests in which member schools participate shall be sponsored by a member high school or sanctioned by the high school association (competition for high school students sponsored by colleges will require this approval).
3. Competition in sports federation meets shall be cosponsored by a state association member school or sanctioned by the appropriate high school association or associations, if interstate.

Programs conducted by non-school personnel need to be evaluated very carefully. In the majority of cases, these completely disregard the future high school eligibility of participants and do not consider the existing interscholastic program. Such programs are often justified with five reasons as follows: (1) the distinction it brings to the competitor; (2) the fame and fortune it provides a competitor's coach and/or school; (3) the public image which may come from newspaper promotion; (4) the recognition it will bring the community; and (5) the educational values to the competitors.

A properly administered sanctioning program will provide uniformity in obtaining approval for an event. By following specific criteria, sponsors will not submit requests for approval of poorly conceived or loosely organized events. Most want to conduct events which will benefit students and can use the criteria as guidelines for developing or improving an event. The strict adherence to established criteria develops confidence of the schools in the total program. Those who administer the sanctioning program are obligated to uphold all standards. All of this adds up to the fact that sanctioning protects the students from exploitation.

The Friends and Neighbors Sanctioning Policy of the NFHS stipulates schools not eligible for membership in their home state association may be approved for participation in an NFHS sanctioned meet provided: (1) nonmember participants adhere to standards as high or higher than the interscholastic association of their state; (2) the policies of the state association represented in the meet prevail for all institutions that are represented; and (3) the state associations which are represented in an NFHS sanctioned meet agree to participate with schools which do not have state association membership because they cannot qualify. Nonmember schools have shown a desire to participate in both intrastate and interstate meets which involve state association member schools. When it can be shown the nonaffiliated schools maintain standards similar to the state's member schools and the competition will be conducted in accordance with existing requirements, a request for sanction may be honored.

In all interstate contests, each participating school shall follow the contest rules of the state association of which it is a member or rules which have been approved by that state association for interstate competition. The rules referred to are contest rules only and not rules applying to age, number of semesters of attendance, residence or academic accomplishments. No school may violate its own state association rules.

Telegraphic and telephonic meets involving schools from more than one state do not require sanction on the part of the NFHS and the performances, therefore, would not qualify for record consideration.

The concept of area championships is in conflict with the general philosophy regarding interstate events. Although the NFHS Bylaws may not be specific concerning the rejection of such sanction applications, it is the desire of the majority of the membership to follow such a policy in correcting existing abuses. State executive officers have expressed concern about the problem of events which are designated as area, regional or national championships. At its meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 7, 1969, the Executive Committee (now Board of Directors) directed the NFHS staff not to issue sanctions for events which are designated as championships. When applying for sanctions, sponsors must be certain neither the promotion nor the results of the event are labeled as part of a sectional or national championship.

National championships cannot be sanctioned as a result of an action of the NFHS membership on February 26, 1934.

The National Council voted that the Executive Committee should refuse to sanction any meet or tournament which is in the nature of a contest to determine a national high school championship. The Executive Committee/Board of Directors has acted in accordance with this vote and no sanction has been granted although there have been many successful attempts by promoters to hold contests which are national in scope.

This action concerning national championship meets was the result of sentiment on the part of high school administrators that the high schools are provided with enough competition by their own leagues and state associations. If more competition were desired, it would be an easy matter for such leagues or state associations to prolong the season or to arrange post-season games or to increase the number of tournaments. When such action is not taken, it is because additional competition is not desirable. Matters such as this must be determined by groups rather than by individual high schools because if one high school were permitted to extend the season indefinitely or to travel an indefinite distance to an interstate event, it practically forces other high schools to do likewise, if they are to compete on equal terms with the one which follows such practices. In this respect, the fundamental principle upon which the group action is based is exactly the same as that which underlies statewide eligibility rules. If one high school were permitted to decide for itself whether it would play 21-year-old students, it would automatically force all other high schools with whom that school competes to do likewise. It is obvious the will of the majority must apply in such situations.

The policy concerning sanctioning national championships has been under constant review by the NFHS and was reaffirmed July 9, 1977, when the National Council in amending its Athletic Bylaws adopted the following: "Sanction shall not be granted for any tournament, meet or other contest to qualify for and/or determine a national high school championship." However, at its July 1977 meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the NFHS Competition Committee recommended the topic of national championships sponsored and conducted by the NFHS be discussed at every NFHS Sanction Meeting during 1977-1978. These discussions did occur.

A resolution authorizing the NFHS to develop a comprehensive promotional program for high school activities, including sponsorship of national championships, was passed 24 to 18 by the National Council on January 1, 1978, with the provision that the program be submitted for the review of the National Council in July 1978. A plan for national competition in golf, tennis, and track and field, beginning in 1979, was developed by the Executive Committee (Board of Directors) and distributed to the membership in February 1978, so there would be ample time for discussion. However, at its meeting in Salt Lake City on July 7, 1978, the National Council voted 27 to 17 to delay for one year taking action on the Executive Committee's plan. It was the expressed hope of the National Council delegates who voted for the delay that during the 1978-79 school year the NFHS would obtain commitments from both principals and school boards at the local as well as state and national levels to either join the NFHS in attempting to halt the proliferation of non-school-sponsored national competition or support the NFHS's efforts to provide healthier, school-sponsored national competition.

A vote on the plan to conduct national invitational competitions in golf, tennis, and track and field during the summer was taken by the National Council on July 7, 1979 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Council, by a 38 to 9 vote, declined to approve the plan.

Interstate Events

The Board of Directors of the NFHS has adopted procedures and outlined responsibilities for requesting and securing sanction for interstate events. They are outlined as follows:

NFHS Sanctioning Program

State association and NFHS sanctioning are required for any interstate athletic event:

- a) Any event that has a sponsor outside the school community. (The event must also be sponsored by a high school, an approved school or a state association itself.) This will also include title sponsors (example: First National Bank Holiday Classic), as well as event organizers (example: Heritage Scholarship Foundation).
- b) Non-bordering events, if five or more states are involved.
- c) Non-bordering events, if more than eight schools are involved.
- d) International events (use international form, except for Canada, Bahamas and Mexico).

We currently do not sanction cheer/spirit and riflery.

INSTRUCTIONS

Fee Schedule:

- The early registration fee (completed application received by the NFHS more than 60 days in advance of the event) shall be \$100.
- The registration fee for a timely but not early sanction application (received by the NFHS 15-59 days prior to the event) shall be \$200.
- The fee for late registration (received by the NFHS less than 15 days prior to the event) shall be \$300

Sanction Procedures:

- a) Interested individuals who want to host an event will go online at the NFHS website [www.NFHS.org], register as an event manager, create an event and fill out the online application (identical to the paper version)
- b) The NFHS will then send an e-mail to the host school's principal and host state association.
- c) The state association reviews the application online and determines if they will approve or deny the application.
- d) Once approved the event sponsor is notified by the NFHS association that payment is required. Credit card payment and electronic check are the only forms of payment accepted.
- e) Once the payment is received by the NFHS, the invited states/schools are notified that they have been invited and it is listed on the NFHS website. As the invited states respond to the sanction it is automatically updated on the NFHS website. Once every invited state has responded, the application is approved for sanctioning.
- f) The host school shall submit a financial report about the event to the NFHS on the accompanying form upon request..

When application for an NFHS sanction is made, the applying entity agrees to conduct the interstate competition in compliance with conditions which have been adopted by the constituency of the NFHS. If any of these provisions are lacking, the sanction is void. Contest conditions are: (a) each school guarantees it is a member in good standing in its own state high school association and also guarantees participation in this contest will not violate any standard of the state association or the NFHS; (b) each contestant shall be eligible under standards of the home state association; (c) awards shall be limited to those which are permitted by the most restrictive state high school association from which the competitors enter; (d) if a school fails to fulfill its contract obligation, that school shall be required to make amends in accordance with terms fixed by the NFHS Board of Directors after consultation of the executive officers of the states involved; and (e) no entry shall be accepted for any competitor from any state not included in the list for which approval is granted.

Presently, NFHS approval is required before any member school of any NFHS member association participates in an interstate event, regardless of the number of schools involved, when the event is sponsored by any entity other than a member school of an NFHS member association. When the interstate event is sponsored by a member school of an NFHS member association, NFHS approval is only required for events involving five or more states or more than eight schools and one or more of the schools is located in a state which does not border the host state.

International Events

The present close relation with foreign countries and the ease of travel have resulted in increased participation of high school students in international athletic competition. The NFHS supports the development of international understanding and goodwill through athletic exchanges. Whenever international competition involves high schools or students representing high schools, it is necessary for it to be certified by the NFHS.

The role of the NFHS in sanctioning international competition involving students representing high schools is stated explicitly in the Athletic Bylaws of the organization. This is a reflection of the NFHS membership's belief that it has no less responsibility during international competition than during domestic competition to ensure that competition of students in the interscholastic program is educational in both means and ends.

Those who are interested in involving schools in international competition should contact their state high school association early for information. All international sanction forms must be initiated by state high school associations, not individual schools. This will allow for one application per state when a foreign team tours and plays several schools in a single state. This procedure ensures that state associations are in the center of the sanctioning process, rather than travel agents and foreign sports organizations.

Application for sanction must be submitted to the NFHS at least sixty (60) days prior to the event. If approved, the NFHS will then notify the host state and the appropriate national representative of the international sports federation of the competition.

Criteria for NFHS evaluation of international events are established by the NFHS Board of Directors. In brief, when schools or organizations apply for international sanction, they agree to conduct that competition in compliance with conditions which have been adopted by the NFHS. If any of these standards are ignored, the sanction is void. Competition shall be evaluated by these standards:

1. Competition in the United States shall be sponsored by a high school or state association-approved non-school organization.
2. Each school shall guarantee its membership is in good standing in its own state association and that participation will not violate any standard of that state association or the NFHS.
3. There shall be no conflict with either the academic or interscholastic regulations adopted by the involved state association or with the scholastic or athletic programs of the school unless approved by state association and the school administration.
4. Competition shall be administered by qualified officials under the domestic or international playing rules and safety requirements approved for that competition by the NFHS and the state association(s) involved.
5. Appropriate provisions shall be made for validation of records which may be established during the competition.
6. Entries shall be limited to competitors and/or schools from the states for which sanction has been granted.
7. Each participant representing a United States high school shall be eligible under the rules of its state association.
8. Foreign competitors shall qualify as amateurs and, if students comply with the eligibility standards prevalent in the host state(s) concerning age, year in school, etc.
9. Advance travel arrangements shall be approved by the involved state association(s).
10. Proper medical supervision shall be available for participants.
11. United States teams shall be chaperoned by state association-approved individuals.
12. A complete report, including a detailed financial statement, involving all phases of the competition shall be filed with the NFHS and the involved state association(s) within thirty (30) days following final competition.

PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONTESTS

Section 1. In all interstate contests each participating school shall follow the contest rules of the state association of which it is a member, or rules which have been approved by that state association for interstate competition.

Section 2. No school which is a member of a Federation member state high school association shall compete in any contest in any other state if the contest involves conditions such that participation by a school in the state in which the contest is held or promoted would violate the regulations or established policies of that state high school association. Sanction shall not be granted for any tournament, meet or other contest to qualify for and/or determine a national high school championship.

Section 3. The NFHS ball mark is required on all balls that will be used in high school competition.

**OFFICERS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE
INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

Dr. Matthew Jamison, President
David Frazier, 1st Vice President
Thomas Holt, 2nd Vice President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Robert Abatemarco Principal Red Bank Catholic High School 112 Broad Street Red Bank, NJ 07701 Term Expires June, 2012 (Non-Public South A)	Thomas Dowd Atlantic County Superintendent 7 Glenwood Ave., Suite 404 East Orange, NJ 07017 Term Expires June, 2011 Commissioner's Office (Ex-Officio)	Darren Groh Principal Chatham High School 255 Lafayette Avenue Chatham, NJ 07928 Term Expires June, 2012 (Morris County)
Gregory Bailey 1092 Macopin Road West Milford, NJ 07480 Term Expires June, 2012 NJSBA (At-Large)	John Fauta Superintendent West New York Board of Education 6028 Broadway West New York, NJ 07093 Term Expires June, 2014 (Hudson County)	Jane Hansen 403 Third Avenue Haddon Heights, NJ 08035 Term Expires June, 2012 Officials Association (Ex-Officio)
Bill Bruno Supervisor of Athletics Brick Memorial & Brick Twp HS 2001 Lanes Mill Road Brick, NJ 08724 Term Expires June, 2013 (Ocean County)	Martin Flynn Athletic Director West Windsor Plainsboro High Schools 90 Grovers Mill Road Plainsboro, NJ 08536 Term Expires June, 2012 (Mercer County)	Robert Harmer Athletic Director New Providence HS 35 Pioneer Dr. New Providence, NJ 07974 Term Expires June, 2012 (Union County)
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	Arthur J. Griffa 245 Fuller Terrace Orange, NJ 07050-2413 Term Expires June, 2011 NJSBA (At-Large)	

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Cedar Grove Board of Education
520 Pompton Ave
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
Term Expires June, 2012
(Essex County)

Bruce Peragallo
Principal
Metuchen High School
400 Grove Avenue
Metuchen, NJ 08840
Term Expires June, 2013
(Middlesex County)

Mr. Vincent Przybylinski
Principal
Pompton Lakes High School
44 Lakeside Avenue
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
Term Expires June, 2011
(Passaic County)

William Quirk
Athletic Director
The Hun School of Princeton
176 Edgerstoune Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
Term Expires June, 2012
NJSIAA (Ex-Officio)

Dr. James Sarruda
Superintendent
No. Burlington Co. Reg. School District
160 Mansfield Road East
Columbus, NJ 08022
Term Expires June 2012
NJASA (Ex-Officio)

Terry Sharkey
Manager Corporate Merchandising
Wakefern Food Corporation
505 Division Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07207
Term Expires June, 2011
NJSIAA (At-Large)

Rod Sharpless
Athletic Director
Cumberland Regional High School
PO BOX 5116, Silver Lake Road
Seabrook, NJ 08302
Term Expires June, 2012
NJSIAA (At-Large)

Paul Spaventa
Superintendent
Gloucester City Board of Education
520 Cumberland Street
Gloucester City, NJ 08030
Term Expires June, 2013
(Camden County)

Chris Steffner
Superintendent
Hunterdon Central High School
84 Route 31
Flemington, NJ 08822-1239
Term Expires June, 2012
(Hunterdon County)

Dr. Fran Stromsland
Superintendent
Watchung Hills Regional School District
108 Stirling Road
Warren, NJ 07059
Term Expires June, 2013
(Somerset County)

Dennis Tobin
Principal
Sparta High School
70 West Mountain Road
Sparta, NJ 07871-3598
Term Expires June, 2013
(Sussex County)

Bill Vacca
Passaic Co Technical Institute
45 Reinhardt Road
Wayne, NJ 07470-2299
Term Expires June, 2011
DAANJ (Ex-Officio)

Barbara Wallace
21 Berkshire Drive
Sewell, NJ 08080
Term Expires June, 2012
NJSIAA (At-Large)

Raymond R. Wiss
Northern Valley Regional Board of Education
23 Windsor Place
Old Tappan, NJ 07675-6809
Term Expires June, 2014
NJSBA (At-Large)

TBA
Term Expires June 2014
NJSBA

TBA
Principal
Term Expires June, 2012
(Non-Public North B)

TBA
Assemblyman
(Ex-Officio)

TBA
Senator
(Ex-Officio)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ADMINISTRATION

Steven J. Timko, *Executive Director*
Donald E. Danser, *Assistant Director*
Larry White, *Assistant Director*
Jack Dubois, *Assistant Director*
Kim DeGraw-Cole, *Assistant Director*
Gary Zarrilli, *Business Administrator*
Michael J. Herbert, Esq., *Association Attorney*
Steve Goodell, Esq., *Associate Association Attorney*

PROJECT MANAGERS

Dr. Johnson Harmon
Thomas Bowe

STAFF

Tawanda Bennett
Helen Goubeaud
Theresa Humphries
Michele Mendez
Carmen Scisly
Jewel Sellers
Anne Marie Walters

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YOUR ASSOCIATION

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association grew out of a meeting on September 27, 1918, in the Council Chambers of City Hall in Newark, New Jersey, at which time the 50 representatives from 21 secondary and private schools of the State appointed a temporary committee comprised of Walter E. Short, then director of athletics in the Newark schools, then sportswriter G.A. Falzer of *The Newark Sunday Call* and E.C. MacArthur of Peddie School. On November 8, 1918, with 32 schools represented, a constitution was adopted, and the organization to be known as the New Jersey Football Association elected E.C. MacArthur as its first president. The success of this group, although confining all of its efforts to football, encouraged the administrators and coaches of other interscholastic sports to call for a reorganizational meeting on March 28, 1919, at which time the name was changed to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

State champions were declared in football in 1918; basketball, baseball, and track were added to the championship group in 1919; and in the fall of that year cross-country was also included. The championship picture has been enlarged. Presently, the NJSIAA conducts State Championships in thirty-three sports, including sixteen for girls.

From 21 member schools in 1918, the NJSIAA has grown to 419 members in 2011. The Executive Committee, originally comprised of 5 members, now numbers; 21 representing the public high schools, 4 representing the non-public schools, 12 serving as ex-officio members and 12 at-large representatives. In 1965, Jr. High Schools were admitted to membership, and in 1967 the activities of the girls interscholastic athletics program were approved for guidance by the State Association.

Walter E. Short served the organization as Secretary on a part-time basis from 1918 to 1947, and upon his retirement from the Trenton school system in that year, was appointed to serve in that capacity on a full-time basis until his retirement in 1958. He was succeeded by Norman Mansfield, former Athletic Director at Montclair High School, who served as an interim administrator until 1960 when James G. Growney resigned his position as director of athletics, health and physical education for the West New York schools to become Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the NJSIAA and under his guidance the organization has been acclaimed as a leader in many activities on the national scene. Mr. Growney retired on July 1, 1981. Succeeded by Robert F. Kanaby, who served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer during the 1980-81 year while Mr. Growney was on leave; continuing as Executive Director until 1993. James C. Riccobono succeeded Robert F. Kanaby as Executive Director, April 1993. In September of 1993, Boyd A. Sands became the sixth Executive Director of the NJSIAA. Upon Mr. Sands' retirement on January 10, 2006, Mr. Steven J. Timko became the seventh Executive Director of the NJSIAA.

In 1979, the Legislature adopted Chapter 172 (N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.) which provided formal authorization for public school members to join the NJSIAA and authorized the Commissioner of Education to consider appeals from action of the Association. That statute is set forth on the following pages.

N.J.S.A. Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities;
18A:11-3 membership; rules and regulations; appeals

A board of education may join one or more voluntary associations which regulate the conduct of student activities between and among their members, whose membership may include private and public schools. Any such membership shall be by resolution of the board of education, adopted annually. No such voluntary association shall be operative without approval of its charter, constitution, bylaws, and rules and regulations by the Commissioner of Education. Upon the adoption of said resolution the board, its faculty, and students shall be governed by the rules and regulations of that association. The said rules and regulations shall be deemed to be the policy of the board of education and enforced first by the internal procedures of the association. In matters involving only public school districts and students, faculty, administrators and boards thereof, appeals shall be to the commissioner and thereafter the Superior Court. In all other matters, appeals shall be made directly to the Superior Court. The commissioner shall have authority to direct the association to conduct an inquiry by hearing or otherwise on a particular matter or alternatively, direct that particular matter be heard directly by him. The association shall be a party to any proceeding before the commissioner or in any court.

N.J.S.A. Minutes of meetings of associations overseeing interscholastic
18A:11-4 sports programs; report

The minutes of every meeting of any association functioning under this act which shall oversee activities associated with statewide interscholastic sports programs in this State shall be transmitted by and under certification thereof to the commissioner or his designee who shall acknowledge the receipt of the minutes by his signature. The commissioner or his designee shall prepare a report detailing all programs and fiscal activities of the Statewide associations and such other associations functioning under this act as he feels may be necessary. This report shall be based upon annual reports submitted to him by the associations operating under this act and shall detail any developments contrary to the public interest and shall indicate whether or not the intent of the Legislature in its grant of statutory authority to boards of education to join such associations is faithfully being executed.

N.J.S.A. Effective date of amendments to charter, constitution, bylaws,
18A:11-5 rules or regulations of association; disapproval of amendments

Any amendment to the charter, constitution, bylaws, rules or regulations of the association shall be effective not less than 20 days after its submission to the commissioner. No such amendment shall take effect if the commissioner in said 20-day period returns to the secretary of the association his disapproval of the amendment.

THE BASIS FOR GOOD ATHLETIC PROGRAMS should be through the development of sound objectives such as:

1. A statement of aims and objectives for all types of school athletic programs.
2. A clear understanding of the functions of the athletic program in the school curriculum.
3. The scope of the physical education and athletic program in the total school program.
4. Provision of equal opportunities for all students to participate in physical education and athletic programs.
5. Availability of adequate funds for proper minimum physical education and athletic programs.
6. Proper administrative control, adequate facilities and supplies, and competent personnel for worthwhile programs in physical education and athletics.
7. Standards for selection, duties and responsibilities for personnel for coaching and administration of athletic programs.
8. Establishment of sound objectives for championships, tournaments, and other large group athletic events.
9. Establishment of sound policies and practices for community participation in athletic programs.

10. Formulation of a Code of Behavior for coaches, players, and spectators for athletic programs.

TO ACHIEVE the proper goals of athletics, the school and the public must be informed concerning the role of athletic education. School athletics are a potential educative force that is not always properly used and that is too often misused. We, in New Jersey, are in a position to utilize athletics as a part of the educational program by continuing to develop the responsibilities which belong to the state, the school, the community and this association. There is every reason to believe that if this is done, communities will recognize those contributions school athletics can make, and be willing to aid in all efforts to stimulate and motivate the establishment of sound policies and wholesome practices for the secondary schools of New Jersey.

REALIGNMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COUNTY	SECTION	2000/ 2001	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022
ATLANTIC	SOUTH	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S + 5 YRS
BERGEN	NORTH I	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	P	P + 4 YRS
BURLINGTON	SOUTH	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S
CAMDEN	SOUTH	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD + 4 YRS
CAPE MAY	SOUTH	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD
CUMBERLAND	SOUTH	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD + 5 YRS
ESSEX	SOUTH	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P
GLOUCESTER	SOUTH	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P + 5 YRS
HUDSON	NORTH II	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD + 5 YRS
HUNTERDON	CENTRAL	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P
MERCER	CENTRAL	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P + 5 YRS
MIDDLESEX	CENTRAL	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S + 4 YRS
MONMOUTH	CENTRAL	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S
MORRIS	NORTH II	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD
OCEAN	SOUTH	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	P	P + 4 YRS
PASSAIC	NORTH I	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S + 5 YRS
SALEM	SOUTH	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P
SOMERSET	CENTRAL	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD + 4 YRS
SUSSEX	NORTH I	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S + 4 YRS
UNION	NORTH II	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
WARREN	NORTH II	AD	AD	AD	S	S	S	S	S	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD

Note: This plan will provide for equal representation among the titled positions as provided for in the NISIAA Constitution. Term of office is determined on a July 1 through June 30th basis of year indicated. Term of office will be for 3 years.

NON-PUBLIC REALIGNMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Effective Date September 1, 2003)

SECTION	2003/ 2004	2004/ 2005	2005/ 2006	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012	2012/ 2013	2013/ 2014	2014/ 2015	2015/ 2016	2016/ 2017	2017/ 2018	2018/ 2019	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	
North Non-public A	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD + 5 YRS
North Non-public B	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	P + 5 YRS
South Non-public A	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	P + 5 YRS
South Non-public B	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	AD	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	AD + 5 YRS

- Notes: 1. This plan will provide for equal representation among the titled positions as provided for in the NJSIAA Constitution. Term of office is determined on a July 1st through June 30th basis of year indicated. Term of office will be for 3 years. Limited to only one three year succession.
2. A person elected by group (ie) A-B will serve out the remainder of the 3 year term in the event of a change in group classification.
3. Voting Procedure -
- A. Nomination forms sent by the NJSIAA to be submitted with three (3) endorsements to the NJSIAA by May 1st. The endorsements must come from schools other than the nominee by like position from the Non-public schools. Example: Athletic Director must have three (3) Athletic Directors endorsements.
 - B. Casting Ballot - Ballots to be prepared and sent to the respective group, section and title by the NJSIAA for return by June 1st. Ballots will be counted by the standing non-public representatives on the Executive Committee.
 - C. In the event of a tie, the candidate from the school with the higher enrollment will be elected.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

These excerpts from the *New Jersey Administrative Code* are set forth as a convenience to the member schools. All clarifications or interpretations of these regulations should be referred to the County Superintendent or to counsel for the local board of education of the school district.

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-9.1 General Requirements

- (a) The program of activities or sports to be employed by any school district in competitive contests, games or events or in exhibitions with individual students or teams of one or more schools of the same school district or of other school districts, shall be recommended annually by the chief school administrator to the district board of education for approval.
- (b) In cases in which the athletic facilities are not owned by the municipality or the district board of education, the district board of education shall require that adequate safeguards to players and spectators be provided by the owner. The field, room, court, track, stands and surrounding premises shall be kept in good condition and free from hazards.
- (c) Upon the recommendation of the chief school administrator, the district board of education shall adopt, and thereafter, annually review a policy of emergency medical procedures for all practice sessions, and competitive contests, games, events or exhibitions with individual students or teams of one or more schools of the same school district or of other school districts. Said policy shall be disseminated to appropriate personnel.
- (d) Each candidate for a place on a school athletic squad or team shall be given a medical examination pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)*.
- (e) The district board of education shall adopt a policy regarding the content and procedures for the administration of the medical examination required pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)*. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as precluding the district board of education from adopting content and procedures in excess of the minimum requirements set forth herein.
- (f) Any examination conducted by a physician other than the medical inspector or designated team doctor shall be reported to the medical inspector or designated team doctor on a form issued by the Commissioner of Education, and, as a minimum, include that content adopted by the district board of education. If, at the request of the parent or legal guardian, the medical examination is conducted by a physician other than the medical inspector or designated team doctor, such examination shall not be at the expense of the district board of education.
- (g) A student representing his or her school in interscholastic athletic competition shall sign a form furnished by the district board of education, the wording of which shall embody a request to be enrolled as a candidate for a place on a school team in a specified sport. The parent or legal guardian shall execute an acknowledgment that physical hazards may be encountered.
- (h) Each candidate for a place on the school athletic squad or team shall submit a form furnished by the district board of education conveying the consent of his or her parent or legal guardian to participate.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.18 Persons assigned to coach swimming

- (a) Persons assigned to coach swimming or diving teams shall hold a New Jersey instructional certificate that allows the holder to coach and shall meet the requirements as set forth in *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-11.12*.
- (b) The chief school administrator of the employing district board of education shall:
 1. Annually notify the county superintendent of all persons assigned to coach swimming and/or diving teams; and
 2. Forward to the county superintendent copies of each valid American Red Cross or YMCA certificate required in (a) above for every person assigned to coach swimming and/or diving.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.19 Athletic Personnel

- (a) Any teaching staff member in the employ of a district board of education shall be permitted to organize public school pupils for purposes of coaching or for conducting games, events or contests in physical education or athletics.
- (b) School districts shall be permitted to employ any holder of a New Jersey teaching certificate to work in the interscholastic athletic program provided that the position has been advertised.
- (c) In the event there is no qualified and certified applicant, the holder of a county substitute credential pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5* is authorized to serve as an athletic coach in the district in which he or she is employed for a designated sports season, provided that:
 1. The district chief school administrator demonstrates to the county superintendent that:
 - i. The vacant coaching position had been advertised; and
 - ii. There was no qualified applicant based on the written standards of the district board of education;
 2. The district chief school administrator provides a letter to the county superintendent attesting to the prospective employee's knowledge and experience in the sport in which he or she will coach; and
 3. The district board of education obtains the county superintendent's approval prior to such employment. The 20-day limitation noted in *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5(b)* shall not apply to such coaching situations.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7 Equality in School and Classroom Practices

- *** (d) The district board of education shall ensure that the district's physical education program and its athletic programs are equitable, coeducational and do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability or socioeconomic status, as follows:
1. The district board of education shall provide separate rest room, locker room and shower facilities on the basis of gender, but such facilities provided for students of each gender shall be comparable;
 2. A school may choose to operate separate teams for the two sexes in one or more sports or single teams open competitively to members of both sexes, so long as the athletic program as a whole provides equal opportunities for students of both sexes to participate in sports at comparable levels of difficulty and competency; and
 3. The activities comprising such athletic programs shall receive equitable treatment, including, but not limited to, staff salaries, purchase and maintenance of equipment, quality and availability of facilities, scheduling of practice and game time, length of season and all other related areas or matters.

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-13.17 School Athletic Trainer

- (a) The athletic trainer endorsement is required for service as a school athletic trainer in grades preschool through 12 pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:28-4(b)*.
- (b) To be eligible for the school athletic trainer endorsement, a candidate shall:
 - 1. Hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university; and
 - 2. Satisfactorily complete the requirements established by the State Board of Medical Examiners for registration as an athletic trainer pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 13:35-10*.
- (c) An emergency certificate is not available for this endorsement.

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2 Required Health Services

- (a) Each school district shall ensure that immunization records are reviewed and updated annually pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1* through 4.16.
- (b) Each school district shall ensure that a principal or his or her designee does not knowingly admit or retain in the school building any student whose parent has not submitted acceptable evidence of the child's immunization, according to the schedule specified in *N.J.A.C. 8:57-4, Immunization of Pupils in School*.
- (c) Each school district shall perform tuberculosis tests on students using methods required by and when specifically directed to do so by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, based upon the incidence of tuberculosis or reactor rates in specific communities or population groups pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:40-16*.
- (d) Each school district shall immediately report any communicable diseases that are identified as reportable pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 8:57-1*, whether confirmed or presumed, by telephone to the health officer of the jurisdiction in which the school is located.
- (e) Each public and non-public school in the State shall have and maintain for the care of students at least one nebulizer in the office of the school nurse or a similar accessible location, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:40-12.7*.
- (f) Each student medical examination shall be conducted at the medical home of the student, if a student does not have a medical home, the school district shall provide this examination at the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility.
 - 1. For the purpose of the physical examination required in (h) below, the student's parent may choose either the school physician or their own private physician.
 - 2. A full report of the examination shall be maintained as part of the student's health record.
- (g) The findings of required examinations under (h) through 5 below shall be documented on a form that is approved by the Commissioner of Education and shall include the following components:
 - 1. Immunizations pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.1* through 4.16;
 - 2. Medical history including allergies, past serious illnesses, injuries and operations, medications and current health problems;
 - 3. Health screenings including height, weight, hearing, blood pressure and vision; and
 - 4. Physical examinations.
- (h) Each school district shall ensure that students receive medical examinations:
 - 1. Prior to participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural athletic team or squad for students enrolled in any of grades six to 12;
 - i. The examination, in accordance with (g) above, shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first practice session.
 - ii. The medical examination shall be reported pursuant to (g) above and shall include a health history questionnaire, completed and signed by the parent
 - (1) The report of health findings of the medical examination for participation shall be documented on the Athletic Pre-participation Physical Examination Form approved by the Commissioner of Education to determine whether the student had or currently has any of the following conditions since their last physical:
 - (A) Injuries;
 - (B) Chronic or ongoing illness;
 - (C) Prescribed medication;
 - (D) Allergies;
 - (E) Head-related conditions;
 - (F) Heart related conditions;
 - (G) Eye, ear, nose, mouth or throat conditions;
 - (H) Neuromuscular/orthopedic conditions; and
 - (I) General or exercise related conditions.
 - (2) The medical report shall include a determination concerning the student's participation from the examining physician, advanced practice nurse or physician's assistant which includes, at a minimum, the following normalities:
 - (A) Measurement of weight, height, and blood pressure;
 - (B) Examination of the skin to determine the presence of infection, scars from previous surgery or trauma, jaundice and purpura;

- (C) Examination of the eyes to determine visual acuity, use of eyeglasses or contact lenses, and examination of the sclera for the presence of jaundice;
 - (D) Examination of the ears to determine the presence of acute or chronic infection, perforation of the eardrum and gross hearing loss;
 - (E) Examination of the nose to assess the presence of deformity which may affect endurance;
 - (F) Assessment of the neck, back and spine to determine range of motion, the presence of pain associated with such motion and abnormal curvature of the spine;
 - (G) Examination of chest contour;
 - (H) Auscultation and percussion of the lungs;
 - (I) Assessment of the heart with attention to the presence of murmurs, noting rhythm and rate;
 - (J) Assessment of the abdomen with attention to the possible presence of hepatomegaly, splenomegaly or abnormal masses;
 - (K) Examination of upper and lower extremities to determine abnormal mobility or immobility, deformity, instability, muscle weakness or atrophy, surgical scars and varicosities;
 - (L) Examination of the testes to determine the presence and descent of testes, abnormal masses or configurations, or hernia;
 - (M) Assessment of physiological maturation; and
 - (N) Neurological examination to assess balance and coordination.
- (3) The medical report shall indicate whether a student is allowed or disallowed to participate in the required sports categories and be completed and signed by the original examining physician, advanced practice nurse or physician's assistant. A form that is incomplete shall be returned to the student's medical home for completion.
- iii. Each student whose medical examination was completed more than 60 days prior to the first practice session shall provide a health history update of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination. This shall be completed and signed by the parent. The health history update shall include the following information:
- (1) Hospitalization/operations;
 - (2) Illnesses;
 - (3) Injuries;
 - (4) Care administered by a physician of medicine or osteopathy, advanced practice nurse or physician's assistant; and
 - (5) Medications.
- iv. Each school district shall provide written notification signed by the school physician to the parent stating approval of the student's participation in athletics based upon the medical report or the reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the student's participation.
- v. A student that does not have a completed Athletic Pre-participation Physical Examination Form shall not be permitted to participate;
2. Upon enrollment into school;
- i. Each school district shall require parents to provide examination documentation of each student within 30 days upon enrolling into school.
 - ii. When a student is transferring to another school, each school district shall ensure that student documentation of entry examination is forwarded to the transfer school district pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.4(d)*.
 - iii. Students transferring into a New Jersey school from out-of-State or out-of-country may be allowed a 30-day period in order to obtain entry examination documentation.
 - iv. Each school district shall notify parents of the importance of obtaining subsequent medical examinations of the student at least once during each developmental stage, at early childhood (preschool through grade three), preadolescence (grade four through six) and adolescence (grades seven through 12);
3. When applying for working papers;
- i. Pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.7* and *21.8*, the school district is responsible for the administration of medical examinations for a student pursuing a certificate of employment.
 - ii. A statement of physical fitness shall be signed by the school physician unless the parent elects to obtain the examination at the student's medical home.
 - iii. The school district shall not be held responsible for the costs incurred by the parent who elects to obtain the examination at the student's medical home;
4. For the purposes of the comprehensive child study team evaluation pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.4*; and
5. When a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-12* and *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3*.
- i. If a student who is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances is reported to the certified school nurse, the certified school nurse shall monitor the student's vital signs and general health status for emergent issues and take appropriate action pending the medical examination pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3*.
 - ii. No school staff shall interfere with a student receiving a medical examination for suspicion of being under the influence of alcohol or controlled dangerous substances pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-4.3*.

- iii. The district board of education shall make accessible information regarding the NJ FamilyCare Program for students who are knowingly without medical coverage pursuant to *NJ.S.A. 18A:40-34*.
- (j) Information concerning a student's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to *NJ.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq.*
- (k) Each district board of education shall ensure that students receive health screenings.
 1. Screening for height, weight and blood pressure shall be conducted annually for each student in kindergarten through grade 12.
 2. Screening for visual acuity shall be conducted biennially for students in kindergarten through grade 10.
 3. Screening for auditory acuity shall be conducted annually for students in kindergarten through grade three and in grade seven and 11 pursuant to *NJ.S.A. 18A:40-4*.
 4. Screening for scoliosis shall be conducted biennially for students between the ages of 10 and 18 pursuant to *NJ.S.A. 18A:40-4.3*.
 5. Screenings shall be conducted by a school physician, school nurse, physical education instructor or other school personnel properly trained.
 6. The school district shall provide for the notification of the parent of any student suspected of deviation from the recommended standard.

NOTE: All changes for 2011-2012 are indicated in **bold type**. CL indicates clarifications which are italicized.

CONSTITUTION

Article I

NAME

The organization shall be known as the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Article II

OBJECTIVES

Section 1. To foster and develop amateur athletics among the secondary schools of the State.

Section 2. To equalize athletic opportunities by standardizing rules of eligibility for individuals, and classifying for competitive purposes the institutions which are members of the Association.

Section 3. To supplement the physical education program of the secondary schools of New Jersey by making a practical application of the theories of physical activity.

Section 4. To promote uniformity in the arrangement and control of contests.

Section 5. To protect the mutual interests of the members of the Association through the cultivation of ideals of clean sports in their relation to the development of character and good citizenship.

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. (a) Schools eligible for membership in this Association must be accredited secondary institutions. (b) A school that is organizing one year at a time shall be permitted to join the Association on a probationary membership when the 11th grade is organized within its school, pending final accreditation.

Section 2. All approved high schools, public, private and non-public high schools in New Jersey shall be eligible for membership in the Association.

Section 3. No member school shall be a member of any league or conference not recognized, sanctioned or approved by the Association.

Section 4. The private secondary schools are eligible for a federated membership in this Association through the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools, membership of which is made up of the private secondary schools in New Jersey. The

New Jersey Association of Independent Schools shall supervise the athletic activities of its own division without any financial aid from the State Association. They will come under the jurisdiction of and have representation on the Executive Committee of the State Association and will pay an annual fee as an organization, not as individual schools.

Article IV

FINANCES

Section 1. Each member school shall be assessed as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 2. Administration of the finances of the Association shall be the duty of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. There shall be a distribution on an equitable basis among the member schools of the NJSIAA of the moneys above the amount set by the Executive Committee to be held in reserve plus the amount necessary for the running expenses of the Association.

Section 4. Any member school of the NJSIAA incorporated for pecuniary profit shall not participate in the distribution of the funds mentioned in Section 3 of this Article.

Article V

ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Committee shall consist of such members and be selected as follows:

Section 1. There shall be a governing body to be known as the Executive Committee, composed of representatives as follows:

- a. 21 public high school representatives
- b. 4 non-public high school representatives
- c. 12 ex officio representatives
- d. 12 at large representatives

Section 2a. The public high school representation as provided for in Section 1a shall be comprised of one representative from each county and shall be elected by the respective organization, i.e., Superintendents, Principals, or Athletic Directors of that county at a meeting called by the present representative from that county for that purpose. This meeting is to take place and the election held prior to May 28th of the year in which the Executive Committee member's term expires. Only the official voting representative (one from each school) shall vote. Official voting forms will be furnished by the Central Office; these forms must be returned to the Central Office after the election and kept on file. The new member shall enter into his office on July 1.

The term of office of a public high school representative shall be for a period of three (3) years; such representative of the Executive Committee may succeed himself/herself for a second term of three (3) years so long as the designated rotation of position or title is followed. If a vacancy should occur during the term of office, the county shall elect a representative to complete the term while maintaining the proper rotation perspective.

The public high school representation shall be rotated in such a manner each successive six years so as to maintain the proper balance of representation from the three positions or titled administrative areas, i.e., Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors. A representative's change of position or title within a county shall be construed as affecting the balance of representation. The Central Office shall be responsible for maintaining the proper balance of representation and shall indicate the position or title of the representative to be elected from said county. A system of rotation should be so constructed as to strive to maintain seven representatives from each of the three positions or titled administrative areas.

The constituent body of the county will have recall power to vacate a representative's membership on the Executive Committee for just cause, said vacancy to be filled according to the procedure outlined in this Section.

Section 2b. The non-public high school representatives as provided for in Section 1b shall be comprised of one representative each, selected from the Northern A and B and Southern A and B Sections.

The non-public high school representatives shall be elected by the same procedure as the public high school representatives and be in an administrative position, i.e., Principals and Athletic Directors.

Provisions of membership and rotation in titled administrative areas shall be the same as that of a public high school representative.

To the purposes of this Section, the Northern Section shall comprise: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties; and the Southern Section shall comprise: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties.

Section 2c. The ex officio representation, as provided for in Section 1c, shall be elected by and from the Executive Committee or Board of Directors or President of their respective organizations annually, and shall include one representative from:

State Department of Education
New Jersey School Boards Association
Education Committees of the New Jersey State Legislature
New Jersey Association of School Administrators
New Jersey Association of School Business Officials
New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association
New Jersey Council of Catholic Diocesan Superintendents
New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association
New Jersey Registered Officials
Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey
New Jersey Association of Independent Schools
Immediate past president of the Executive Committee of the NJSIAA.

Section 2d. The at large representative, as provided for in Section 1d, shall be elected as follows:

- (1) Four (4) representatives who are school board members of school districts with secondary schools to be elected by the Board of Directors of the New Jersey School Boards Association; and
- (2) Eight (8) representatives elected by the Executive Committee of the NJSIAA, the majority of whom shall be women or racial minorities.
- (3) The term of office of an at large representative shall be for a period of three (3) years; such representative of the Executive Committee shall be limited to only one three-year succession.

Section 3. An Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee to hold office until his successor has been appointed. The Executive Director shall be employed on a full-time basis, his salary and duties to be fixed by the Executive Committee and by the Constitution and Bylaws. The term of his employment shall be confirmed by a written contract.

Section 4. The duties of the officers, and the Executive Committee, shall be as provided in the Bylaws. All votes on the Financial Affairs, Bylaws, or Rules and Regulations by the Executive Committee shall be by roll call. Any member of the Executive Committee may call for a roll call on any vote, as a matter of right.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall enact Bylaws and Rules and Regulations for the Association. Rules and Regulations may be enacted by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Bylaws may only be enacted by two-thirds (²/₃) vote of the Executive Committee.

The membership at its Annual Meeting may amend, add or abolish Bylaws and Rules and Regulations by a majority vote based on the total number of member schools registered at the Annual Meeting.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall, when exercising its authority under Section 5 herein, send written notice of the proposed change to all member schools ten (10) days prior to the meeting of the Committee at which the matter is to be voted on. Six (6) months after the effective date of any change by the Executive Committee, the membership shall be polled by mail. After such poll, if a majority cast ballots, the Ballot shall be official and a majority of the votes cast shall decide the issue; if less than a majority of member schools respond, the position of the Executive Committee is sustained. At the next meeting of the Executive Committee, the results of the balloting shall be reported and the action of the vote shall be implemented.

Article VI

CLASSIFICATION

Section 1. All schools supported wholly by State and municipal taxation shall constitute the Public High School Division. All other schools of secondary grade, not so supported shall constitute the Non-Public Division.

Section 2. The two general divisions may be further classified as prescribed in the Bylaws.

Section 3. The Private Secondary Schools, members of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools, will be known as federated members (non-members) and will not be eligible for NJSIAA tournament competition.

CL Federated schools are not members of NJSIAA, but are members of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools (NJ AIS). If the Federated Schools provide an affidavit that a specific sports program complies with all eligibility standards of the equivalent NJSIAA sports program, then the NJSIAA will approve that program for out-of-state competition.

Article VII
ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Regulations governing the eligibility of individual players shall be established and enforced by the Association.

Section 2. Member schools shall comply with the eligibility regulations of the Association, and the acceptance of membership shall be construed as an agreement to that effect.

Section 3. Infractions of the eligibility regulations shall be judged and penalties therefore pronounced by the Executive Committee in such a manner as the Bylaws provide.

Article VIII
ANNUAL MEETING

The Association shall hold an annual meeting at a time and in a manner prescribed in the Bylaws.

Article IX
CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Association may award trophies and prizes in such sports as deemed advisable, and determine State or District championships, when, in the judgement of the Executive Committee, it is deemed feasible and possible. No state championship, however, shall be declared in football.

Article X
SANCTIONS

Interstate athletic meets, games, and tournaments in which member schools participate or any All-Star games played during the out-of-season period (not including the Summer Recess) in which Student-Athletes participate, must have the sanction of the Association in order that individuals or teams representing member schools may participate. This provision applies to interstate meets, games, or tournaments involving four or more schools regardless of the connotation or number of periods or quarters played in round robins, festivals, classics, or events by any other name.

The requests for sanction for interstate meets, games, or tournaments must be received by the Executive Director at least thirty (30) days prior to the event.

The request for sanction for any All-Star game must be received by the Executive Director at least ninety (90) days prior to the event.

CL 1 The NJSIAA does not restrict an individual's choice to participate in non-sanctioned events; however, schools, school organizations, or school-related groups such as Booster Clubs may not assist the Student-Athlete's participation in non-sanctioned events. This would include providing uniforms, equipment, and coaching. The Student-Athlete may not represent his/her school in non-sanctioned events. The NJSIAA does not permit the funding, in whole or in part, of participation in invitational non-NJSIAA sanctioned events by a Board of Education.

CL 2

- A. An NJSIAA member school must be designated as the host school for all group events which are not sponsored by an established county organization, a conference or league of member schools or by a member school (e.g. a regional tournament, etc.). The host school will be responsible to the NJSIAA in assuring adherence to Association rules and regulations.*
- B. When only New Jersey schools are involved, the host school has the sanctioning jurisdiction and it is not necessary to contact the Central Office. When a non-member high school site is involved, the host school must contact the NJSIAA Central Office for appropriate forms to be submitted for approval.*
- C. When out-of-state or foreign high schools are involved, the host member school must follow this procedure:*
- a) Interested individuals who want to host an event will go online at the NFHS website [www.NFHS.org], register as an event manager, create an event and fill out the online application (identical to the paper version)*
 - b) The NFHS will then send an e-mail to the host school's principal and host state association.*
 - c) The state association reviews the application online and determines if they will approve or deny the application.*
 - d) Once approved the event sponsor is notified by the NFHS association that payment is required. Credit card payment and electronic check are the only forms of payment accepted.*
 - e) Once the payment is received by the NFHS, the invited states/schools are notified that they have been invited and it is listed on the NFHS*
- D. When only schools from states which border the State of New Jersey (**Delaware, Pennsylvania, and/or New York**) are invited, host school must contact NJSIAA Central Office for the necessary application.*

CL 3 Before any NJSIAA member school enters games, meets or tournaments involving four or more schools, they must inquire as to the sanctioning status (1) by a member school or (2) by the National Federation (3) as a Bordering States sanction or (4) International Competition. In (1) a member school must have written evidence of the sanctioning school before entering the tournament; in (2), (3) and (4) before entering the tournament, inquiry must be made through the Central Office when that tournament has not been listed as approved in the NJSIAA Bulletin.

CL 4 Requests for sanction involving any competition with a foreign high school, in the United States or abroad, must be received by the Executive Director at least sixty (60) days prior to the event. Such sanction requests must be received by the NJSIAA in sufficient time to allow for meeting the National Federation requirements.

*CL 5 Member schools must **sign an affidavit which states they will play out-of-state contests under NJSIAA rules.***

CL 6 The NJSIAA will not act on Sanctioning Requests for Non-Member Schools.

Article XI

PROHIBITIONS

Section 1. Interscholastic boxing among member schools is prohibited.

Section 2. There shall be no post-season games unless under the auspices or sanction of the NJSIAA.

Article XII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any member school of the Association may initiate an addition, deletion or any other change in the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations by submitting such proposal in writing prior to March 15. All such proposals shall be considered by the Advisory Committee before May 15, and those proposals which have been endorsed shall be forwarded immediately to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall endorse or reject each proposal submitted by the membership, and any proposals made by the Advisory or Executive Committee prior to June 1. All such proposals endorsed by the Executive Committee shall be distributed to the membership prior to November 1.

When a proposal by a member school has been rejected by the Advisory or Executive Committee, the school which submitted the proposal shall be notified on or before June 1.

If the proposal is resubmitted with the endorsement of twenty (20) member schools prior to October 1, it shall be included among those proposals sent to the membership prior to November 1.

Prior to November 15, at least four (4) sectional meetings of the Association shall be held for the purpose of explaining the legislation pending before the membership. After thorough discussion, the Executive Committee shall recommend the form and substance of the legislation to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. Proposals which have been resubmitted with the endorsement of twenty (20) member schools, shall be presented as written by the proposing school to the membership for a vote.

Section 2. The Executive Director shall be responsible for distribution of the proposed legislation to the membership at least ten (10) days before the Annual Meeting. Each proposal shall include a note to show the origin of the proposal, i.e., member school, Advisory or Executive Committee.

Section 3. The Constitution of the Association may be amended by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote at the Annual Meeting based on the total number of member schools registered at the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. All amendments will become effective on September 1, following the Annual Meeting unless by a separate two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the membership present, an earlier date is set.

Section 5. The minutes of the Annual Meeting must show the full and exact vote by members of the Association on each proposed amendment. Amendments once voted upon may neither be resubmitted, if defeated; nor repealed, if approved, for a period of two years from the effective date. However, the Executive Committee may, if it deems necessary, reintroduce legislation at any time.

Article XIII

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Constitution shall take effect on September 1,
unless otherwise stipulated.

NOTE: All changes for 2011-2012 are indicated in bold type. CL indicates clarifications which are italicized.

BYLAWS

Article I

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall have the power to call, and preside over, meetings of this Association.

Section 2. The First Vice President shall exercise these powers in the absence of the President. The Second Vice President shall exercise these powers in the absence of the President and the First Vice President.

Section 3. The Executive Director shall have the following duties and powers:

- A. To administer the financial affairs of this Association, under the direction of the Executive Committee, and shall render a financial statement at the Annual Meeting.
- B. To prepare the annual budget.
- C. To handle all the correspondence of the Association.
- D. To prepare and present agenda for, and attend all the meetings of this Association or its committees.
- E. To make all arrangements for the Annual Meeting. To notify the member schools in advance of the legislation, nominations, and other business to be discussed at the meeting.
- F. To handle all arrangements for the annual athletic conference, and supervise all athletic conferences.
- G. To manage or arrange for the management of all state championship meets and tournaments.
- H. To arrange for such playoffs as may be directed by the Executive Committee.
- I. To arrange for an athletic insurance program to be offered the member schools.
- J. To manage the Central Office of this Association, engaging office space, hiring the necessary office personnel and procuring office supplies, and designate the Attorneys for the Association.
- K. To arrange for the publication of bulletins and the annual handbook.
- L. To handle the public and press relations of this Association or make arrangements to handle press relations of the Association.
- M. To keep the program up-to-date and sponsor new activities under the direction of the Executive Committee.
- N. To be empowered to rule on the interpretations of the Constitution and Bylaws, and rules of the Association, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
- O. To perform such other duties as the Executive Committee directs.
- P. To designate one or more persons to attend one or more meetings of the Executive Committee to assure all views on a given subject are represented, such persons will not be permitted to vote.

Article II

DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, and shall conduct such business as may be necessary or useful for furthering the interests of this Association and shall adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of sports contests as they deem proper. The Executive Committee is empowered to act upon any areas not specifically covered by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall direct the financial affairs of this Association, and shall appropriate such monies as may be necessary or useful for its operation.

Section 3. A. The Executive Committee shall appoint an Advisory Committee to be composed of one member from each county of the State and two members from the non-public schools division. The term of each member of the Advisory Committee shall be for one year. The appointments should be made on an equal distribution from Athletic Directors, secondary Principals and superintendents.

B. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, appoint other committees to which it may delegate specific functions. These committees may be formed from its own members, from the personnel of member schools, or from both, provided that no more than one member be appointed from any one school.

Section 4. Duties of the Executive Committee members with relation to District or Regional organization.

- A. Help plan, control and assist in the management of all interscholastic athletics of the district or region as organized by the Executive Committee, in cooperation with other counties within their district or region.
- B. Assist member schools in proposing legislation to the Advisory Committee for action, if any is required.
- C. Report the proceedings of all district or regional meetings to the Central Office of the NJSIAA.
- D. Foster a Code of Ethics.
- E. Conduct district or regional meetings for the orientation of new Principals, Athletic Directors and coaches; also, for the election of new members to the Executive Committee when needed.
- F. Attend meetings of the NJSIAA when called by the President of the Association.
- G. Assist in the clarification of eligibility rules to member schools within a given district, but will not rule on cases of eligibility.
- H. Conduct such hearings as he is directed to hold by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall hold hearings in such a manner as they shall by rule provide.

Article III

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER SCHOOLS

Section 1. Public and non-public member schools shall be divided into a “Public Schools Division” and a “Non-public Schools Division,” respectively.

Section 2. The affairs of the private secondary schools of the State shall be regulated in accordance with the Constitution.

Section 3. Classification of Public Schools for Purposes of State Championship Tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, and team tennis.

A. Groups

1. Each year, the public schools shall be divided by enrollment into four Groups. The Groups shall be designated as “Group I” (schools with fewer students) through “Group IV” (schools with a larger number of students).
2. Enrollment shall be defined as the sum of a school’s student population for grades 10, 11 and 12. Enrollment figures shall be those reported to and certified by the Department of Education for the purpose of obtaining state school aid.

CL The central office will determine enrollment for each school based on the figures submitted by the school to the department of Education for state school aid. The enrollment figures shall include classified students. This determination of enrollment shall be deemed final, and not subject to appeal, unless it can be documented that there was an error in the Department of Education report.

3. To determine the group classification of each school, the total number of public schools with an enrollment greater than 150 shall be divided by four, and an equal number of schools assigned to each of the four groups, in order of enrollment. If the total number of public schools with an enrollment greater than 150 cannot be divided evenly by four, the number of schools in Group 1 shall be increased by the remainder.

B. Sections

1. Each year the schools in each of the four Groups shall be divided by geography into four sections, to be known as North I, North II, Central and South.
2. To determine the Section assignment of each school, the total number of schools in each group shall be divided by four, and an equal number of schools assigned to each Section, based on north-south geography. If the total number of schools cannot be divided by evenly by four, and the remainder is one, the number of schools in North I shall increase by one. If the remainder is two, the number of schools in North I and North II shall increase by one. If the remainder is three, the number of schools in North I, North II and Central shall increase by one.
3. The geographic boundary of each Section shall run along the east-west parallel that shall be placed midway between the southern most school of the North I Section and the northern most school of the North II Section, the southern most school of the North II Section and the northern most school of the Central Section, and the southern most school of the Central Section and the northern most school of the South Section.

- C. Schools with an enrollment of 150 or fewer students are considered to be Group 1 schools and shall be placed in the geographic Section in which they are located.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall review and approve public school classifications for state championship tournaments in bowling, cross-country, fencing, field hockey, football, gymnastics, ice hockey, indoor track, lacrosse, individual tennis, skiing, swimming, volleyball and team and individual wrestling, in accordance with sport-specific standards.

Section 5. Classification of non-member schools, non-public schools and out-of-state schools, for awarding football power-points and determining tournament tie-breakers, shall be as follows:

- A. The enrollment of a non-member or out-of-state school must be verified, in writing, to the NJSIAA, by the principal or headmaster of the school, by the last day of June preceding the football playoffs.
- B. The pupil population of an all-male or all-female school shall be doubled to determine the enrollment used for classifying the school.
- C. Non-member, non-public, and out-of-state schools shall be classified as though they were public schools in New Jersey with the same enrollment.
- D. If the enrollment of a non-member, non-public, or out-of-state school does not fall within the enrollment range of any then-existing Group, the non-member, non-public, or out-of-state school shall be classified with the Group that will, with the addition of that school, have the least disparity from largest to smallest school.

CL Example: A non-member school has an enrollment of 704. The Group III range that year includes New Jersey public schools with enrollments between 708 and 992, The Group II range includes schools with enrollments between 452 and 698. The non-member school would be considered to be a Group II school, since the enrollment disparity in Group III, with the addition of the non-member school, would be 288 (992 minus 704), whereas the disparity in Group II would be just 252 (704 minus 452)

Section 6. All Non-public schools shall be divided into two equal Groups (A and B) in each Section – North and South. Pupil population shall be based upon the official school report of enrollment in Grades 10, 11, and 12, dated October 15th.

New Jersey Non-public Schools with football shall be classified together for football and then divided into four (4) Groups based on pupil enrollment in Grades 10, 11 and 12, as submitted to NJSIAA as follows: Non-public IV, Non-public III, Non-public II, Non-public I.

Section 7. Secondary schools are grouped for competitive athletics according to enrollments. The main objective of this grouping procedure is the health and safety of the students as well as balance in numbers among all groups. Therefore, groupings will be established for all schools only on the basis of their enrollments and may not be changed even at the request of the school. Such requests tend to circumvent the purposes of grouping.

Section 8. The assignment of schools to the various groups will be based on the official school report dated October 15 for the previous year.

Section 9. State championship play will be conducted as approved by the Executive Committee and delineated in the regulations of each sport as follows:

A. General Classification

Baseball	Softball
Basketball	Tennis
Soccer	

B. Sport Specific Classification:

Bowling	Golf	Skiing
Cross Country	Gymnastics	Swimming
Fencing	Ice Hockey	Winter Track
Field Hockey	Outdoor Track	Volleyball
Football	Lacrosse	Wrestling

C. Tournament of Champion competition is conducted in Basketball, Bowling, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Lacrosse, Golf, Tennis, Track, Cross Country.

Section 10. Cooperative Sports Programs

A. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to approve Cooperative Sports Programs between two cooperating member schools **where one or both of those schools has an insufficient amount of students to participate in a sport among** the four public school sections and the two non-public school sections of the State. Such Cooperative Sports Programs will be based upon an agreement between the cooperating schools whereby one of the two schools shall have the complete responsibility as the Local Education Agency (LEA) for the conduct of the specific sport(s), which will be available to the students at both schools. The duration of any such approved Cooperating Sports Program shall not exceed two years before reapplication must be made.

B. The Executive Committee shall not approve any Cooperative Sports Programs unless the following limitations are adhered to by the cooperating schools.

- (1) Both cooperating schools must be classified as Group I or II or Non-public B **or no more than one of the cooperating schools is classified as Group III and the other cooperating school is classified as Group I or Group II or Non-Public B..**

CL 1 If either school moves into Group III, IV or Non-public A, the Cooperative Sports Program before the two-year contract expires, the Cooperative Sports Program may be completed for the second year.

CL 2 The general classification will be used in determining eligibility for schools as a Group I, II, III or Non-Public.

- (2) One of the schools must demonstrate a decline in interest or participation in the sport, as, for example, through a decline in the number of students on the varsity roster from one year to the next.
- (3) A member school may not enter into an agreement for a Cooperative Sports Program with more than one other school; however, such an agreement may be for one or more sports involving the cooperating schools.
- (4) A Cooperative Sports Program for a particular sport will cover all levels of competition e.g., freshman, sophomore, J.V. and varsity.
- (5) No program shall include basketball, baseball, softball or outdoor track. **In addition, no program for football, soccer or lacrosse shall include a Group III school.**
- (6) A public school can only enter into Cooperative Sports Programs with another public school while non-public schools can only enter into such programs with another non-public school.

C. Classification for the merged sports program will be determined based upon the joint pupil enrollment of grades 10, 11, and 12 for the school year in which the program becomes operational. One hundred percent (100%) of the sending school's enrollment shall be added to the host school's enrollment for the purpose of postseason playoff classification. Such classification of the LEA will not affect either school's classification in any other sport.

D. Schools desiring to establish a sub varsity team while continuing in the cooperative program in that same sport may do so with the approval of all parties as detailed in Article III. Section 10. F. Guidelines for the process are in paragraph (8).

E. The Executive Committee shall be authorized to adopt appropriate guidelines, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Section, so as to implement the Cooperative Sports Programs.

F. No Cooperative Sports Program shall be allowed unless approved by the Executive Committee after prior approval by the Boards of Education and League(s) or Conference(s) of the cooperating schools. Applications will be provided by the NJSIAA and shall be completed and submitted to the Association by **September 1** preceding the school year when the cooperative program is to begin.

GUIDELINES – COOPERATIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS

The following guidelines were adopted by the Executive Committee and will be utilized to implement *Bylaws, Article III, Section 10, Cooperative Sports Programs*:

1. The intent of the Cooperative Sports Program is to afford greater opportunity to students to participate in interscholastic sports when the enrollment of their school would not allow either the initiation of such a sport or its continuance. No Cooperative Sports Program should be undertaken to enhance the competitive advantage of a member school or the reduction of opportunities by students to participate in a particular sport, i.e., the fact that a school with declining enrollment has not been able to satisfactorily compete in a particular sport will not in itself allow it to participate in a Cooperative Sports Program.
2. The application form for a Cooperative Sports Program will be available from the NJSIAA Executive Director, which must be approved by both Boards of Education (as applicable) and signed by both Principals. This application-agreement shall set forth all of the legal, financial, staff and personnel responsibilities of each school and will contain, but not be limited to provisions for transportation; release time considerations; the equipment to be used; the training rules; responsibility for custodial, police, supervisory and medical emergencies; the issuance of school awards to students for the cooperating sport; and a commitment that a cooperating school may not withdraw from a sports program prior to the completion of the involved sports season.
3. The designated LEA for that specific sport will be the host school and the program will function as would any other interscholastic athletic program under their sponsorship.
4. The NJSIAA will not mediate any disagreements among the cooperative parties nor may they be named as party to any legal issues raised resulting from this plan; these disputes must be resolved at the local level.
5. The LEA will conduct the cooperative program as though that sport is one of its regularly approved programs unless agreement notes otherwise; i.e., the LEA will be the school's home site, receive tournament, league/conference and NJSIAA awards, determine officials and coaches fees, school colors and the like.

6. The Student-Athletes will be subject to the NJSIAA eligibility rules as well as the eligibility rules of both schools; where the rules are at variance, the most stringent rule will be in effect.
7. Schools entering the cooperative program *may not* conduct a program in that sport at any level of competition, i.e., they may not enter an agreement at the varsity level only and then field junior varsity or freshman teams in that sport.
8. The application to file an exception to the co-op regulations shall include the following: Rationale for the proposal (i.e. preparation for exiting the co-op in that sport)
 - a. Level of programs affected
 - b. Grade levels impacted
 - c. Timeline
 - d. Approvals of all parties (as detailed in F above)
9. All population figures utilized to determine enrollment and classification, will be those submitted to the State Department of Education on form MIS C06100186 and on file with the NJSIAA.

Article IV

ANNUAL DUES

Section 1. Member schools shall pay an annual dues of \$2150.00.

Section 2. Annual dues become payable at the beginning of each school year, and must be remitted to the Executive Director no later than September 1st.

Article V

ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES*

Section 1. A student, to be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a member school, must be enrolled in that school and must meet all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations, of the NJSIAA.

CL 1 Students being home-schooled (by parents or other parties) are not eligible because they are not enrolled. Properly enrolled students on Home Instruction provided by the Board of Education are eligible if the student satisfies Section 4.E.

Section 2. Amateur-Athlete – An amateur-athlete is one who participates in athletics solely for the physical, mental, social and educational benefits derived from such participation. The amateur-athlete treats all athletic activities in which he/she participates as an avocational endeavor. One who takes or has taken pay, or has accepted the promise of pay, in any form, for participation in athletics or has directly or indirectly used his/her athletic skill for pay in any form shall not be considered an amateur and will not be eligible for high school interscholastic athletics in the State of New Jersey.

The following are the basic interpretations of the principles involved in the amateur code which may lead to the loss of an athlete's eligibility:

- A. Participation in any athletic activity under an assumed name. Being guilty of any act of fraud, subterfuge, or other sharp practice relative to this principle.
- B. Accepting pay or material remuneration for a display of athletic ability.
- C. Any student who signs or has ever signed a contract to play professional athletics (whether for a money consideration or not); plays or has ever played on any professional team in any sport; receives or has ever received directly or indirectly, a salary or any other form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization or any of his/her expenses for reporting to or visiting a professional team is no longer an amateur as defined by this code.
- D. A Student-Athlete may participate as an individual, or as a member of a team against professional athletes, or as a member of a team on which there are some professionals who are not currently under contract with a professional team and are not receiving payment for their participation; but he/she may not participate on a professional team.
- E. A Student-Athlete may work as a counselor in a summer camp, lifeguard, swimming pool attendant and swimming instructor for children without affecting his/her eligibility under the terms of this principle; he/she may work in a tennis or golf shop provided he/she does not give instruction for compensation, and he/she may obtain employment with a recreation department, his/her duties to include some officiating and coaching responsibilities; however, he/she may not be employed as an athletic coach.

**In addition to Clarifications, see Interpretive Guidelines on pages 44-49*

- F. If a Student-Athlete’s appearance on radio or television is related in any way to his/her athletic ability or prestige, the athlete may not under any circumstances receive remuneration for his/her appearance. Under such circumstances, however, an athlete may appear on a sponsored radio or television program or have his/her name appear in newsprint ads or in player of the week, month or year advertisement promoting products provided he/she does not endorse or imply endorsement of any commercial product.
- G. Individual interscholastic awards and similar mementos to Student- Athletes should be limited to those approved by the local Board of Education, in keeping with traditional high school requirements which are basically symbolical in nature, i.e., letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, other similar type awards, and rings or watches which are properly inscribed. No other award of any monetary value may be granted to any athletes without prior approval by the Board of Education and NJSIAA.
- H. No awards shall be given to an athlete by anyone other than his/her own Board of Education, unless prior approval of the NJSIAA and the Board of Education is obtained.
- I. A student-athlete may accept a monetary award under the United States Olympic Committee’s “Operation Gold” program without compromising his/her eligibility for NJSIAA competition. Operation Gold awards athletes for top-place finishes in a sport’s most competitive international competition of the year.
- J. A student-athlete who participates in non-NJSIAA sponsored events may receive reasonable travel, meal, and lodging expenses.

Section 3. Reinstatement of Amateur Eligibility – The Executive Committee of the NJSIAA is the only body that may reinstate a Student-Athlete of a member school to eligibility status under the provisions of the organization’s Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations. In cases where the Executive Committee has determined that a Student-Athlete inadvertently participated in an activity that has caused his/her loss of eligibility, the Executive Committee may reinstate said athlete after a period of not less that one year. An application for reinstatement must be made in writing by the high school Principal to the Executive Committee and shall include all data pertinent to the case.

Section 4. Eligibility Requirements – Eligibility rules herewith stated shall apply to all freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity teams involved in interscholastic athletic competition.

Eligibility Lists. Member schools must submit **an** affidavit of eligibility to the Executive Director of the NJSIAA annually for each of the three seasons prior to the beginning of those seasons. This form, signed by the Principal, will certify that any and all students competing on the interscholastic level for that school meet all eligibility requirements of the NJSIAA. This affidavit should be based on carefully compiled eligibility lists for all sports in that season which are on file in each member school and in the event of any questions, are available upon request by other member schools and/or appropriate NJSIAA officials. Sample available on NJSIAA website [On main page, click on REFERENCES>FORMS TO DOWNLOAD>[Certificate of Eligibility & Instruction Memo](#) This is a sample only. Schools may use own forms as long as all information on sample form is included on school form.]

CL 1 This record must be compiled prior to the student’s participation in the first interschool scrimmage or game in that sport and kept on file in the Principal’s office.

The eligibility record must include the (a) name of the students, (b) date of birth, (c) documentary proof of age (birth certificate, baptismal certificate, insurance policy or school record), (d) date of first enrollment in 9th grade, and (e) school from which student transferred, if such transfer was effected during the current or just past school year, (f) credits passed previous year (first semester eligibility) or previous semester (second semester eligibility), and (g) participation prior to entry into the 9th grade.

A. Eligibility Certification – Upon the request of the Executive Director, schools must furnish him with eligibility lists for their various teams, containing such information as he may deem necessary for establishing the eligibility of the players named on the list.

B. Eligibility Responsibility – The Principal of a school is responsible for the observance of the eligibility rules contained in this Article and for the entire program of his/her member school.

CL 1 It is local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice while ineligible for games and scrimmages. Such practices will count to satisfy the six (6) days practice rule. The above is applicable provided the school meets the medical examination and parental permission as required by the State Board of Education.

C. Age – An athlete becomes ineligible for high school athletics if he/she attains the age of nineteen prior to September 1. However, any athlete attaining age nineteen (19) on or after September 1 shall be eligible for the ensuing school year. A birth certificate, issued at the time of birth, is the normal proof of age; in the absence of this, other proofs may be used. The records used will be baptismal records or the earliest school records.

CL 1 Junior High/9th Grade regulations provide that a student becomes ineligible for 9th grade athletics if they reach age sixteen (16) prior to September 1 of that school year. However, said students may participate above the 9th grade athletic level based upon a waiver as set forth in CL 4 noted below.

CL 2 The following evidence of proof of age can be used when the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state of birth reports no records exist:

- a. Birth certificate.*
- b. Affidavit of attending physician.*
- c. Documentary evidence, such as family record of birth in Bible, certificate of arrival in the United States, or a passport.*
- d. Public school records, school, state or national census records.*
- e. Baptismal certificate.*

CL 3 This requirement will not be waived for the sole reason that a student was born day(s), week(s), or month(s) just prior to September 1.

CL 4 In order to assure the opportunity for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility, member schools may request waivers to permit students who are enrolled in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and who are otherwise academically eligible, to participate on the junior varsity or varsity teams where such students will be sixteen (16) years of age or older upon entrance into the 9th grade prior to September 1st. Guidance Departments/School Administrators of elementary schools should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

D. Athletic Recruitment – Athletic recruitment is prohibited.

1. Athletic recruitment is contrary to the purposes and objectives of high school sports. Prohibiting athletic recruitment helps to keep athletics in its proper place and subordinate to academics; protects student-athletes from those having interests that might not be consistent with the interests of the student-athletes; and maintains competitive equity on a level playing field among member schools.
2. Athletic recruitment is defined as any effort to proselytize, pressure, urge or entice a student to enroll in or transfer to a school for athletic purposes. It is a violation for a member school to engage in athletic recruitment or for a student-athlete to enroll in or transfer to a school as a result of athletic recruitment. Athletic recruitment includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Using mail, letters, brochures, or news media to compare high schools and to point out the athletic assets of the sender;
 - b. Engaging in proselytizing interviews, initiated by school personnel or associates;
 - c. Offering athletic scholarships, free tuition or other monetary assistance, either from the school directly or indirectly through some affiliated body or individual, to induce a student to attend the school for athletic reasons.
3. A member school shall be responsible for athletic recruitment by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school.
4. Any evidence of recruiting by a member school shall subject the school to a hearing before the Controversies Committee. A school that is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Art. X.
5. Any evidence of a student-athletic enrolling in or transferring to a school as a result of athletic recruitment shall subject the student-athletic to a prompt termination of eligibility by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. A student-athlete who is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to a one year period of ineligibility in all sports, except that the student-athlete may return to his/her original school without penalty.

E. Credits

- 1 To be eligible for athletic competition during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) of the 10th grade or higher, or the second year of attendance in the secondary school or beyond, a pupil must have passed 25% of the credits (27.5) [30 beginning with the Class of 2014] required by the State of New Jersey for graduation (110) [120 beginning with the Class of 2014], during the immediately preceding academic year.
- 2 To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30) of the 9th grade or higher, a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12½% of the credits (13.75) [15 beginning with the Class of 2014] required by New Jersey for graduation (110) [120 beginning with the Class of 2014] at the close of the preceding semester (Jan. 31). Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.

CL 1 The NJSIAA does not establish grading policies or standards for granting credits. The local school's Board of Education has the exclusive authority to address such matters within the parameters of the State Board of Education guidelines. Therefore, the NJSIAA will not waive, either the standards set by a member school or the minimum standards set forth in Article V, Section 4.E except as provided in Section 4.F (1).

CL 2 *The credit status of a transferred student, determined by the previous school, may not be changed by the present school.*

CL 3 *There is no provision for make-up work for credits for second semester.*

CL 4 *Waivers will not be considered for a senior who does not attain 13.75 [15 beginning with the Class of 2014] credits and who fails a subject in his/her first semester, unless that senior is passing all subjects in the subsequent marking period.*

(3) The above paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to incoming students from grammar school (8th grade).

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 1 and 2 above, a pupil who is eligible at the beginning of a sports season shall be allowed to finish that season.

CL 1 *According to regulations of the New Jersey State Board of Education, credit must be assigned equally to all secondary school courses. Thus, courses which at one time were considered “minor,” e.g., physical education, art, music, industrial arts, etc., must be included in the determination of academic requirements.*

CL 2 *Graduation Requirements – The provisions of Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws will not be waived even though a school allows a student to carry only those courses necessary to meet minimal graduation diploma credit requirements.*

- a. *If a student has received a diploma, he/she is ineligible. However, he/she may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester—either January 31 or June 30.*
- b. *If a student has left school, but re-enrolls, he/she will be eligible thirty (30) calendar days from the date of re-enrollment.*
- c. *If a student has continued enrollment while absent from school, he/she will be eligible provided he/she is enrolled in and attends at least one course.*

CL 3 *It is recognized that students may accelerate their academic programs during their first three years of secondary schooling. Consequently, such students may be eligible in the second semester of their senior year even when they carry less than 12½% of the State minimum (13.75 credits) [15 credits beginning with the Class of 2014] during the first semester provided they are meeting their school district’s graduation requirements and are passing all courses in which they are enrolled at the start of the first semester. Seniors who withdraw from courses with a passing grade (wp) will be eligible provided they are carrying sufficient credits for graduation purposes.*

CL 4 *When a student does not fail a course and/or withdraws passing and is unable to pass the required credits for reasons not under the control of the student, or the school, a waiver shall be granted. A student who enters from an out-of-state school or a foreign country, who has passed all courses in which the student is enrolled, meets the requirements of this Section.*

CL 5 *Students receiving credits for courses at their previous school may use those credits to satisfy the credit requirements for athletic eligibility even though the present school does not grant credit for same. Such a situation is acceptable only on an immediate basis at the time of the transfer. The student subsequently becomes subject to the requirements of the present school.*

CL 6 *An athlete, whose education is interrupted after his/her entrance into the 9th grade (4 or 6 yr. high school) or 10th grade (3 yr. high school) and who does not pass the required courses as provided for in Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws at the end of the semester, upon being readmitted at the beginning of the next semester, is ineligible for failure to meet the requirements of this section.*

Exceptions to this rule are returned servicemen/servicewomen who have been honorably discharged and cases of unavoidable absence due to illness. Substance abuse is not considered as unavoidable absence due to illness; when illegal substance is the reason for not passing the required credits, a waiver will not be granted.

CL 7 *An athlete who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E (1), may become eligible for the remainder of the winter sports season on February 1 if he/she meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4.E (2).*

CL 8 *Any summer work for makeup purposes for failed courses, completed and approved by the school before the sixth school day, in the Fall semester, may be used for eligibility purposes.*

CL 9 *A student who becomes ineligible on account of scholarship at the end of a semester is ineligible for the entire following semester. However, a student eligible to represent his/her school in Winter Sports may continue to do so until the end of that season.*

CL 10 *A passing grade for a semester can only be used once for eligibility purposes. A student who has a semester’s passing grade in a subject may not repeat that subject during a later semester and use it for eligibility purposes.*

F. Handicapped/Classified Students

- (1) Course Waiver – All handicapped/classified students, as defined by the New Jersey State Department of Education, defined as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act-(IDEA), shall comply with the athletic eligibility rules and regulations of the NJSIAA (with the exception of Section 4.E of this Article V re: Credits),

and in addition the student must have evidence of the following:

- a. Parents, or guardians, must give consent for such competitive experience.
- b. The Child Study Team must certify that the student successfully completed the I.E.P. in the previous year/semester commensurate with the student's ability. Final approval for participation must be given by the Principal.

CL 1 A student who is initially classified after failing to have satisfied the provisions of Section 4.E Credits (27.5 or 13.75) [30 or 15 beginning with the Class of 2014] cannot regain eligibility until the Child Study Team has monitored that classified student for a semester.

CL 2 Courses cannot be waived for ADA or 504 students.

- c. The medical inspector of the school district must certify that the youth has physical ability to compete equally with other participants.
- (2) Definition – Since handicapped or “disabled” children (as defined in this section) are not subject to Section 4.E of this Article V, the academic credit rule, it is important that schools understand what children may be eligible.
 - a. Any handicapped child must be in a program approved by the State Department of Education for handicapped children.
 - b. Any handicapped child must be classified as such by an examiner approved by the State Department of Education.
 - c. Any handicapped child must be approved by the local Child Study Team to attend regular high school classes, home instruction, or he/she must be a member of a class in which he/she spends the greater part of each school day with other children under a teacher holding a certificate to teach.
 - d. All handicapped students, assigned to another school by the Board of Education, Division of Youth & Family Services and the courts and classified by the Child Study Team, will be eligible to compete on the interscholastic athletic teams of the school district in which the student resides, providing such receiving school does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program in that sport, and so long as such students meet all other applicable NJSIAA eligibility requirements.

CL 1 Exception: In County Special Services School Districts, e.g., Bergen County where the district is not an adjunct school of the local public school district and where all schools are under the authority of the same Superintendent of Schools, all students are eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic programs of that County's vocational high school(s) unless they are approved to participate at the public high school where they reside and are processed as provided for in Section 4.F (2)e. and 4.G–CL 3.

- e. A handicapped student is permitted to participate in the interscholastic program of the school where the student is enrolled or the school where the student resides, when extenuating circumstances are present. A waiver shall be granted, upon review by the NJSIAA Executive Director or designee when agreed to by the principals of the involved schools.

G. Enrollment

- (1) Late Enrollment – A student who enters school after the first Monday in October shall not be eligible to represent that school until after the lapse of thirty (30) calendar days from date of his/her first entrance.

NOTE: The term “entrance” as used in this section and elsewhere in these Bylaws, means registration plus actual attendance at a school.

CL 1 Late enrollment refers to a student who does not enroll at any school at the beginning of the school year.

CL 2 A short period enrollment at any school will not be treated as entrance to that school and/or subsequent transfer will be recognized as uninterrupted enrollment at the original school absent any appeal from the previous school.

- (2) Initial Enrollment – At the beginning of his/her secondary school career a student is free to choose any secondary school he/she may legally attend, (9th grade in a 4- or 6-year high school or 10th grade in a 3-year high school). NOTE: After this initial enrollment a student is subject to the transfer provision as provided for in Section 4.K (2) of this Article.

CL 1 A high school student is a regularly enrolled student as defined by the Department of Education.

*CL 2 **Voc-Tech/Public Academy Shared Time** – When a student is carried on the Official Register and attends some classes at a school, but also attends additional classes at another school, he/she is eligible for interscholastic athletics at the school where he/she is carried on the Official Register. If a student is carried on both Official Registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school-year basis.*

*CL 3 **Voc-Tech/Public Academy Full Time** – If a Vocational/Technical High School/Public Academy does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students desires to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her sending school upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Vocational/Technical High School/Public Academy.*

*CL 4 **Voc-Tech/Public Academy** – When a student-athlete elects to transfer to or from a Vocational/ Technical High School to or from the district school where the student resides the student is eligible immediately provided such assignment is by the Board of Education of the district where the student resides and the student satisfies all other eligibility regulations.*

*CL 5 **Charter School** – If a secondary Charter School does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students wishes to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her school of residence upon agreement of both principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Charter School.*

*CL 6 **Choice School** – A choice student who attends a Choice School, pursuant to regulations adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education, shall be immediately eligible to participate in sports at the Choice School provided a Transfer Form is executed by both the Choice School and the Residential School, in the manner set forth in Article V, Section 4.K(2) of the NJSIAA Bylaws.*

Any subsequent change of schools, without a parental change of address, will require the student to be ineligible to participate in any sport for which he or she has previously participated at the varsity level for 30 days, as provided by Article V, Section 4.K(2).

*CL 7 **Disabled Students:** A pupil who is disabled and who is placed by the parents or guardians at their own expense in a non-public school for treatment of the disability shall be eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic program of the student’s resident school district, provided the student otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of the program and the student’s participation has written approval of the board of education of the school district where the program is located.*

H. Post-Graduates – No post-graduate student shall be eligible for high school competition. When a student graduates from a school (days or weeks) before the official end of the semester that student may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester – either January 31 or June 30. A student becomes ineligible for high school athletics when the class in which he/she originally enrolled is graduated.

CL 1 A League/Conference or County may grant a waiver (as provided for in the Rules & Regulations, Rule 2, Specific Sport Regulations, Note 3) to permit teams or individuals from the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools to participate if such Student-Athletes are in the first year of post-high school matriculation.

I. Pre-High School Students – Students in any 9th grade are eligible for teams in the Senior High School in that district at the discretion of the administrators and the Board of Education in that district. Students in any 6th, 7th, or 8th grades of any school (Jr. High or Sr. High) who play on 9th grade or so-called freshman or sophomore, junior varsity and varsity teams will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters of such participation. Junior High School 9th grade teams may play against 9th grade teams from 4-year or 6-year high schools.

CL 1 Article V, Section 4.I is applicable to all 9th grades including those which are under the supervision and control of an administrative head (Principal) separate and apart from the administrative head (Principal) of the Senior High School. All 9th grade students in an 8-4, 6-6 or 6-3-3, or other administrative plan may participate on a junior varsity or varsity team without jeopardizing their eligibility to participate on a 9th grade team in that sport; however, when 9th grade students are under a separate administrative head than that of the Senior High School such agreement must be affirmed, in writing, to the NJSIAA over the signature of both administrative heads.

Any 9th grade Student-Athlete who participates on a junior varsity or varsity team or any team at the high school level will be subject to the eligibility provisions of the Bylaws, Article V, 4.G (2). This means that such 9th grade students will be subject to the transfer provisions of Article V, Section 4.K.

CL 2 Students below the 9th grade are not permitted to practice with students of grade nine (9) through twelve (12), neither may they “suit up” with those teams for games or scrimmages involving grades nine (9) through twelve (12) unless a waiver has been granted (to ensure eight (8) consecutive semesters of participation). Student will be considered to have begun his/her eight semesters of eligibility on a sport specific basis pursuant to Article V, Section 4.I.

CL 3 All games in which 6th, 7th and 8th grade students participate will cause forfeiture of said games under this Section unless a waiver has been granted.

CL 4 Students in 6th, 7th or 8th grades who will reach age sixteen (16) prior to September 1 while properly enrolled in a member school may request a waiver of the Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.I, Pre-High School Student, to have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for four (4) years prior to becoming ineligible.

J. Semester of Eligibility

1. No student shall be eligible for high school athletics after the expiration of eight consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into the 9th grade. A student becomes ineligible for high school athletics when the class in which he/she was originally enrolled has graduated.
2. This rule shall not apply to classified students who are ungraded. Classified students who are ungraded will have eight consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning with the first semester of participation in interscholastic athletics at the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level.
3. This rule shall not apply to an honorably discharged serviceman/servicewoman, in which case the Executive Committee may make any adjustments of this rule as it may deem equitable.
4. Students below the 9th grade who participate on a high school team will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the student's initial pre-9th grade participation.

CL 1 In order to assure the opportunity for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic eligibility, member schools may request waivers to permit students who are enrolled in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and who are otherwise academically eligible, to participate on the junior varsity or varsity teams where such students will be sixteen (16) years of age or older upon entrance into the 9th grade prior to September 1st. Guidance Departments/School Administrators of elementary schools should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

CL 2 Guidance Departments should provide the Athletic Director with ages of all classified students so they can be assured of four (4) years of eligibility prior to becoming ineligible at age nineteen.

K. Transfers – After his/her initial enrollment in a secondary school, as provided for in Article V, Section 4.G (2) of the Bylaws, a student-athlete is subject to the following transfer rules:

- (1) A student-athlete who transfers from one secondary school to another because of a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents or guardians, or through assignment by the Board of Education, becomes eligible to represent his/her new school immediately upon entrance unless recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage is proven and provided all other eligibility regulations are satisfied. A student who becomes emancipated shall be deemed not to have made a bona fide change of residence. In order for a student to be immediately eligible, both the former and present school must complete a transfer form affirmatively stating that the transfer is a bona fide change of residence and that there was no athletic recruitment or a transfer for athletic advantage. The parent or guardian will be required to complete an affidavit with proof of present residence to the school. The form will be filed with the NJSIAA and the affidavit maintained by the present school for inspection by the NJSIAA, if necessary. Definition: A bona fide change of residence takes place when the parent/guardian moves with the student from one public high school district to another public high school district. The term "guardian" refers to that person who has control over the person and property of a child as established by the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

CL 1 Residential placement by the Division of Youth and Family Services or by the Courts is treated as a change of residence by the parents except in cases involving juvenile or criminal court proceedings.

CL 2 In cases where a student resides with one parent and elects to change residence for transfer to another secondary school where the other parent resides, said student will be declared eligible immediately since this is considered a parental change of residence provided the parents do not reside in the same public high school district. However, subsequent retransfers to the school previously attended may be considered a transfer for athletic advantage, which may result in a loss of eligibility.

CL 3 Immediate eligibility will be granted when a Board of Education or a non-public school has a non-tuition policy for students whose parents/guardians are employees of the District or non-public school provided a Transfer Form is filed and such a transfer takes place at the first opportunity to do so with the provision that a subsequent transfer or a transfer after the initial opportunity for enrollment has passed will be subject to Section 4.K (2) i.e., the one [season] year wait rule; or 2. When the previous school terminates their secondary school academic program.

CL 4 When a previous school brings forth a complaint as provided for in 4.D or K (5) recruitment or (6) transfer for athletic advantage, eligibility will not commence under K (1) until the Eligibility Appeals Committee reaches a decision.

(2) Transfers

- a. A student-athlete transferring from one secondary school to another, without a bona fide change of residence by that student's parent or guardian, shall be ineligible to participate for a period of thirty (30) calendar days or one half of the maximum number of games allowed in the sport by NJSIAA rules (the ineligibility period) from the beginning of the regular schedule, whichever is less, in any sport in which the student has previously participated at the varsity level.

- b To prevent possible recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage, a Transfer Form must be executed by the two involved schools and filed with the NJSIAA before any interscholastic participation.
- c. A student who transfers during the second half of a sports season, regardless of whether the transfer was the result of a bona fide change of residence, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school. The Executive Director of the NJSIAA will annually publish the dates that will define the halfway point of each sports season.

CL 1 Since the minimal thirty (30) days or half-season ineligibility period (whichever is less) is intended to serve as a deterrent for students transferring from one school to another without a bona fide parental/guardian change of residence and is recognized as one of the most lenient penalties in the United States, appeals will not be heard, regardless of reason.

CL 2 For purposes of this section, a school's regular schedule shall begin with the first interscholastic varsity contest played in that respective sport by the involved school (other than scrimmages).

CL 3 Notwithstanding the provisions of (1) and (2) of Section 4.K, a student may be declared ineligible for violations of the recruiting or transfer for athletic advantage regulation.

CL 4 The Transfer Form must be processed whenever a student-athlete transfers from one secondary school to another with or without a bona fide change of residence having been made by his/her parents/guardians unless the transfer is by Board of Education assignments or by other conditions of 4.K.(1).

In cases where a student-athlete resides with one parent and elects to change residence for transfer to another secondary school where the other parent resides, said student will be declared eligible immediately since this is considered a parental change of residence provided the parents do not reside in the same public high school district. However, subsequent retransfers to the school previously attended may be considered a transfer for athletic advantage, which may result in a loss of eligibility.

CL 5 Date of entrance means registration plus actual class attendance.

CL 6 For purposes of this section, participation in a sport is defined as playing any interscholastic contest at any level. Playing in practices or scrimmages does not constitute participation.

CL 7 Voc-Tech/Public Academy Shared Time – When a student-athlete is carried on the Official Register and attends some classes at a school, but also attends additional classes at another school, the student is eligible for interscholastic athletics at the school where he/she is carried on the Official Register. If a student is carried on both Official Registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school year basis. If the student wishes to change the school where he/she participates during his/her eight semesters of athletic eligibility, the student will be subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Art. V, Section 4.K (1) and (2)

CL 8 Voc-Tech/Public Academy – Full-Time – When a student-athlete elects to transfer to or from a Vocational-Technical High School to or from the district school where the student resides the student is subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K(1) and (2). If a Vocational-Technical High School Public Academy does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students desires to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her sending school upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Vocational-Technical High School_Public Academy.

CL 9 Charter School – Transfers to and from Charter Schools will be subject to the restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K(1) and (2). If a secondary Charter School does not offer the particular sport in which one of its full-time students wishes to participate, that student may participate in that sport at his/her school of residence upon agreement of both Principals, regardless of the number of sports programs offered at the Charter School.

CL 10 Choice School – A choice student who attends a Choice School, pursuant to regulations adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education, shall be subject to the transfer restrictions contained in Article V, Section 4.K(1) and (2).

(3) A student whose parents move to another school district maintaining a secondary school of equal grade or higher shall remain eligible to represent his/her present school provided he/she remains properly enrolled; any subsequent transfer will be subject to Article V, Section 4.K(2).

(4) The fact that a student is expelled from one high school because of academic or disciplinary reasons may not exempt him/her from any of the transfer provisions of this section.

(5) Any evidence of a transfer for athletic advantage shall subject the athlete to a prompt determination of eligibility by the Eligibility Appeals Committee and may subject the school and the athlete to appropriate disciplinary proceedings as set forth in Article X herein. A transfer for athletic advantage is defined as, but not limited to:

- a. Seeking a superior athletic team;
- b. Seeking relief due to a conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator, teacher or coach relating to sports;
- c. Seeking a team consistent with the student's athletic abilities; or
- d. Seeking a means to nullify punitive action by the previous school;
- e. Seeking to be coached by the coach at the new school.

L. Administrative Responsibility – The Association must rely upon the voluntary compliance by its member schools in enforcing the eligibility standards set forth in this article. TOWARD THAT END, THE PRINCIPAL IN EACH MEMBER SCHOOL HAS THE AFFIRMATIVE OBLIGATION TO REPORT TO THE NJSIAA, ANY VIOLATIONS OF THESE STANDARDS. THE FACT THAT A SCHOOL HAS DISCLOSED THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN ELIGIBILITY VIOLATION WILL NOT RELIEVE THE AFFECTED SCHOOL OF SANCTIONS THAT MAY BE IMPOSED AGAINST IT, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X OF THESE BYLAWS, INCLUDING THE FORFEITURE OF GAMES OR EVENTS. HOWEVER, THE FAILURE TO DISCLOSE AN ELIGIBILITY VIOLATION MAY BE GROUNDS FOR IMPOSING ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS UPON THE OFFENDING SCHOOL.

CL 1 Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and unappealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility provided such request for waiver occurs prior to the participation by the Student-Athlete.

CL 2 Participation by an ineligible player in any game during the regular season results in forfeiture of said game. If such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the tournament or if an ineligible player participates in a tournament game, said SCHOOL will be disqualified from the tournament immediately, unless the championship has been concluded, and their last opponent will advance in their place. Schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not re-enter tournament competition.

Article VI

CONTRACTS

Section 1. The Principal of the school is responsible to the State Association for all matters pertaining to the athletic relation of his/her school, and all contracts must be signed by the Principal.

Section 2. All athletic contests between schools shall be regulated by written contract, setting forth the details of time, place, finances, officials, or other agreed upon provisions.

CL 1 "Principal" refers to high school principal, superintendent of schools, or headmaster in this and all sections of the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations.

CL 2 Schedules approved by Leagues or Conferences will constitute contractual obligations for the purposes of this article.

CL 3 All athletic contests between schools must be approved by the District Board of Education.

CL 4 It is recommended that written contracts be executed for all scrimmages.

CL 5 Absence of a written contract, or as provided here, declares nonexistence of an obligation by either party.

Article VII

PROTESTS

Section 1. Protests against alleged violations of contracts, violations of the accepted standards of good sportsmanship, or the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, should be reported in writing and posted by the Principals of the participating schools or the game officials to the Executive Committee, through the Executive Director, within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the time of such violation, with a copy to the alleged violator. Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (*misapplication*) of the playing rules will not be honored.

CL 1 The one hundred twenty (120) hour provision will be satisfied, if the school's Principal notifies the League or Conference expected to report a violation of good sportsmanship or any violation within 120 hours as required by Article IX, Section 4, and other Articles and Sections contained in the Constitution or Bylaws, cannot use the failure of such disclosure as an excuse to prevent the NJSIAA Executive Committee or Controversies Committee from taking jurisdiction of such a matter as provided by Section 4 of Article VII.

CL 2 "Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules will not be honored" does not preclude a League or Conference from addressing same; however, the NJSIAA will not honor such protests for non-conference games/meets, neither will the NJSIAA hear appeals to a League or Conference decision based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules.

Section 2. There shall be a committee consisting of the Executive Director, the President, and a member of the Executive Committee who shall meet at the call of the Executive Director to hear any disputes and grant interim relief pending a decision on the matter by the Eligibility Committee, Controversies Committee or Executive Committee.

Any relief granted will expire at the end of the next Executive Committee meeting unless extended by resolution of the Executive Committee. The President and Executive Committee member, if they act in such capacity, shall be disqualified from discussion and voting on such matter before the Executive Committee.

Section 3. No protests against alleged violations of contracts shall be entertained in the absence of a duly executed contract made in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Bylaws.

Section 4. The Executive Committee may initiate proceedings on its own motion or may in its discretion refer the matter to the Controversies Committee.

Article VIII

CONTEST RULES – CHAMPIONSHIPS – OFFICIALS

Section 1. In all tournaments and meets conducted by this Association each member school must compete in its own group and section classification, unless fewer than eight (8) schools qualify. In that case, the Executive Committee may combine one or more groups. When the Committee eliminates sectional championships because of an insufficient number of schools qualifying, the State Group Championships will be conducted on a statewide quartile basis or State Championships may be conducted without regard to Groups or Division.

Federated members shall not be eligible for NJSIAA tournament competition

CL 1 When submitting records for tournament qualification, schools listing forfeit wins/losses must attach an explanation for same.

CL 2 When fewer than eight (8) schools qualify in a group and section, the Executive Committee may combine one or more groups/divisions because of insufficient competition without regard to Public/Non-public classification.

Section 2. All contests involving member schools must be played according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations. This applies to all sports for which rules are formulated by that Association.

CL 1 The NJSIAA does not permit "exhibition" (non-scoring) participation in any sport. Therefore, any reference to "exhibition" events, bouts and the like (e.g., in the National Federation Swimming Rules) are not permitted.

Section 3. All baseball, basketball, field hockey, fencing, football, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling officials working in any NJSIAA interschool varsity baseball, basketball, field hockey, fencing, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, or volleyball game, gymnastics or swimming meet, or wrestling match, must be registered with the Association and listed in the Directory of approved officials published by the NJSIAA.

Section 4. The Executive Committee may approve the certification of officials and/or officials' chapters in all sports; and the minimum requirements for testing, training and evaluating all officials. (See pages 69-70 for NJSIAA minimum requirements for approval of officials' chapters and minimum requirements for registration of officials.)

Article IX

SPORTSMANSHIP

Section 1. Statement of Administrative Responsibility:

Member schools are expected to conduct their relations with each other at all levels of competition in a spirit of good sportsmanship in keeping with the objectives we have set for ourselves. Everyone involved has the obligation to clearly see his/her influence and act accordingly.

The Association acknowledges that the school administration is responsible for the athletic program, including the making of broad and specific policies relating to sportsmanship and the conduct of activities in the schools. The school Principal, for example, as the administrative head of his/her school, has the responsibility for establishing the principles of good sportsmanship in the minds of the entire school family. He/she realizes that the kind of sportsmanship that is practiced or displayed by the representatives of his/her school will reflect to its credit or otherwise.

The Principal, therefore, is the final authority responsible for all athletic activity of his/her school at whatever level of competition in which that school is engaged. In recognition of this authority and responsibility, the following general recommendations are suggested by the Association as a guide to school administrators with respect to sportsmanship policy.

Section 2. General Guideline Recommendations:

A. Each school administration shall establish broad and specific policies and procedures relating to sportsmanship and to identify responsibilities of administrators, coaches and students to ensure their observance.

B. Each school administration shall insist that personnel set good examples of deportment and sportsmanship and to correct those individuals at fault at a time convenient and in a manner adequate for the situation. Reporting of the action taken, in writing, to the NJSIAA by the Principal is mandatory.

C. Each school administration shall utilize all appropriate occasions and means to emphasize desirable deportment and sportsmanship of all coaches, students and other personnel.

D. The supervision of trips and "away" contests shall be such as to assure that the conduct of school representatives brings credit to themselves, their school and their sport. To this end, the Association advocates the full promotion of cooperative "host-guest" relationships between and among schools entering into athletic competition.

E. Hazing – Continuing the focus on sportsmanship, citizenship and leadership, the NJSIAA encourages member schools to establish local policies, procedures and regulations pertaining to incidents of "Hazing."

F. COACHES MUST BE CAUTIONED NOT TO REFUSE TO PLAY OR TO COMPLETE A GAME/MEET. SUCH DECISIONS ARE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE GAME/MEET OFFICIALS ONCE GAME/MEET HAS STARTED, OR REST WITH HOME MANAGEMENT AND/OR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR IF THE GAME/MEET HAS NOT STARTED.

Penalty – Any school whose coach violates Section 2.F shall be placed on probation by the Association for not less than one year from the date of violation, and shall not receive championship recognition from this Association in that sport, or enter any championship games, matches, meets or tournament sponsored by the Association in that sport unless the NJSIAA deems sufficient administrative action has been taken against the coach. Conditions of probation are outlined in the Bylaws, Article X, Section 2.A, Probation. In addition, the coach will be fined a minimum of \$300.00.

Section 3. Association Responsibility:

The Association recognizes and appreciates that the influence and responsibility of the school administration with regard to good sportsmanship extends to all levels of competition. However, it must also be seen that the NJSIAA has been vested with the responsibility to ensure that all contests under its jurisdiction are conducted satisfactorily. In exercising its responsibility as it applies to the principles of good sportsmanship, the Association will be guided by the following rule:

**SPORTSMANSHIP RULE/POLICY
HIGH STANDARDS OF COURTESY, FAIR PLAY AND SPORTSMANSHIP
MUST BE FEATURED AT ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS.**

(While this rule is a general statement and one which may be difficult to reduce to objective standards in terms of enforcement, it is the heart of the entire Association program. Good sportsmanship, respect for rules, respect for others, and fair play, are basically the motives through which an interscholastic athletic program is justified and defended.)

It shall be the responsibility of each member school to insure that all individuals employed by or directly associated with the athletic program, including its Student-Athletes, comport themselves in a sportsmanlike manner when representing their school, especially at interscholastic events.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall subject the individual to disciplinary action. The member school with which the individual is associated may also be subject to disciplinary action if it is found that the member school's policies, actions, or failure to act, substantially contributed to the individual's conduct.

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator.
- b. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- c. Any person (athletic department, staff member, Student-Athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators.
- d. Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of a game official, opponents and/or opposing coaches/players.
- e. The administration of a member school will be responsible for the unsportsmanlike conduct of that school's fans or spectators.
- f. In addition to the NJSIAA disciplinary action, any violations of our sportsmanship rule, including, but not limited to disqualifications in the area of racial, ethnic, gender bias, will result in the NJSIAA contacting and working directly with the Conference and Community Agency (Human Rights/Civil Rights Group) which focuses in on this important aspect of social behavior as it relates to athletics.

CL 1 Schools are not permitted to conduct pre-meet/game activities of an intimidating nature, e.g., the use of fog machines, the blaring of sirens or loud music/unusual sound effects, strobe/unusual lighting effects, or similar type activities.

Section 4. Executive Authority:

A. The Association vests authority in its President and Executive Director to investigate and take appropriate action on any reported flagrant violation of the sportsmanship rule occurring during the regular season or NJSIAA tournament competitions.

B. Reported violations shall be resolved in a manner sufficient to correct the problem, and may range from a written statement of the findings by the Executive Director to the school administration, to appropriate disciplinary action.

C. Any report of a violation of good sportsmanship occurring during an NJSIAA sponsored event, must be submitted in writing and posted within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the incident to the Executive Director of the Association with a copy to the alleged violator and/or his/her school.

Section 5. General Prohibition Against Performance Enhancing Drugs.

It shall be considered a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule for any student-athlete to possess, ingest or otherwise use any of the substances on the list of banned substances, without written prescription by a fully-licensed physician, as recognized by the American Medical Association, to treat a medical condition. Violations found as a result of NJSIAA testing shall be penalized in accordance with this policy. Violations found as a result of a member school's testing shall be penalized in accordance with the school's policy. The NJSIAA policy shall consist of this general prohibition, the NJSIAA Steriod Testing Procedures, the NJSIAA Steriod Testing Protocol, and the NJSIAA Banned Drug Classes. .

Article X*

PENALTIES

PENALTIES SHALL BE ASSESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR THE CONTROVERSIES COMMITTEE FOR INFRACTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS OR RULES AND SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

Section 1. To assure that member schools make certain that all Student-Athletes comply with eligibility standards or that they obtain appropriate waivers where necessary prior to competition, the following forfeiture penalties will be imposed. If the ineligible student participated in a TEAM SPORT, then that team will forfeit any games that it has won, irrespective of how long the ineligible student participated in that contest. This is so because it is impossible to calculate the impact made on a team contest by one or more individual players. In cases where the ineligible player participated in an INDIVIDUAL SPORT, then the team will only forfeit the events in which that player participated, since the impact of individual players can be calculated with some certainty. This penalty is mandatory and will not be subject to any appeal to the Executive Committee.

CL 1 Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and unappealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility.

Section 2. After conducting a hearing and subject to an appeal to the Executive Committee, as set forth in Article XIII of the Bylaws, the Controversies Committee may impose the penalties set forth in this Section.

A. Probation – A probationary period not to exceed two years may be imposed, which may include a requirement that a member school submit appropriate reports to the Association, certifying that the violations are not

* This amendment approved by letter from Commissioner of Education dated July 6, 1987 and published in the September, 1987 NJSIAA Bulletin.

continuing. The Controversies Committee may determine that an offending school may not participate in championship contests in the sport in which the violation occurred.

B. Forfeit of Games – Under such terms and conditions as the Controversies Committee shall provide.

C. Forfeit of Championship Rights – A school may be required to forfeit championship rights as determined by the Controversies Committee.

D. Suspension of Coaches and Players – In addition to any disqualifications imposed for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct during an interscholastic contest a coach or player may be suspended for a violation of the Constitution and Bylaws or Rules of this Association, or for violations of the rules of good sportsmanship or the rules of a particular game.

E. Fines – Member schools, Principals, Athletic Directors, and/or coaches may be fined by the Controversies Committee in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 per party. Member schools may also be required to pay any property damages caused by their improper behavior and for the transcript and court stenographer costs of the Controversies Committee hearing, which would be payable within sixty (60) days.

Section 3. Major Fines and Expulsion. The Controversies Committee may recommend for approval by the Executive Committee, the imposition of major fines against member schools, principals, athletic directors and coaches exceeding \$1,000.00 per party for serious violations of the Bylaws or Rules of the Association and/or the expulsion of member schools and/or coaches for serious violations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the Association after a hearing or review on appeal by the Executive Committee, pursuant to Article XIII of the Bylaws.

Article XI

ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held on the first Monday in December or other date set by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Director shall draw up the agenda to include all legislative proposals which have been properly presented and such other business which the Executive Committee has approved.

Section 3. Each school holding membership shall have one vote on subjects before the meeting. Only one accredited delegate shall vote for each school.

Section 4. A quorum shall be defined as a majority of the member schools which must be present at the beginning of the meeting.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall engage the services of a competent parliamentarian whose rulings shall be binding upon the chairperson and all member schools. The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with recognized rules of parliamentary law.

Section 6. The minutes of the Annual Meeting shall show the full and exact vote of the membership on each proposal.

Article XII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. For the purposes of these Bylaws the term “boy” or “he” refers to all students, both male and female.

Section 2. All Constitutions of Conferences will be submitted to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Executive Committee for review.

Section 3. All Constitutions shall maintain a provision to the effect “only member schools of New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association may be voting members of the Conference providing, however, that affiliated (non-voting) membership may be afforded to any school which is not a member of the said Association.”

Article XIII

HEARING PROCEDURE

Section 1. The President of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association shall nominate an Eligibility Committee and a Controversies Committee of no less than four members each and a chairman of each committee, none of whom shall be members of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Executive Committee. The Eligibility Committee will make initial determinations of controversies involving eligibility except unsigned Transfer Forms arising under the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. The Controversies Committee shall make determinations of all other controversies arising under the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

CL 1 The Eligibility Committee meets four times per year at the beginning of each of the three sports seasons and at the end of the year. This Committee makes determinations based on written documentation.

Those persons nominated to the Controversies Committee shall be members of the Advisory Committee of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Those persons nominated to both Committees by the President, shall be confirmed by the Executive Committee by a majority vote prior to beginning their service on the respective Committee. They shall serve for one year, to expire on the last day of June, following their appointment. The Chairman of the respective Committees shall not vote except in the case of ties. The Committees shall be as representative as possible of all groups represented on the Executive Committee of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Section 2. All appeals from initial decisions of the Eligibility Committee, as well as initial decisions when the Eligibility Committee cannot consider an eligibility request in a timely fashion, shall be determined by an Eligibility Appeals Committee, consisting of a Chairperson and the following members of the Executive Committee: 4 representatives of public high schools, one from each section of the State; 1 representative from the non-public high schools; 1 representative from either the ex-officio members or the at-large members of the Executive Committee, as they are defined in Article V of the Constitution of the NJSIAA; and 4 alternates, all of whom can vote, and one of whom shall be a representative from the non-public high schools and one of whom shall be the Second Vice President of the Association. The First Vice President of the Association shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee and in his or her absence, the Second Vice President shall serve as Chairperson. The President of the NJSIAA shall nominate the remaining members of the Eligibility Appeals Committee, who shall be confirmed by majority vote, and who shall serve for one year to expire on the last day of June following their appointment. The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be delegated with the final authority to render determinations concerning eligibility. The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall consider eligibility matters, in accordance with the following procedures:

- (1) The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall decide an appeal on either written submissions or at a hearing.
- (2) Any party seeking an eligibility determination must file a request with the NJSIAA at least ten days prior to the next scheduled Eligibility Appeals Committee meeting, together with ten copies of any initial determination, and ten copies of any and all documents it wishes to have the Committee consider in determining its appeal. The request shall indicate whether the Appellant wishes to proceed on the basis of the written submissions or at a hearing.
- (3) The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall meet to determine any pending appeals on days corresponding with the regular scheduled meetings of the Executive Committee.
- (4) **Unless a hearing is timely requested, the Eligibility Appeals Committee shall decide any appeal on the basis of the written submissions.**
- (5) If an eligibility appeal proceeds to a hearing, any party shall be entitled to be represented by counsel, all witnesses will be sworn and the right of cross-examination shall be provided.
- (6) Four members of the Eligibility Appeals Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman shall be a non-voting member of the Committee except where there is a tie vote on any appeal. A member shall not vote on any appeal involving a school or Conference to which such member is affiliated; or an appeal that would impact upon a member's school.
- (7) The Eligibility Appeals Committee may designate the Attorney for the Association as a hearing officer for any formal hearings. The hearing officer shall conduct the hearing and make all appropriate rulings concerning evidence and the manner of proceeding, but shall not cast a vote concerning the appeal.
- (8) Except for private deliberations concerning a disposition of an appeal, all proceedings of the Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be transcribed by a certified court stenographer and transcripts shall be available to any requesting party, at cost.
- (9) All determinations of the Eligibility Appeals Committee shall be set forth in a written decision to be sent to the parties no later than ten (10) days after the conclusion of a hearing.
- (10) As a voluntary association of member schools, the NJSIAA must rely upon those schools in providing notice and all other relevant information concerning eligibility rules and appeal procedures to affected students and parents.

Section 3. Any Conference may make determinations of controversies arising out of the Conference's Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, as well as those of the NJSIAA, where such controversies involve only member schools of the Conference, but do not deal with issues of eligibility and conform with the Conference's written hearing procedures, which shall have been approved by the Executive Director of the NJSIAA.

Section 4. All complaints, protests or disputes referred to the Association by a Conference or others, shall be reviewed by the Executive Director and referred to the Controversies Committee where applicable. The Controversies Committee shall hear controversies directly or on appeal from a Conference determination. This Committee shall conduct formal hearings, on notice to all involved parties, who shall be afforded the right of counsel, the presentation of testimony under oath, cross-examination and a written decision. The Committee shall conduct hearings against any party charged with a violation of Association Bylaws or Rules, notwithstanding the failure of the charged party to attend such hearings. All parties will be allowed to submit any relevant documents or written presentations to the Controversies Committee for its consideration, provided ten copies of

such submissions are provided to the NJSIAA, with a copy to each involved party, and if on appeal from a Conference determination to the affected Conference, at least ten days before the scheduled hearing.

Section 5. In the event any party is aggrieved by any decision of the Controversies Committee, it may appeal to the Executive Committee of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association which shall determine the matter in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws and Constitution of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. In considering such appeals, the Executive Committee shall serve as an appellate body, and the appeal shall be confined to the record developed before the Controversies Committee. It is recommended that at least one member of the Controversies Committee be present at all appeal hearings relating to any Controversies Committee decision. All appeals to the Executive Committee must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$500.00 to serve as a deposit for transcript and court stenographer costs of the Executive Committee proceeding.

CL 1 It shall be the obligation of the appealing party to reproduce fifty (50) copies of any portion of the record that party will rely upon in its appeal to the Executive Committee which shall be furnished to the NJSIAA and any other parties at least ten (10) days before the scheduled Executive Committee meeting.

CL 2 The \$500.00 deposit is an estimate of transcript and reporter appearance costs for an appeal to the Executive Committee. If the appeal is successful, then the deposit will be returned to the appealing party. If the appeal is unsuccessful, then the appealing party will either (a) receive a rebate to the extent that such costs are less than the deposit; or (b) pay an additional amount to the extent that such costs are more than the deposit.

Section 6. In emergent circumstances where time will not permit a controversy to be heard by the Controversies Committee, the Executive Committee may hear such a controversy and render a decision thereon, in an informal manner, after all involved parties are provided with notice and an opportunity to present their positions before the Executive Committee.

Section 7. The President of the Association may refer any matter to the Attorney for the Association to conduct a hearing. In the event such referral is made, the Attorney shall conduct a hearing and preside as the hearing officer. The Attorney shall make findings of fact and make recommendations to the Executive Committee in writing. Objections to the Attorney's report shall be heard by the Executive Committee.

Section 8. Any member school which institutes an unsuccessful appeal before the Commissioner of Education and/or the courts challenging a rule or a decision of the Association, not involving the eligibility of Student-Athletes, either prior to or after having first exhausted the internal appeal procedures of the Association, will assume the full cost of such litigation, including costs and counsel fees incurred by the Association and member school(s).

CL 1

A. By way of illustration without limitations the type of actions for which litigation costs will be imposed. The full costs of litigation, including counsel fees, will be imposed upon a member school which does not prevail in challenging a decision of the NJSIAA. The following circumstances are provided by way of illustration and without limitation:

- 1. Any litigation which challenges, in whole or part, the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules or Regulations adopted by the general membership of the NJSIAA, or which was enacted by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, and subject to amendment, addition or rescission by the general membership, pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the NJSIAA Constitution.*
- 2. Since participation in a particular sport, or in post-season tournament play conducted by the NJSIAA, is completely voluntary, any member school which unsuccessfully challenges either the rules and regulations for a particular sport, or the tournament rules, and/or the interpretation or implementation of such rules or regulations by responsible NJSIAA Committees, will be assessed the full costs of litigation.*
- 3. All challenges brought before the Commissioner or any Court, prior to exhaustion of internal processes provided by the NJSIAA, except where time does not permit the convening of appropriate NJSIAA Committees to determine the controversy, which is the subject of the appeal.*

B. The payment of any litigation costs or counsel fees shall be rendered in accordance with the following procedures:

- 1. At the conclusion of any unsuccessful litigation brought by a member school, as defined by Section A above, Counsel for the NJSIAA shall transmit to the NJSIAA Executive Director a Statement of Costs and Counsel Fees incurred in this litigation. Costs shall include all filing fees, reproduction and transcript costs, appearance fees and expenses of any witnesses at any hearing or other proceeding, as well as all postage and telephone costs incurred in this litigation, after a final decision is rendered by the NJSIAA Executive Committee.*
- 2. The Executive Director shall thereafter transmit the Statement of Costs and Counsel Fees to the unsuccessful litigating member school, for payment to be rendered within sixty (60) days, payable to the Association.*

3. *In the event that a member school joins another member school or an athletic conference as an adverse party, in any unsuccessful litigation, as defined by Section A, then the unsuccessful litigating school will be liable to the other school or conference in the same manner and to the same extent as it is liable to the NJSIAA.*
4. *Any member school which does not make full payment of the costs and fees within sixty days of the rendering of the Statement of Costs and Counsel Fees to that school, shall be deprived of all rights to participate in any post-season interscholastic championship contests conducted by the NJSIAA. The prohibition shall continue until and unless the full amount of Costs and Counsel Fees is paid to the NJSIAA, with interest at prevailing rates, assessed beginning sixty days after the rendering of such Costs and Counsel Fees. This prohibition will also extend to a member school which joined another member school or an athletic conference as an adverse party in such unsuccessful litigation.*

Section 9. Except as provided in Section 4 herein, no proceeding dealing with a specific school(s), staff or student(s) shall be conducted by any committee of the Association unless the Principal of the involved school(s) or his or her authorized representative is in attendance. A school shall be bound by any statements made by such representatives at committee proceedings. Requests for waiver of an NJSIAA regulation by any party other than the school will be heard and interpreted as not having the support of the school when the Principal or his or her authorized representative is not present.

Section 10. In cases involving recruitment, jurisdiction over the member school shall lie with the Controversies Committee, and jurisdiction over the student-athlete shall lie with the Eligibility Appeals Committee.

Article XIV

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws and Rules and Regulations may be amended by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting based upon the total number of member schools registered at the Annual Meeting. Such amendment will become effective on September 1 following the Annual Meeting unless, by a separate two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote based upon the total number of member schools registered at the Annual Meeting, an earlier date is set.

Section 2. Any member school may initiate an amendment to the Bylaws, Rules or Regulations by following the procedures set forth in Article XII, Sections 1 and 2 of the Constitution.

Section 3. The Bylaws, Rules and Regulations may also be amended by the Executive Committee as provided in Art. V, Section 5 of the Constitution.

NJSIAA INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY*

1. OVERVIEW

Since its foundation in 1918, the NJSIAA has strived to maintain eligibility standards for Student-Athletes attending its member schools which assure that athletic competition is subordinate to the academic goals of its member schools. At the same time, the Association has fostered eligibility standards which equalize competition among member schools, and provide a broader opportunity for students to compete in interscholastic competition. Accordingly, the Association now maintains a comprehensive set of eligibility rules and regulations, set forth in Article V of its Bylaws, which are incorporated in the NJSIAA Handbook distributed to all member schools each year.

Although the eligibility standards are quite explicit, the NJSIAA has provided its member schools with interpretations of these regulations through eligibility decisions published in the NJSIAA Bulletin, based on individual appeals of students and member schools each year. Nevertheless, several schools have challenged both these regulations and their interpretation by the NJSIAA Executive Committee. The Commissioner of Education has now issued a series of decisions upholding both these guidelines, as well as their interpretation by the Association, and penalties which have been imposed upon member schools who have utilized ineligible athletes in interscholastic competition. In view of these developments, the NJSIAA believes that it is imperative that Principals of member schools, as well as their Athletic Directors and coaches, review the applicable NJSIAA rules and regulations and these interpretive guidelines, which merely set forth earlier published rulings by the Association. In order to reduce unnecessary litigation and at the same time encourage truly meritorious appeals to be made by students, the Association is requiring all of these local school personnel to familiarize themselves with the regulations and these guidelines and to certify that they have done so in affidavits which must be submitted to the NJSIAA Headquarters by October 1st of each year.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

The NJSIAA must rely upon voluntary compliance to its eligibility regulations by member schools. The Association has a very small professional staff and unless such voluntary compliance occurs, it will be impossible to maintain the comprehensive eligibility standards and the goals that those standards seek to foster. Accordingly, the Principal of each

**These guidelines were originally adopted by the NJSIAA Executive Committee on September 14, 1983, and were thereafter revised annually by the Executive Committee.*

member school is responsible for personally assuring that Student-Athletes comply with the eligibility regulations of the NJSIAA. The Commissioner has held that this responsibility cannot be abdicated to other personnel who might thereafter not fulfill this responsibility. Therefore, it is imperative that the Principals assure that the responsible athletic staff review all of the pertinent eligibility rules and regulations and these guidelines. Principals and responsible high school administrators are obligated to assure that athletic recruitment and athletic transfers do not occur. After this responsibility is assumed, the eligibility affidavits must be completed and filed with the NJSIAA Headquarters by October 1st of each year. In addition the administration of every school has the obligation to advise appealing students and their parents of their rights as set forth in the NJSIAA Handbook.

Misinterpretation of NJSIAA eligibility regulations or the failure by the school's staff to properly advise a Student-Athlete will not be considered grounds for waiver of the eligibility regulations.

3. THE MOST COMMONLY APPLIED ELIGIBILITY RULES

Although Section 4 of Article V of the NJSIAA Bylaws covers a broad spectrum of eligibility regulations, ranging from preserving the amateur athletic status of students to prohibiting athletic recruitment among member schools, the eligibility standards which are most frequently applied by the NJSIAA are those dealing with age, academic standards, the semesters of eligibility and transfers.

a. **Age** – Article V, 4.C of the Bylaws provides that an athlete cannot participate in interscholastic athletics if he or she has reached the age of nineteen (19) prior to September 1 of any year. That rule further provides that a birth certificate or baptismal certificate or other proofs including earlier school records can be used to verify a Student-Athlete's age. This rule is not only aimed at preventing "red shirting" but is also aimed at encouraging students to satisfactorily complete their academic studies starting with the elementary school level. It is also a safety measure to assure that 13- and 14-year-old students are not expected to compete against adults who are six or more years older, with substantially greater physical size, strength and skills. In view of this paramount safety factor, waivers of this rule will be granted by the NJSIAA in only truly extraordinary circumstances.

It is recognized that as a result of their Individual Education Program (IEP), many handicapped students will be required to extend their elementary and secondary education beyond the customary twelve years. Since the NJSIAA supports the fullest participation of classified or disabled students, consistent with their IEPs and appropriate physical examinations, member schools should encourage such students to compete in interscholastic sports for their permitted four years of eligibility, even when they are attending the 7th or 8th grade classes, special education classes or satellite schools. In such cases the schools should seek a waiver from the NJSIAA. Accordingly, Article V, Section 4.I of the Bylaws has been modified to allow participation of students below the ninth grade when a waiver has been granted. In this way the age requirement will have a minimum impact upon students, who would be otherwise eligible to participate for the normal four years of eligibility. If, as a result of circumstances beyond his/her control, such a student cannot be eligible for four years because of the age rule, that rule may be waived in non-contact sports where physical contact is not a factor (bowling, cross-country, fencing, golf, gymnastics, skiing, swimming and diving, tennis, track and volleyball). In contact sports, the rule may be waived if the student can't comply due to circumstances beyond the student's control. A determination will take into account the size, agility and skills of the student in question and the degree to which these issues will not fundamentally alter the competition.

Where waivers of the age or eight semester rule are sought on the grounds that a student is handicapped, the NJSIAA will carefully assess the circumstances under which the student was classified. **TO PREVENT "RED SHIRTING," OR CIRCUMVENTION OF ARTICLE V, SECTION 4.E CREDITS, WAIVERS WILL NOT BE GRANTED WHERE THE CLASSIFICATION OCCURRED JUST PRIOR TO/OR DURING THE STUDENT'S SECONDARY SCHOOLING.**

b. **Academic Standards** – In December, 1983, the general membership of NJSIAA voted to strengthen the academic standards set forth in Article V, 4.E of the Bylaws.

It must be emphasized that these academic standards are minimal requirements and many member schools have adopted additional, more restrictive, requirements with the full support of the NJSIAA. Any school adopting more restrictive requirements will have the exclusive authority to grant exceptions to these local requirements, provided that the statewide standards set forth in Article V, 4.E are maintained.

THE NJSIAA DOES NOT ESTABLISH GRADING POLICIES OR STANDARDS FOR GRANTING CREDITS, THE LOCAL SCHOOL'S BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS THE EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS SUCH MATTERS WITHIN THE PARAMETERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION GUIDELINES. THEREFORE, THE NJSIAA WILL NOT WAIVE, EITHER THE STANDARDS SET BY A MEMBER SCHOOL OR THE MINIMUM STANDARDS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE V, SECTION 4.E EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 4.F (1). APPEALS, THEREFORE, WILL NOT BE HEARD BECAUSE A STUDENT HAS FAILED A COURSE AND HAS NOT ATTAINED THE NECESSARY CREDITS TO SATISFY SECTION 4.E.

Additional interpretations of the NJSIAA academic standards are as follows:

- (i) According to regulations of the New Jersey State Board of Education, credit must be assigned equally to all secondary school courses. Thus, courses which at one time were considered "minor" e.g., physical education, art, music, industrial arts, etc. must be included in the determination of academic credits.

- (ii) It is recognized that students may accelerate their academic programs during their first three years of secondary schooling. Consequently, such students may be eligible in the second semester of their senior year even when they carry less than 12½% (13.75 credits, 15 credits beginning with the Class of 2014) of the State minimum (110 credits, 120 credits beginning with the Class of 2014) during the first semester provided they are meeting their school district's graduation requirements and are passing all courses in which they are enrolled at the start of the first semester. Students should be cautioned not to register for the minimum credits (13.75-15 beginning with the Class of 2014) in their first semester of their senior year, since a failure of just one course will result in ineligibility in the second semester. Waivers will not be considered for a senior who does not attain 13.75 [15 beginning with the Class of 2014] credits and who fails a subject in his/her first semester, unless that senior is passing all subjects in the subsequent marking period.
- (iii) Member schools are cautioned that the NJSIAA will not grant any exceptions to the minimum statewide standards for an entire school district or school. Thus, schools will not be permitted to "average" academic achievement for students so as to allow them to be eligible even though they have not accumulated the requisite proportion of the State minimum according to their semester of attendance (e.g., a school may not allow a student who failed 2 courses in his/her first semester to be eligible the following semester because he/she received an "A" in the remaining courses, so as to constitute an average of "C" or above for all courses).
- (iv) If a student has received a diploma, he/she is ineligible. However he/she may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester – either January 31 or June 30.
- (v) If a student has left school, but re-enrolls, he/she will be eligible thirty (30) calendar days from the date of re-enrollment.
- (vi) If a student has continued enrollment while absent from school he/she will be eligible provided he/she is enrolled in and attends at least one course.
- (vii) An athlete, whose education is interrupted after his/her entrance into the 9th grade (4- or 6-yr. high school) or 10th grade (3-yr. high school) and who does not pass the required courses as provided for in Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws at the end of a semester, upon being readmitted at the beginning of the next semester, is ineligible for failure to meet the requirements of this section.
- (viii) An athlete who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E (1), may become eligible for the remainder of the winter sports season on February 1 if he/she meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4.E (2).
- (ix) Any summer work for makeup purposes, completed and approved by the school before the sixth school day, in the semester starting in September, may be used for eligibility purposes.

c. The Eight Semester Rule – Article V, 4.J of the Bylaws basically provides that, with the exception of honorably discharged servicemen and servicewomen, and classified students who are ungraded, no student shall be eligible for high school athletics after the expiration of eight consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into the 9th grade. This rule is intended to prohibit "red shirting," and is also aimed at preventing athletically gifted pupils who are not meeting academic standards from replacing other students who are maintaining their academic standards but who might not have the same athletic prowess. The rule is also aimed at maintaining a uniform progression among all member schools within a four-year cycle and equalizing competition within these schools.

Unfortunately, despite its explicit terms and its obvious objectives, some member schools have interpreted this rule as applying to eight semesters of competition rather than eight semesters of attendance in a secondary school. The NJSIAA will not permit a student to participate in any sport for more than four seasons. Students below the 9th grade who participate on a high school team will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters. The fact that a student has not participated for four seasons will not in itself justify allowing such a student to participate in interscholastic sports beyond the eighth semester after his or her entrance into the ninth grade. Since the NJSIAA carefully regulates practice and scrimmages and is most concerned over the possibility of "red shirting," "participation" in any sports season will begin on the very first day that a Student-Athlete participates in or attends practice in a particular sport.

d. Transfers – Article V, 4.K is a detailed provision governing transfers of student-athletes from one school to another and should be carefully read by all responsible local school personnel. Basically, this section is aimed at preventing athletic recruitment of promising athletes by member schools or a transfer by a student or by his or her parents to another school for athletic advantages.

- (i) Subsection (1) allows a transferring student-athlete to be immediately eligible where there is a bona fide change of residence; that is, a change of residence in which the parent/guardian moves with the student from one public high school district to another public high school district. However, in order for a student to be immediately eligible, both the former and present school must complete a transfer form affirmatively stating that the transfer is a bona fide change of residence and that there was no athletic recruitment or a transfer for athletic advantage. The parent or guardian will be required to complete an affidavit with proof of present residence to the school. The form will be filed with the NJSIAA and the affidavit maintained by the present school for inspection by the NJSIAA, if necessary. A student will also be immediately eligible if the student has been reassigned by the student's district.
- (ii) An assignment by the Division of Youth and Family Services, the Courts or by the Board of Education normally means a transfer within a school system or an assignment of a student to a school outside of his or her present district which provides a specialized education program. It does not mean a voluntary transfer from another school system, accompanied by the designation of a particular school by the receiving Board of Education; nor does it mean a disposition by a court or agency as a result of a juvenile or criminal complaint against the student.
- (iii) A student-athlete in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 transferring from one secondary school to another, without a bona fide change of residence by that student's parent or guardian will be ineligible to participate for a period of 30 calendar days which will commence with the first interscholastic game played by the involved school, if that student had participated in that particular sport at the varsity level. A grade 9, 10, 11, or 12 student who has not participated in a sport on the varsity level at his/her previous school will be eligible to participate immediately in the sport at the new school. To prevent possible recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage, a Transfer Form must be executed by the two involved schools and filed with the NJSIAA before any interscholastic participation.

Since the minimal thirty (30) day period of ineligibility is intended by the member schools to serve as a deterrent for students transferring from one school to another school without a bona fide parental/guardian change of residence and is recognized as the most lenient transfer penalty in the United States, appeals will not be heard, regardless of reason.

While the amendments to Subsections d) and (2) are expected to curtail transfers for athletic reasons or a result of athletic recruitment, unfortunately zealous coaches, parents or third parties have facilitated athletic transfers by establishing fictitious residences and other methods to circumvent the one year ineligibility period.

Subsections (5) and (6) of the transfer rule became effective during the 1982-83 school year and are aimed at preventing athletic recruitment or transfers by students for athletic advantage.

Subsection (6) sets forth specific examples of transfers for athletic advantage, such as seeking a superior team or one consistent with the student's abilities, (a) and (c); or as an attempt to obtain relief from conflicts with the former school and its staff or punitive action taken by that school, (b) and (d). If the Principal and Athletic Director of the student's former school refuse to sign a Transfer Form, because of their belief that the transfer is in violation of this section or if there is any evidence of the above factors, then the transfer will be subject to the scrutiny of either the Eligibility Committee, Eligibility Appeals Committee, or Controversies Committee.

If the Principal and Athletic Director of the student's former school refuse to sign a Transfer Form, then a hearing shall be held at the next scheduled meeting of the Eligibility Appeals Committee and an oral decision reached on that date, which shall thereafter be expressed more fully in writing by either Committee within ten days. Until that hearing is concluded, the transferring student shall be ineligible.

The Association recognizes that a desire to participate in interscholastic sports may be one of a number of considerations involved in a transfer, in addition to factors such as finances, academic, religious training, social and transportation. However, if after a hearing, either committee determines that the primary reason for the transfer was for athletic reasons, then a violation of Subsection (6) will be found. The student would then be subject to a one year period of ineligibility.

If the NJSIAA determines that there has been athletic recruitment by a member school, then not only will the athletes be subject to be declared ineligible, but the recruiting school will be subjected to appropriate disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion among other penalties. Consequently, the Principal of both the former school and the new school of a transferring student must verify that there has been neither athletic recruitment nor a transfer for athletic advantage on the appropriate Transfer Forms, furnished by the NJSIAA.

4. OBSERVANCE OF ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AND APPEALS

The NJSIAA maintains two committees to deal with questions of eligibility. The Eligibility Committee makes initial determinations concerning Student-Athletes, except in the case of unsigned Transfer Forms, based primarily upon written requests by member schools to the Association. The schools are required to provide all appropriate information, including transcripts, after obtaining parental (guardian) consent. This Committee meets at the beginning of each of the three sports seasons and at the conclusion of each academic year. If a student or school wishes to, they may obtain a brief informal hearing before this Committee. Beginning in September, 1983, an Eligibility Appeals Committee, consisting of seven members of the NJSIAA Executive Committee has functioned to consider both appeals from initial decisions of the Eligibility Committee and to hear appeals that arise during the school year but which cannot be dealt with in a timely manner by the Eligibility Committee. To provide a timely review of eligibility matters, the Association has arranged for sequential meetings of the Eligibility and Eligibility Appeals Committees at the beginning and throughout the school year. The Eligibility Committee meets in late August and in November, February and May. The Eligibility Appeals Committee hearings are scheduled between the first Eligibility Committee meeting and the September Executive Committee meeting and thereafter at the October, December, March and June meeting dates of the Executive Committee. Additional appeals hearings could be held on the meeting dates of the Executive Committee as determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Hearing Officer. The Eligibility Appeals Committee functions specifically as set forth in Section 2 of Article XIII of the NJSIAA Bylaws. The Eligibility Appeals Committee will hear all initial testimony in the case of unsigned Transfer Forms.

This section provides that an appeal may be disposed of on written submissions or at a hearing, where parties will be entitled to counsel, the right to present witness testimony and cross-examination, and other matters which should be carefully reviewed by all member schools.

Accordingly, if a school has any doubt whatsoever about the eligibility of a student, it should contact the NJSIAA Headquarters for an initial interpretation and, if necessary, submit a formal request to the NJSIAA for an eligibility ruling by the Eligibility Committee prior to the beginning of each of the sports seasons. If time will not permit such a submission to that Committee, then appeals should be made to the Eligibility Appeals Committee in the manner provided by Article XIII, Section 2 of the NJSIAA Bylaws. *A school should never allow a student to participate in interscholastic sports if it has any doubt whatsoever as to that student's eligibility and until an interpretive ruling has been issued by the responsible NJSIAA officials and/or committees. Otherwise, the school risks imposition of appropriate penalties for the use of an ineligible student, including the forfeiture of games won by that school utilizing such a student.*

Since the establishment of the Eligibility Appeals Committee in September 1983 until June 2011, 1719 separate eligibility cases were considered by the Eligibility Appeals Committee and the Eligibility Committee. The Eligibility Committee made 805 rulings, declaring 426 students eligible, 364 students ineligible and 15 partially eligible. Two hundred sixty-two (262) of those ineligibility rulings were appealed to the Eligibility Appeals Committee, which affirmed the Eligibility Committee in 169 cases (65%), while reversing that Committee in 93 other cases. These subsequent reversals by the Eligibility Appeals Committee were largely attributable to the fact that additional information was subsequently provided to the Eligibility Appeals Committee.

In addition to the 262 appeals from the Eligibility Committee, the Eligibility Appeals Committee dealt with direct requests for waivers or transfer reviews in 652 other cases. Of the total of the 914 cases considered by the Eligibility Appeals Committee during this twenty-seven-year period (both on appeal and directly), waivers were granted in approximately 356 of the cases.

5. WAIVERS

In appropriate cases, the Eligibility Committee or the Eligibility Appeals Committee may grant a waiver from the strict application of any eligibility rules, where the overall objectives of the Association and its member schools will not be undermined. Specifically, waivers of these provisions have been granted in the past where it was shown that a student could not maintain the required academic standards or that he or she had to continue secondary schooling beyond the eighth semester because of circumstances beyond that student's control. By way of illustration, waivers have been granted because a student is a classified pupil who could not carry a full academic load. Correspondingly, waivers of the eight semester rule have been granted where a student has had to repeat a semester or more because he or she was absent from school because of medical or psychological reasons or because that student was required to be home with a parent or guardian who was ill, or to a classified student whose Individual Education Program (IEP) mandated that student extend his or her schooling beyond the normal eight semester program.

A student who is involved in substance abuse is not considered to be so involved because of "circumstances beyond his or her control"; this position constitutes an inducement for students not to involve themselves in drugs or other unacceptable behavior.

With the reinstatement as of September 1, 2010 of the 30-day ineligibility period for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade athletes transferring without a corresponding bona fide change of residence, hardship waivers will not be granted by the NJSIAA, regardless of reason.

Member schools must be aware of the fact that waivers are only intended to equalize opportunities among otherwise eligible students who cannot strictly comply with the eligibility rules because of circumstances beyond their control, and is not intended to provide such students with an actual advantage over the great majority of students who maintain appropriate academic standards over the normal eight semester secondary program. Accordingly, waivers of these rules are never granted where it would allow a student to participate in more than four seasons in any one sport or where a student has repeated an academic semester or year of secondary school for academic reasons.

It is expected that waivers of the academic, and eight-semester rule, as well as the age rule involving non-contact sports will continue to be granted, where it is determined that a student cannot comply because of circumstances beyond his/her control. Waivers of the age rule will be granted where it is determined that a student cannot comply due to circumstances beyond the student's control. The waiver will take into account the size, agility and skills of the student and the degree to which these issues will not fundamentally alter the competition.

6. ENFORCEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

To assure that member schools carry out the responsibilities of making certain that all Student-Athletes comply with eligibility standards or obtain appropriate waivers where necessary prior to competition, the NJSIAA has imposed a uniform penalty against any school which utilizes an ineligible player. If the ineligible student participated in a TEAM SPORT, then that team will forfeit any games that it has won, irrespective of how long the ineligible student participated in that contest. This is so because it is impossible to calculate the impact made on a team contest by one or more individual players. In cases where the ineligible player participated in an INDIVIDUAL SPORT, then the team will only forfeit the points earned or the events in which that player participated, since the impact of individual players can be calculated with some certainty.

Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and unappealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility provided such request for waiver occurs prior to the participation by the Student-Athlete.

To establish a standard procedure for all forfeitures in the event an ineligible student participates, the following designation will be in effect:

Team Sports		Individual Sports	
Baseball	Ice Hockey	Bowling	Swimming and Diving
Basketball	Lacrosse	Cross-Country	Tennis
Field Hockey	Soccer	Fencing	Winter Track
Football	Softball	Golf	Outdoor Track
Ice Hockey	Volleyball	Gymnastics	Wrestling
		Skiing	

Under Article I of the NJSIAA Bylaws, the Association Executive Director has been granted the authority to impose appropriate penalties by the Executive Committee, until or unless that Committee reverses the Executive Director after an appropriate appeal has been filed by the applicable student and/or school in accordance with Article XIII of the Bylaws.

Since all member schools are expected to voluntarily comply with eligibility standards, the penalty for forfeiture will not be mitigated because the member school itself reported that it had violated the eligibility rules. However, where the eligibility violation is reported by another school and it can be shown that the school attended by the ineligible player or the involved coach was aware, or should have been aware, of the eligibility violation, then the Executive Committee may impose additional penalties upon that school and/or the involved coach including, but not limited to, probation, suspension, expulsion and fines.

NOTE: All changes for 2011-2012 are indicated in **bold type**. CL indicates clarifications which are *italicized*.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

LIMITATIONS ON GAMES AND PRACTICES

RULE 1. STUDENT-ATHLETE GUIDELINES FOR INTRAMURAL, RECREATION, CLUB, CAMPS/CLINICS PARTICIPATION, AND “OPEN-GYM” PROGRAMS.

Section 1. Definition. A Student-Athlete is a properly enrolled student at a member school who has attained team status in a particular sport; i.e., sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity. Incoming freshmen are subject to all out-of-season regulations in all sports in spite of not having attained team status. All team members must be listed on the eligibility report filed in a member school's office.

CL 1 The NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations apply to all freshman, sophomore, J.V. and varsity participants competing in interscholastic games and/or scrimmages; unless otherwise provided for in Junior High 9th grade Regulations.

To further clarify the Junior High School Regulations intent it is recommended that 9th grade follow all references to the Junior High in the regulations.

CL 2 Team status will be defined as having been on the current/immediate preceding roster of a team.

OUT-OF-SEASON GUIDELINES

Section 2. Out-of-Season Period. The out-of-season period shall be from the end of the season as defined in Rule 2, Section 10 until the next official starting practice date for that sport, excluding the Summer Recess, that period from the last scheduled date for NJSIAA championships in the Spring Sport Season until September 1st.

PENALTY — Any school proved guilty of violating the out of season coaching restrictions included in Rules 1 and 2, shall be subject to the Penalties provided by Article X of the Bylaws, after a hearing by the Controversies Committee.

Section 3. Intramurals. Although the NJSIAA philosophy relative to intramurals is that these programs should provide an opportunity for students not on interscholastic teams, nevertheless Student-Athletes are permitted to participate in all intramural activities during the out-of-season period, except those in which they have attained team status.

Article 1...Weight-lifting or other conditioning programs during the out-of-season period are permissible when not limited to Student-Athletes.

Article 2...Coaches may supervise or serve as directors, including officiating of intramurals, recreational, club, camp, or open-gym programs when the school district's Student-Athletes are not involved in their specific phase of the program during the out-of-season period.

Section 4. Open-Gym Programs. Student-Athletes are permitted to take part in this type of recreational program, but a coach of a specific sport activity in that Open-Gym Program is not permitted to be involved. Coaches may supervise Open-Gym Programs only when their Student-Athletes are not involved in that specific phase of the program during the out-of-season period. Open-Gym Programs involving a single sport in which only Student-Athletes are involved are interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out-of-season rules.

CL 1 An “open-gym” program is one in which a variety of recreational type activities are offered, i.e., badminton, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, and the like. Coaches at any level may not be present when their specific sport activity is a part of the Open-Gym Program. Single sports programs in which Student-Athletes are involved are interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out-of-season rule if those sports are not on a rotation basis with at least two or more other sports activities during a calendar week using that facility. Responsibility for monitoring Open-Gym Programs should be with the Athletic Director and Principal of the school.

All specific sport activities have to be recreational in nature; therefore, practice routines, such as, softball/baseball pitching, catching and batting, football place-kicking, golfing/putting, and similar routines are always interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out-of-season rule.

Section 5. Recreation and Club Programs. The NJSIAA does not have any jurisdiction over these programs conducted by outside organizations even though school facilities are used; however, school uniforms and other individually issued equipment may not be used by Student-Athletes. Coaches may not be involved when the school district's Student-Athletes are involved in that specific phase of the program during the out-of-season period. Coaches may be spectators.

CL 1 Schools, school organizations, or school-related groups such as Booster Clubs may not assist the Student-Athlete's participation or influence the sponsoring agency in non-school Recreation and Club Programs during the out-of-season period.

Section 6. Camps or Clinics. The NJSIAA does not restrict an individual's choice to attend any participatory camps or clinics; however, schools, school organizations, or school-related groups such as Booster Clubs may not assist the Student-Athletes' attendance at any camp or clinic during the out-of-season period; this includes providing uniforms, equipment, and funds related to the camp or clinic, including transportation; and coaches may not instruct their Student-Athletes. Coaches may be spectators.

CL 1 There are no limitations or restrictions on member schools or their Student-Athletes at any time when attendance at non-school camps or clinics is of a non-participatory nature, i.e., as an observer rather than a participant.

CL 2 DURING THE OUT-OF-SEASON PERIOD, the NJSIAA does not restrict an individual's choice to attend a participatory camp or clinic; however, schools, school organizations, or school-related groups such as Booster Clubs may not assist the Student-Athletes' attendance at any participatory camp or clinic, this includes providing uniforms, equipment, and funds related to the camp or clinic, including transportation. Coaches may not be involved in any way with their Student-Athletes. Coaches may attend a participatory camp, clinic, or competition merely as spectators, however, they may not be involved in any way with their school's athletes, including being a clinician, when their school's Student-Athletes attend that camp or clinic regardless of the format or the separation of stations at a clinic.

CL 3 DURING THE SUMMER RECESS a coach or Student-Athlete may not be sponsored or supported by a school or school-related group (example: Booster Club) when team-interscholastic or individual competition takes place as part of the activity in camps, clinics, recreation programs, independent play and tournaments.

Section 7. Faculty Games. Student-Athletes of a particular sport may not engage in faculty or similar games in that same sport except for those seniors who have exhausted their eligibility in that same sport.

Section 8. Non-School Non-Sanctioned Games. A Student-Athlete may compete as follows:

Article 1...During Season – Local Option.

Article 2...Out-of-Season Period – A Student-Athlete may compete on a non-school team with the approval of the school so long as individually issued school equipment, coaching, or other school services are not provided.

CL 1 The participant competes in Non-School/Non-Sanctioned events "unattached," i.e., not as a representative of the school and, therefore, schools, school organizations and school-related groups such as Booster Clubs, Parents Clubs or Varsity Clubs may not assist the Student-Athlete's participation in any way.

CL 2 The NJSIAA does not permit the funding, in whole or in part, of participation in Non-School/Non-Sanctioned events by a Board of Education. This applies to Non-School/Non-Sanctioned events, e.g., the Dapper Dan, McDonald, and Derby Basketball Clinics, the Golden West Track Classic, and National High School baseball, tennis, wrestling, or similar games/events.

CL 3 The NJSIAA cooperates fully with the USOC (United States Olympic Committee) in establishing the means by which the participants are selected to represent the United States; therefore, a member school, their Student-Athletes, and their coaches do not have any restrictions placed upon them In-Season, Out-of-Season or during the Summer Recess so long as the administrator (Principal) of the member school gives approval and the USOC verifies that the activity is a part of the USOC development program and filed with the NJSIAA.

RULE 2. PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Section 1. Awards. Awards are not restricted by the NJSIAA, if approved by the Board of Education, so long as they are symbolic awards, i.e., letters, sweaters, jackets, pins, trophies, other similar type awards, and rings or watches which are properly inscribed. All other awards must be approved by the local Board of Education and the NJSIAA.

Student-Athletes and prospective Student-Athletes must be cautioned when competing in any program including marathons and other running events in which cash or merchandise are the awards. By refusing to accept the cash or merchandise the student absolves himself/herself from placing his/her eligibility in jeopardy.

CL 1 The participant's award or share thereof may not be assigned to another party or be accepted by another party but must be returned to the chairman of the event.

Section 2. Strenuous Sports. A player on an interscholastic athletic team shall participate in only one strenuous high school sport at a time during the regular high school sports season. A player may drop one high school sport to participate in another, but he/she may not return to a sport from which he/she withdrew.

The strenuous sports are: Baseball, Basketball, Cross-Country, Fencing, Field Hockey, Football, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Skiing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track-Outdoor, Track-Winter, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

CL 1 Bowling and Golf are not considered strenuous sports.

CL 2 Rule 2, Section 2, Strenuous Sports, will mean a student concluding a season in one sport will not be able to participate in another sport regardless of the fact that the athlete would be able to meet the six (6) day practice rule.

Section 3. Physical Examinations. Physical examinations may be given prior to a Sports Season so that all players may be examined before the first day of practice.

See State Board of Education Regulations – Pages 17-20.

Section 4. Equipment. Uniforms may be issued prior to the beginning of a Sports Season, if stored by the school; however, under no circumstances may uniforms be worn until the first official starting day of practice for that specific sport, except for shoes which may be issued and worn two weeks prior to such official starting date of practice. No individually issued equipment of a member school, except as provided herein, may be issued or used by a student during the out-of-season period.

Section 5. Sports Seasons. Member schools must conduct their programs within the following datelines according to practice provisions as outlined in Rule 2, Section 6 to be eligible for NJSIAA Tournament play:

Fall – September 1 to November 30

Winter – November 15 to March 31 - Bowling, Ice Hockey, Swimming

Monday after Thanksgiving (November 28) to March 31 - Basketball, Fencing, Skiing, Winter Track, Wrestling

Spring – First Friday of March (**March 2**) to last scheduled NJSIAA Tournament (**June 9**)

If, by way of exception provided in these Bylaws, permission is granted a school to extend its season in a particular sport, the provisions of this section are extended accordingly.

Fall – Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Football, Gymnastics, Soccer, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball

Winter – Basketball, Bowling, Fencing, Ice Hockey, Skiing, Swimming, Track-Winter, Wrestling

Spring – Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Boys Tennis, Track-Outdoor, Boys Volleyball

The Executive Committee must approve conducting a specific program during a season other than the designated sports season for that sport.

Section 6. Start of Practice.

A. Fall - 2011

1. **All fall sports can start Official Practice on the third Monday in August (August 15)**

2. **Scrimmages can be played after six days of Official Practice***

***Official Practice Days begin to count on the third Monday in August (August 15, 2011) If school board policy does not permit Sunday practices, then the “First Scrimmage” must be moved forward accordingly.**

Reminder FOOTBALL ONLY: It is recommended that teams may not practice more than six (6) consecutive days. One twenty-four (24) hour rest period should be included within a seven (7) day period. Example: First official practice is August 15 - first scrimmage is August 22.

3. Girls Tennis - Teams may open on **September 6th** after six days of official practice, which may start on **August 15** with the first scrimmage on **August 22, 2011, which should include one twenty-four (24) hour rest period.**

B. Winter

November 15 – Bowling, Ice Hockey, Swimming

November 28 – Basketball, Fencing, Skiing, Track-Winter, Wrestling

C. Spring

March 2 – Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Boys Tennis, Track-Outdoor, Boys Volleyball

Section 7. Practices/Scrimmages/Games-Meets.

Article 1....A student shall not be permitted to participate in a scrimmage or a game (interschool) in any strenuous sport until he/she has completed SIX DAYS OF PRACTICE IN THAT SPORT, (days of 24 hours, not sessions). Practices during the Summer Recess prior to the official opening of the Sports Season cannot be counted to fulfill this requirement. The above restriction will be waived for Student-Athletes who are members of a team participating in competition after the start of the next season provided the athlete becomes a practicing member within three (3) practice days.

CL 1 Summer Recess practices do not count for “six-day” interschool scrimmage or game provisions. Only those practices from the official opening of the Sports Season may be counted to fulfill this requirement.

CL 2 Sunday practices may be counted only if approved by the local Board of Education.

CL 3 A practice is defined as a session where a team is assembled and involved in physical activity to enhance the participant’s physical condition. Practices of any kind for individuals, partial or entire teams, on days when the team is involved in interscholastic scrimmages or games-meets will not count toward satisfying the six (6) day rule.

CL 4 It is a local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice. An ineligible student may not participate in a scrimmage or a game. Such practices will count to satisfy the six (6) day practice rule. The above is applicable provided the school meets the medical examination and parental permission as required by the State Board of Education.

Article 2...Interscholastic scrimmages, excluding baseball, tennis, softball and golf, are to be limited to the number of games, meets, or matches permitted in the sport during the regular season. The rule regarding numbers of contests on consecutive days will be enforced.

Article 3...No more than four (4) schools shall be permitted to take part in a joint interschool scrimmage.

CL 1 Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

CL 2 The host school may not invite any more than three (3) schools to participate in a scrimmage at its site(s).

Article 4...No scrimmages shall be permitted after the “End of Season” as defined in Rule 2, Section 10 of the Rules and Regulations.

Definition:

Interscholastic scrimmages are provided as an opportunity to experience controlled game conditions for both coaches and players. A scrimmage must provide for voluntary interruption of the “scrimmage game” for instructional purposes, must not have recorded scoring, results, spectator admission must be on a complimentary basis only, and the event cannot be conducted in such a manner as to advance a team or individual to another level of scrimmage competition.

CL 1 Whenever team(s) or individual(s) from two or more schools practice at the same site, it will be designated as a scrimmage unless some extraordinary circumstance has been approved by the NJSIAA.

Section 8. Start of Regular Schedule. Opening dates are as follows:

- Fall
 - 1. After six days of practice – Girls Tennis (**September 6, 2011**)
 - 2. Thursday before the Second Saturday of September – Cross-Country, Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Soccer, Girls Volleyball. (**September 8, 2011**)
 - 2. **Friday** before the Second Saturday of September – Football (**September 9, 2011**)
- Winter
 - 1. December 1 – Bowling, Ice Hockey, Swimming
 - 2. Friday before Third Saturday of December – Basketball, Fencing, Track-Winter, Wrestling (**December 16, 2011**)
 - 3. First Week of January – Skiing
- Spring
 - April 1 – Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Softball, Boys Tennis, Track-Outdoor, Boys Volleyball

Section 9. Contest Rules. All contests involving member schools must be played according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). This applies to all sports for which rules are formulated by that Association, with the following exceptions:

- Bowling – US Bowling Congress
- Fencing – United States Fencing Association
- Golf – USGA
- Skiing – NCAA
- Tennis – USTA

Rules indicated will govern all sports unless modified by NJSIAA.

Section 10. End of Season. All teams may participate in interscholastic contests up to the final championship in their respective sports. Equipment should be stored and practice terminated for the out-of-season period upon completion of the schedule. Individual competition shall terminate with the end of said competition.

Section 11. Out-of-Season Period. Out-of-Season practice is not permitted under the direction of an instructor or coach, or student leaders. This eliminates any kind of equipment under any form of instruction. The object of this explanation is to make clear the point that there shall be absolutely no practice during the out-of-season period for a particular sport. Any subterfuge or “sharp practice” shall be construed as a violation of this rule.

CL 1 A. Non-School Activities

During the out-of-season period, the NJSIAA does not restrict an individual's choice to participate in a non-school activity or in an open-gym program in which the athlete has attained Student-Athlete status, i.e., all freshmen and those sophomores, juniors or seniors who have been on the roster of the J.V. or varsity teams during the current season.

B. School-Related Organizations

During the out-of-season period, the school organizations such as Booster Clubs, Fathers' Club, Varsity Club and the like may not assist the Student-Athlete during the out-of-season period or provide individually issued equipment, uniforms, transportation or funds related to camp or clinic attendance when same is of a participatory nature.

CL 2 A. Coaches/Student-Athletes

Coaches may not instruct their Student-Athletes during the out-of-season period; neither may they hold meetings nor any other way be involved with the Student-Athlete, including Open-Gym Programs. For Seniors, all rules apply through the last date of an interscholastic event for that school during the Spring Sports Season. When the same sport for Boys and Girls is conducted in different sports seasons, a Student-Athlete in that sport may not serve as manager of the team of the opposite sex and will be considered a violation of the out-of-season rule. Coaches may not exchange supervisory and/or coaching duties in their sport to circumvent the out-of-season rule.

QUESTION: *From what point may a coach not be involved with a school's Student-Athlete?*

ANSWER: *From the day the coach is appointed to coach a particular sport until the start of practice for that sport the following year, except for the summer recess period.*

B. Coaches' Meetings

Coaches may hold one, non-instructional meeting for the purpose of distributing try-out schedules, medical forms, parent permission slips, etc. to returning lettermen and prospective team candidates. Strategy or techniques may not be discussed and neither may any physical activity take place.

CL 3 Fund-Raising

A school may conduct any school approved fund-raising campaign at any time of the year so long as the fund-raising activity is not designed to keep Student-Athletes active in their particular sport during the out-of-season period (exclusive of seniors who have exhausted their eligibility). Exception: One day fund-raising activities such as foul-shooting contests involving basketball players; marathons involving cross-country runners; swim-a-thons involving swimmers, and the like will not be considered violations when conducted after their respective seasons have been completed.

CL 4 Summer Recess

A. Practice

That period from the last NJSIAA scheduled championship to September 1st, all restrictions are rescinded for practice for all sports. Schools may issue any and all equipment for practice use during the summer recess and the local school district may determine to what extent the school, the coaches, and the students are to be involved in the “summer recess” program.

B. Games/Scrimmages

Interscholastic competition is not permitted outside of the dates provided for in Rule 2, Sections 7, 8 and 10; therefore, a school may not sponsor a team/individual, pay entry fees, provide transportation, or in any way have a team/individual represent their school outside of the seasonal datelines for that sport in competition against other schools. School equipment may be provided. A coach/team or Student-Athlete may not be sponsored or supported by a school or school-related group (example: Booster Club) when team-interscholastic or individual competition takes place as part of the activity in camps, clinics, recreation programs, independent play, or tournaments.

Scrimmages consistent with the Early Season Opening or Regular Season Opening provisions are permitted.

C. Non-School Teams

A member of a high school's coaching staff may not be involved in any way with a non-school team on which there are team members who participated on the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team of the coach's high school team(s) in that sport until the day after the date of the latest scheduled date for NJSIAA Championships in the Spring Sports Season.

Section 12. Alumni Games. Alumni games count as part of the schedule in all sports, but they may not be included when submitting records for tournament consideration.

Section 13. Tournament Entry. Member schools are to download from www.njsiaa.org entry forms for state competition. Tournament regulations will be posted no earlier than four weeks before the tournament date. NO entries which are postmarked after the cut-off date will be accepted unless accompanied by a late fee established by the NJSIAA.

CL 1 A late fee charge of \$50.00, when a school's game or meet schedule or tournament entry form is late (beyond the established deadlines but prior to the pairings, seeding or heat meeting), is to be paid before the contestant or team is allowed to participate. If the entry is received after the seeding but prior to the first game of the tournament, an administrative fee of \$150 will be assessed the school.

Section 14. Video Taping and Filming. Electronic Communication equipment, including but not limited to computer, film, television and video tape is permissible, but may not be used for coaching purposes during the game or between periods. Videotaping of scrimmages is a local option.

Section 15. Maximum Games-Waiver. A waiver of the maximum game limitation is granted in all sports, except football, only when one additional game is needed to decide a county, conference or tournament championship.

Section 16. Withdrawal/NJSIAA Tournaments. Any member school and/or Student-Athlete withdrawing from competition after having officially entered an NJSIAA tournament in any sport will be disqualified from all remaining NJSIAA tournament competition in that sport in that season and barred from participating in NJSIAA tournament competition in that sport during the next school year unless truly extraordinary circumstances were present.

Section 17. Guidelines for withdrawal of teams from competition upon diagnosis of infectious diseases. School administrators should rely solely upon the advice of the school's medical inspector in determining the action to withdraw a team from competition when a member is diagnosed as having an infectious disease.

Section 18. All NJSIAA tournament team entry forms must reflect competition to no less than 70% with New Jersey schools. If a team does not meet this criteria by the cut-off date, **with the exception of football which will be based on a 10-game schedule throughout the season**, it will forfeit its entry into the NJSIAA tournament.

Section 19. To promote fairness in competition and the health and safety of student athletes, no NJSIAA member school will be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Championship Tournament if it has violated the Specific Sports Regulations for the sport, involving the start of practice, the start and ending of the sport season and the maximum contests permitted during the regular season. The application of this standard is non-appealable.

SPECIFIC SPORT REGULATIONS

Note 1: A week is defined as from 12:01 A.M. Sunday to Saturday midnight.

Note 2: A regularly scheduled game is one which has been contracted by mutual consent of the participating schools and approved by their respective Boards of Education and by the schools' Principals.

Note 3: Member schools may schedule games or scrimmages with any school accredited by its regional accrediting agency and having athletic eligibility standards similar to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. Member schools may schedule regular season games or scrimmages with non-member schools, or with member schools of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools; however, in such case, any waiver of the NJSIAA eligibility rules must be agreed upon and set forth in the contract. Under this section, competition is limited to teams (or individuals) whose participants are in the first year of post-high school matriculation. Waiver of NJSIAA eligibility rules will not be granted for sanctioned tournaments.

CL 1 Member schools may not compete with "club" teams. Competition is not permitted with teams composed of post-high school students (private schools, junior colleges, colleges) whose participants are beyond the first year of post-high matriculation or are beyond the first year since graduating from high school. All Independent Schools holding dual membership (NJSIAA and NJISAA) must adhere to all regulations provided for by the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and they may not be waived.

CL 2 A school is permitted to sponsor only one team at the varsity level. A and B teams at the varsity level are not permitted in any sports.

Note 4:

- a. Any Student-Athlete or coach disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two (2) regularly scheduled games/meets, with the exception of football which will carry a one (1) game disqualification, at that level of competition and all other game(s)/meet(s) in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties which the NJSIAA or a league/conference may assess.

CL 1 Once a coach/player has been disqualified, NO appeals will be honored from the player, coach, official or any other party. Disqualification is a judgement call and officials must be certain the act warrants disqualification. All complaints against an official must be directed to the official's Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA.

CL 2 Scrimmages are not considered part of the disqualification rule.

CL 3 The National Federation Rules do not permit a wrestler to continue to participate in a tournament if there is a flagrant disqualification. The NJSIAA rule requires a two-match sit-out. Even though the wrestler is not permitted to wrestle in the remainder of that tournament, said wrestler may fulfill the two-match disqualification, provided his team continues to wrestle in scheduled events.

CL 4 A second disqualification for an individual in any game/meet/match supersedes NFHS rules in this regard.

- b. A disqualified player or coach may not be present at any contest in that sport during the period of disqualification. Definition of not being present at the site means the disqualified player or coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the bus, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet.
 - 1. In team sports any player/coach in violation of this provision will be cause for forfeiture of those games during the period of disqualification.
 - 2. In individual sports the event or events in which the player previously participated while having been disqualified will be forfeited. The team will lose the highest points awarded in each event noted herein.
- c. Should a coach/player be disqualified from the final game/meet of the season, said disqualification will carry over to the next year in that sport. In the case of the Student-Athlete, the same degree of penalty shall apply if said athlete retains eligibility in that sport.
- d. Any player/coach disqualified a second time in single or multiple sports will have the penalty doubled (i.e., in football – disqualified for two (2) games; all other sports – four (4) games). Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.
- e. Any player with two or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of an NJSIAA tournament, will be ineligible to compete in said tournament.
- f. Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct prior to the team's participation in an NJSIAA tournament will not be permitted to participate in same. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.
- g. Single/multiple sports – on the third offense; players disqualified will be suspended indefinitely, and must apply, in writing, to the NJSIAA through the office of their Principal for reinstatement. Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.
- h. Any coach disqualified a second time within 365 days from the date of the first disqualification will be required to appear before the Controversies Committee with the Principal and the Athletic Director.
- i. Any coach who is disqualified and/or has three or more players on a team disqualified during the course of the preceding school year must complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course. This course license must be obtained from NJSIAA with the course completion certificate due to NJSIAA within sixty (60) days of initial NJSIAA notification of the disqualification requirement.

CL 1 Coaches/players who do not fulfill their penalty in a sport at their present school will be disqualified for the same length of time in their subsequent coaching assignment/sport participation at another school.

CL 2 Seniors who are disqualified from their last game or next to last game will serve the penalty in a subsequent sports season according to the penalty provision of that subsequent sport. When seniors are disqualified from their last game of their high school careers, and are unable to fulfill the penalty, member schools are required to take proper administrative action to discipline the offending student.

CL 3 Seniors who quit a sport and have not fulfilled their penalty in that sport, must serve it in the new sport before beginning playing in the new sport.

RULE 3. BASEBALL

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. First Friday of March. **(March 2)**

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. April 1.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10. **(June 9)**

Section 5. Transfers on or after **May 1, 2012** not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d).

Section 6 Maximum Games. A member school may play twenty-five (25) games including regular season and tournament games, plus one additional tournament, plus the State Tournament.

CL 1 Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

RULE 4. BASKETBALL

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation edition of the Basketball Rules of the United States and Canada shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **Monday** after Thanksgiving. **(November 28)**

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. Friday before Third Saturday of December. **(December 16)**

Section 4. End of Season. No interscholastic games may be played after the start of the State Tournament.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **January 21, 2012** not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d)

Section 6. Scrimmages. Interscholastic scrimmages are to be limited to three (3) per week until the Start of the Regular Schedule (Rule 2, Section 8). Thereafter, until the start of the State Tournament, schools are limited to the maximum number of games as provided for in Section 7. This does not include games or scrimmages during the State Tournament. (While a school is competing in the State Tournament, it may schedule with teams entered in the tournament one (1) scrimmage during any week in which it has only one (1) or two (2) games and two (2) scrimmages during any week in which there are no games. These scrimmages will not count in the total number of allowable games.)

Section 7. Games Per Week. Not more than a total of three (3) basketball games may be played per week beginning with the week of the Start of the Regular Schedule (Rule 2, Section 8) to the start of the State Tournament (this includes interschool scrimmages, regular games, postponed games, and tournament games), but games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days. This section does not apply to State Tournament scheduling. You may play one four-game week.

Section 8. Maximum Games. A member school has the option of playing one of the following maximum-game schedules, including interschool scrimmages and postponed games from the start of the Regular Schedule to the start of the State Tournament:

- Option 1. Twenty (20) regular scheduled games, plus two (2) tournaments, plus the State Tournament; or
- Option 2. Twenty-two (22) regular scheduled games, plus one (1) tournament, plus the State Tournament; or
- Option 3. Twenty-six (26) games, including all regular season and tournament(s), plus the State Tournament.

CL 1 Teams using options (1) or (2) may exceed the 26 game total provided their regular schedule is limited to either of the options, i.e., 20 in (1) or 22 in (2). Option 3 may be used by teams not playing in any tournaments or playing in more than two tournaments. Option 3 also may be used by teams who are eliminated in tournaments, i.e., County – Conference – League – and wish to schedule games to get to a twenty-six maximum total.

Section 9. Quarters Per Day, Week. A basketball player shall play no more than five (5) quarters during the same calendar day, with a maximum of fifteen (15) quarters per week. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition. If a school selected the four game per week option in Rule 4, Section 6, no player's maximum quarters per week shall exceed twenty (20).

CL 1 Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

RULE 5. BOWLING

Section 1. Rules. US Bowling Congress Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. November 15.

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. December 1.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **January 21, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

RULE 6. FENCING

Section 1. Rules. The United States Fencing Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **Monday** After Thanksgiving. (**November 28**)

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. Friday before the Third Saturday of December. (**December 16**)

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **January 21, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

RULE 7. FIELD HOCKEY

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **August 15, 2011**

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. Thursday before the Second Saturday of September. (**September 8**)

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **October 15, 2011**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Scrimmages. Interschool scrimmages are to be limited to three (3) per week until the first starting date; thereafter, including the week of the first starting date, scrimmages will be subject to the provisions of Rule 7, Section 6.

Section 7. Games Per Week. Not more than a total of three (3) field hockey games may be played per week beginning with the week of the start of the regular schedule (this includes interschool scrimmages, regular games, postponed games, and tournament games), but games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days. This section does not apply to State Tournament scheduling. Any tournament game, exclusive of NJSIAA Tournament play, scheduled for a Saturday, cancelled and rescheduled for Sunday, shall count as one of the three games in the week in which it was originally scheduled. If three games are previously scheduled for the coming week, the Tournament game will be permitted as a fourth game. You may play one four-game week.

Section 8. Maximum Games. A member school may play eighteen (18) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus one tournament, plus the State Tournament; or twenty (20) games, (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus the State Tournament. A tournament shall be of single elimination type, not to exceed thirty-two (32) teams, limited to a maximum of five (5) games.

Section 9. Halves Per Day. A field hockey player shall play in no more than three (3) halves during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. **NOTE:** Overtime periods are a continuation of the second half.

RULE 8. FOOTBALL

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Football Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **August 15, 2011**

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. Friday before the Second Saturday of September. (**September 9**)

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **October 15, 2011**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Scrimmages. Football scrimmages will be permitted twice per week. Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

Section 7. Games Per Nine Days, Per 24-Hour Period. It is recommended that a player participates in no more than two football games during any nine-day period; however, a player may not participate in more than one scheduled game during a twenty-four (24) hour period. This includes freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. A team may not play more than two football games in a period of nine days. The 24-hour period begins with the start of the first game until the start of the next contest.

Section 8. Maximum Games. A member school may play no more than nine (9) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2).

CL 1 Teams indicating their intention to participate in the tournament/consolation game may schedule a maximum of 10 sub-varsity games at each level.

Section 9. Postponed/Suspended Games. Member schools must play a postponed game no later than Tuesday of the following week (Monday if either team is scheduled to play on the following Friday.) This rule also applies to suspended games which are to be continued according to Conference or NJSIAA procedures.

Section 10. Play-off Games. Member schools may, with Executive Committee approval, play play-off games to break a tie for league or conference championships so long as the maximum number of games either school plays during that season does not exceed nine games, including the play-offs. Such play-off must be played no later than ten (10) days after Thanksgiving. This provision not applicable to the NJSIAA Football Play-off resolution.

Section 11. Tie-Breaking Procedure. During the regular season member schools must use the 25 yd. line in the Football Overtime Tie-Breaking Procedure when a scheduled varsity game ends in a tie. If a tie remains after each team has played three (3) series, the results will remain a tie. The procedure may be used at the sub-varsity level when approved by the schools/conference prior to the game.

RULE 9. GOLF

Section 1. Rules. The United States Golf Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA matches.

Section 2. Start of Practice. First Friday of March. (**March 2**)

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. April 1.

Section 4. End of Season. The end of the golf season will be up to and including the Friday before the final NJSIAA championships in softball and baseball. (**June 8**)

Section 5. Transfers on or after **May 1, 2012** not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Team. A team shall consist of a minimum of four (4) players; conferences and/or schools, by mutual agreement, may increase the number of participating players on a team.

Section 7. Match. An interscholastic match shall consist of nine (9) holes; if a match is not completed, the winner will be based upon those holes completed by all players of the teams. If less than five (5) holes have been completed by the teams, the match will be replayed.

CL 1 The girls will use the same tee as the boys in State, Sectional, and Championship Tournaments. During the regular season, girls will use the next forward tee which includes all conference, county, etc. tournaments that take place during the regular season.

Section 8. Scoring.

Article 1....Type of Play – Medal Play.

Article 2....The winner of the match will be the team with the lowest total strokes of the number of players agreed upon by the conference and/or school as set forth in their contract. In case of a tie, one (1) stroke will be deducted from the low medalist's team score; if the low medalist is tied, the second lowest individual score will determine the winner, and so on until the tie is broken.

NOTE: Conferences and/or schools by mutual agreement (interconference or independent) may decide upon medal or match play if provided for in the contract.

RULE 10. GYMNASTICS

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Girls Gymnastics Rules unless modified shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **August 15, 2011**

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. Thursday before the Second Saturday of September. (**September 8**)

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **October 15, 2011**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Meets Per Day. A competitor shall not compete in more than one (1) meet during the same calendar day.

Section 7. Meets Per Week. Not more than a total of three (3) meets may be held per week (including scrimmages, as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), and they may not be held on consecutive days. You may play one four-game week.

Section 8. Postponed Meets. One postponed meet per week may be worked into the scheduling, but under no circumstances shall meets be held on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 9. Maximum Meets. An individual may participate in only fifteen (15) meets per season, plus the State Tournament.

RULE 11. ICE HOCKEY

Section 1 Rules. The National Federation Ice Hockey Rules, with the following exceptions, shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Article 1....The game shall consist of three periods of 15 minutes.

An exception may be allowed when participating out of state.

Article 2....On a disqualification penalty, the player shall be put in the custody of the coach on the bench.

Article 3....There shall be no overtime periods, except in playoffs, regular season tournaments, or when playing out of state.

CL 1 Overtime will be permitted during the regular season only when playing out of state for purposes of complying with the host state's rules.

Article 4....There shall be no limit to non-playing personnel on the bench, but the coach is responsible and must suffer the penalty if any bench disturbance occurs.

Section 2. Start of Practice. November 15.

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. December 1.

Section 4. End of Season. No interscholastic games at any level (subvarsity or varsity) other than the NJSIAA Tournament may be played after the Saturday after completion of the preliminary round of the NJSIAA Tournament.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **January 21, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Scrimmages. Interschool scrimmages are to be limited to three (3) per week until the first starting date; thereafter, including the week of the first starting date, scrimmages will be subject to the provisions of Rule 11, Section 6.

CL 1 Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games

Section 7. Periods Per Day. An ice hockey player shall play in no more than three (3) periods during the same calendar day, with a maximum of twelve (12) periods per week. If a school elects to play a four (4) game week (Rule 11: Section 6) an individual player may not exceed fifteen (15) periods. This would include any combination of subvarsity and varsity competition. NOTE: Overtime periods are a continuation of the third period.

Section 8. Games Per Week. Not more than a total of three (3) ice hockey games may be played per week beginning with the week of the start of the regular schedule (this includes interschool scrimmages, regular games, postponed games, play-off series, and tournament games), but games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days. You may play one four-game week.

Section 9. Maximum Games. A member school may play a total of 26 ice hockey games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2). This would include play-off series and tournaments. The State Tournament would be in addition to the 26 games.

Section 10. Play-offs. A play-off series shall be of a single elimination type not to exceed eight (8) teams and limited to a maximum of three (3) games.

RULE 12. LACROSSE

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Boys Lacrosse Rules and The United States Women Lacrosse Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. First Friday of March. (**March 2**)

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. April 1.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10. (**June 9**)

Section 5. Transfers on or after **May 1, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Scrimmages. Interschool scrimmages are to be limited to three (3) per week until the first starting date; thereafter, including the week of the first starting date, scrimmages will be subject to the provisions of Rule 12, Section 6.

CL 1 Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

Section 7. Games Per Week. Not more than a total of three (3) lacrosse games may be played per week beginning with the week of the start of the regular schedule (this includes interschool scrimmages, regular games, postponed games, and tournament games), but games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days. This section does not apply to State Tournament scheduling. You may play one four-game week.

Section 8. Maximum Games. A member school may play eighteen (18) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2) plus one tournament, plus the State Tournament or twenty (20) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2) plus the State Tournament.

Section 9. Duration of Play. A player shall play in no more than six (3) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition.

RULE 13. SKIING

Section 1. Rules. NCAA Skiing Rules shall govern all NJSIAA meets with the following modifications for safety and scoring.

Article 1....a. Meets shall consist of either the Giant Slalom (2 runs), or the Slalom (2 runs), and shall be so noted in the contract.

b. The order of team competition shall be determined by lot drawing. In tournament competition there shall be two (2) drawings; one for Giant Slalom, and one for Slalom, to determine the order of team competition.

Article 2....A maximum of six (6) racers per team may compete in each meet.

Article 3....Team scoring shall be based on a team's best four (4) finishers whose total time is reflected as a percentage of the first four (4) finishers in the meet.

Article 4....It is required that all team members wear helmets for all practices and meets.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **Monday** after Thanksgiving. (**November 28**)

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. First week of January.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **January 21, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Scrimmages. The six practice days (Rule 2, Section 7) shall cover a period of three (3) calendar weeks before the opening meet. Each of these practices shall involve physical activity and at least three (3) practices must consist of skiing on snow.

Section 7. Maximum Meets. A member school may compete in a maximum of fifteen (15) ski meets including interschool scrimmages, regular meets, postponed meets and invitational meets. The NJISRA Championship Race is not to be included as part of the fifteen-meet maximum. A ski meet is defined as any event in which one entry fee per team is paid (including two-races), is not separated by more than 48 hours, and where the two day combined results determines the winner of the meet or tournament.

RULE 14. SOCCER

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Soccer Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **August 15, 2011**

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. Thursday before the Second Saturday of September. (**September 8**)

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **October 15, 2011**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Scrimmages. Interschool scrimmages are to be limited to three (3) per week until the first starting date; thereafter, including the week of the first starting date, scrimmages will be subject to the provisions of Rule 14, Section 6.

CL 1 Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

Section 7. Games Per Week. Not more than a total of three (3) soccer games may be played per week beginning with the week of the start of the regular schedule (this includes interschool scrimmages, regular games, postponed games, and tournament games), but games may not be played on three (3) consecutive days. This section does not apply to State Tournament scheduling. You may play one four-game week.

Section 8. Halves Per Day. A soccer player shall play in no more than three (3) halves during the same calendar day, with a maximum of nine (9) halves per week. If a school elects to play one four (4) game week (Rule 14, Section 6), an individual may not exceed twelve (12) halves in that four-game week. This would include any combination of freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. NOTE: Overtime periods are a continuation of the second half.

Section 9. Maximum Games. A member school has the option of playing one of the following maximum game schedules:

- Option 1. Sixteen (16) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus two (2) tournaments, plus the State Tournament.
- Option 2. Eighteen (18) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus one tournament, plus the State Tournament.
- Option 3. Twenty (20) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus the State Tournament.

A tournament shall be of the single elimination type not to exceed thirty-two (32) teams, limited to a maximum of five (5) games.

RULE 15. SOFTBALL

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Softball Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

Section 2. Start of Practice. First Friday of March. (**March 2**)

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. April 1.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10. (**June 9**)

Section 5. Transfers on or after **May 1, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Maximum Games. A member school may play twenty-five (25) games including regular season and tournament games, plus one additional tournament, plus the State Tournament.

Section 7. Scrimmages. Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

RULE 16. SWIMMING

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Swimming Rules shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2. Start of Practice. November 15.

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. December 1.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **January 21, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Meets Per Week. Not more than a total of three (3) swimming meets may be held per week beginning with the week of the Start of the Regular Schedule (Rule 2, Section 8) to the start of the State Tournament (this includes interschool scrimmages, regular meets, postponed meets, and invitational meets), but meets may not be conducted on three (3) consecutive days. This section does not apply to State Tournament scheduling.

Section 7. Maximum Meets. A member school may compete in twenty-three (23) meets (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), and the State Tournament. All championship meets count toward the total of twenty-four. You may play one four-game week.

CL 1 Schools with a declared separate boys team and girls team may not swim as a combined team unless swimming against a declared combined team. Declared combined teams may not swim as a separate boys team or a separate girls team in interscholastic meets.

CL 2 Diving will not be included as an event during the regular season, the NJSIAA Power Points championship or in the NISCA Power Points for qualification for the team championship competition. Conferences may include Diving in conference meets. Schools may include Diving in non-conference meets by written agreement of the competing schools.

CL 3 Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

Section 8. Championship Eligibility. A student competing on an interscholastic swimming team must swim as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total meets (while he/she attends said school) to be eligible for the NJSIAA Championship Meet.

CL 1 This means a student must swim in at least 50% of the school's meets up to and including cut-off date while he/she was properly enrolled and eligible at said school according to NJSIAA regulations.

CL 2 Late entries will not be accepted as outlined in Rule 2, Section 13.

Section 9. Officials.

Article 1....A minimum of three (3) NJSIAA registered officials is required for all championship swimming meets.

Article 2....A minimum of two (2) NJSIAA registered officials shall be used for all other varsity meets.

RULE 17. TENNIS (FALL)

Section 1. Rules. The United States Tennis Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA matches.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **August 15, 2011**

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. **September 6, 2011** (after six days of practice)

Section 4. Transfers on or after **September 27, 2011**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 5. Officials. If officials are used for regular season varsity matches, they must be registered with the NJSIAA.

Section 6. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

Section 7. Equipment. Only approved USTA tennis balls shall be used, and new tennis balls must be provided for each match.

Section 8. Meet. An interscholastic meet shall consist of five matches: a First Singles match, a Second Singles match, a Third Singles match, a First Doubles match, and a Second Doubles match. The team winning the majority of the five matches shall be the winner of the meet. A school may not schedule or participate in more than one full meet at the end of a regular school day. Prior unfinished meet make-ups will be allowed.

Section 9. Match. A match shall consist of the best of three sets. The player(s) winning two sets shall be the winner of the match.

Article 1....Participation – No player shall play twice, i.e., a team shall consist of at least seven (7) players.

Article 2....Line-up – Each coach shall establish his/her lineup in writing before the match begins. The coach is obligated to present his/her strongest lineup, in proper order, at the time and place the match is played. This means that the best player scheduled to play at this time must play 1st Singles, the next best 2nd Singles, and the third best 3rd Singles. From the remaining members of the squad, two doubles teams are to be selected with the stronger doubles combination playing 1st Doubles and the weaker playing 2nd Doubles.

Article 3....Substitution – Substitutions will be permitted after the outcome of the meet has been decided; however, Article 1 shall still apply.

Article 4....Interrupted Play – The continuation of interrupted play shall begin at the exact point it was discontinued with regard to score, the person serving, and the side of the court each player was on.

Article 5....Forfeit – In case of injury to a player, the match shall be forfeited if the player cannot continue after fifteen (15) accumulative minutes.

Article 6....Between Sets – Play shall be continuous from the first service to the completion of the match; except that a three (3) minute rest period shall be permitted between the first and second sets, and a ten (10) minute rest period shall be permitted between the second and third sets.

Article 7....Coaches shall teach and demonstrate the ethics of tennis.

Article 8....Tie-Breaker – Sets which reach a 6-6 score shall be decided by playing a 12 point tie-breaker.

RULE 18. TENNIS (SPRING)

Section 1. Rules. The United States Tennis Association Rules shall govern all NJSIAA matches.

Section 2. Start of Practice. First Friday of March. (**March 2**)

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. April 1.

Section 4 Transfers on or after **May 1, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Sections 5 through 9. Same as Rule 17.

RULE 19. CROSS-COUNTRY, WINTER TRACK AND OUTDOOR TRACK

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Track and Field Rules, unless herein modified, shall govern all NJSIAA cross-country, winter track and outdoor track meets.

Section 2. Start of Practice.

Article 1...Cross-Country – **August 15, 2011**.

Article 2...Winter Track – **Monday** after Thanksgiving. (**Nov. 28**)

Article 3...Outdoor Track – First Friday of March. (**March 2**)

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule.

Article 1...Cross-Country – Thursday before the Second Saturday of September. (**September 8**)

Article 2...Winter Track – Friday before the Third Saturday of December. (**December 16**)

Article 3...Outdoor Track – April 1.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10, except Winter Track. End of Season is the last day in February

Section 5. Transfers on or after **October 15, 2011**, not eligible for post-season play in cross-country. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6 Meets Per Day. A competitor shall not compete in more than one meet during the same calendar day.

CL When there are multiple divisions in a meet on the same day at the same site, e.g., freshman, junior varsity, and/or varsity divisions, an athlete may compete in each of the divisions if the contestant does not violate National Federation Participation Rule, which limits the number of events in which a contestant may compete in a given meet, provided that the contestant does not compete more than once in the same event on that date.

Section 7. Meets Per Week. A student shall be permitted to participate in a maximum of three (3) meets per week (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2, and sanctioned and championship invitational meets). During the season, team members who compete in outside meets with the approval of the school remain eligible for NJSIAA competition; such meets to be counted as part of the maximum three (3) per week. Under no circumstances may a student compete on three (3) consecutive days even when a postponed meet is worked into the schedule. (National Federation approved meets are exceptions to this rule.)

Section 8. Postponed Meets. One (1) postponed meet per week may be worked into the schedule, but under no circumstances may a student compete on three (3) consecutive days.

Section 9 Officials.

Article 1...It shall be required that at least three (3) NJSIAA registered track officials be used to officiate in any County, Conference, Invitational, Championship or NJSIAA meets involving four or more teams. Whenever possible, all officials in these meets should be registered.

Article 2...In all dual and triangular Cross-Country Meets there shall be at least one (1) NJSIAA registered track official designated as the Starter-Referee.

Article 3...In all dual and triangular Winter Track and Outdoor Track Meets there shall be at least two (2) NJSIAA registered track officials; one official to supervise Running Events and designated Meet Referee and/or Starter and/or Head Finish Judge; the other to supervise the Field Events and designated Head Field Judge.

Section 10. Jewelry. No jewelry (including watches) is permitted to be worn during competition. Religious medals and medical alert medallions must be taped to the body.

Section 11. Standard Distances/Cross Country. Unless Meet Directors for Open, Conference, and Championship meets have received NJSIAA approval to conduct meets at other distances, the standard distance shall be:

Article 1....Freshman – 3500 meters
 Article 2....Junior Varsity or Novice – 5000 meters
 Article 3....Varsity – 5000 meters

RULE 20. WINTER TRACK

Sections 1 through 3. Same as Rule 19.

Section 4. End of Season. Last day of February (**February 29**)

Section 5. Transfers on or after **January 21, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Sections 6 through 10. Same as Rule 19

Section 11. Number of Contestants.

Article 1....Dual Meet Competition – Each team shall be entitled to five (5) entries per event.

NOTE: This will also apply to Rule 21. Outdoor Track.

Article 2....Triangular Competition – Each team shall be entitled to four (4) entries per event.

Article 3....Open, Conference and Championship Meets – Entries determined by sanctioning body or Meet Director.

Section 12. Standard Events – Boys. As follows: 55 m, 55 m high hurdles (39 inch) 400 m, 800 m, 1600 m, 3200 m, 1600 m Relay, Shot Put, High Jump, and Pole Vault. Any variations must be by mutual consent and listed in the contract, or points shall be forfeited for departure from this rule. Open, Conference, and Championship meets must receive NJSIAA approval for departure from this rule.

Section 13. Standard Events – Girls. As follows: 55 m, 55 m hurdles (33 inch), 400 m, 800 m, 1600 m, 3200 m, 1600 m Relay, Shot Put, High Jump and Pole Vault. Any variations must be by mutual consent and listed in the contract, or points shall be forfeited for departure from this rule. Open, Conference, and Championship meets must receive NJSIAA approval for departure from this rule.

RULE 21. OUTDOOR TRACK

Sections 1 through 4 Same as Rule 19.

Section 5 Transfers on or after May 1, 2012 not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Sections 6 through 10 Same as Rule 19

Section 11. Same as Rule 20 Section 11

Section 12. Standard Events – Boys. As follows: 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, 800 m, 1600 m, 3200 m, 110 m high hurdles (39 inch), 400 m intermediate hurdles (36 inch), 1600 m Relay, Pole Vault, High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Discus, Shot Put, and Javelin (rubber tipped). Any variations must be by mutual consent and listed in the contract, or points shall be forfeited for departure from this rule. Open, Conference and Championship meets must receive NJSIAA approval for departure from this rule.

Attention: 400 m intermediate hurdles (36 inch)				
Hurdle Spacing				
No. of Hurdles	Hurdle Height	Starting Line to First Hurdle	Between Hurdles	Last Hurdle to Finish Line
10	36"	45 m	35 m	40 m

Section 13. Order of Events – Boys. The order of events, unless agreed upon and listed in the contract, shall be: 110 m high hurdles (39 inch), 100 m, 1600 m, 400 m, 400 m intermediate hurdles (36 inch), 800 m, 200 m, 3200 m, 1600 m Relay.

Section 14. Standard Events – Girls. As follows: 100 m, 200 m, 400 m, 400 m Relay (optional), 800 m, 1600 m, 3200 m, 100 m hurdles (33 inch), 400 m hurdles (30 inch), 1600 m Relay, High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Pole Vault, Discus, Shot Put, and Javelin (rubber tipped). Any variations must be by mutual consent and listed in the contract or points shall be forfeited for departure from this rule. Open, Conference, and Championship meets must receive NJSIAA approval for departure from this rule. State Championships will contest and score the triple jump and pole vault.

Section 15. Order of Events – Girls. The order of events, unless agreed upon and listed in the contract, shall be: 100 m hurdles (33 inch), 100 m, 1600 m, 400 m, 400 m hurdles (30 inch), 800 m, 200 m, 3200 m, 1600 m Relay. If 400 m Relay, is included, the contract must also indicate the placement in the order of events.

RULE 22. VOLLEYBALL (FALL)

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Volleyball Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

CL 1 Tournaments (single or multiple days) will not be played using the three-out-of-five (3 of 5) match format. The two-out-of-three (2 of 3) match format may be modified as per Note 2 of Rule 1-2. Also, games may be modified requiring fewer points to win but not raised to require more points to win.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **August 15, 2011**

Section 3. Start of Regular Season. Thursday before Second Saturday of September. **(September 8)**

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10.

CL 1 Final championship for fall volleyball is the Tournament of Champions; therefore, matches can be played up to the finals of the TOC.

Section 5. Transfers on or after **October 15, 2011**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

RULE 23. VOLLEYBALL (SPRING)

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Volleyball Rules shall govern all NJSIAA games.

CL 1 Tournaments (single or multiple days) will not be played using the three-out-of-five (3 of 5) match format. The two-out-of-three (2 of 3) match format may be modified as per Note 2 of Rule 1-2. Also, games may be modified requiring fewer points to win but not raised to require more points to win.

Section 2. Start of Practice. First Friday of March. **(March 2)**

Section 3. Start of Regular Season. April 1.

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10. **(June 9)**

Section 5 Transfers on or after **May 1, 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

RULE 24. WRESTLING

Section 1. Rules. The National Federation Wrestling Rules, unless modified herein, shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2. Start of Practice. **Monday** after Thanksgiving. **(November 28)**

Section 3. Start of Regular Schedule. Friday before Third Saturday of December. **(December 16)**

Section 4. End of Season. As provided for in Rule 2, Section 10. No varsity meets, regular season or tournament, may be scheduled during or after the week of the District Tournament unless said meet had been scheduled during the last week of the regular season and postponed. Junior varsity and/or freshman wrestlers may compete in matches or tournaments during the week prior to the districts provided that the individual JV and/or freshman wrestlers do not participate in the district tournament. No JV or freshman matches or tournaments shall be permitted after the district tournament.

Section 5 Transfers on or after **January 21 2012**, not eligible for post-season play. (See Article IV, Section 4. K.(2).d.)

Section 6. Scrimmages. Interschool scrimmages are to be limited to three (3) per week until the first starting date; thereafter including the week of the first starting date, scrimmages will be subject to the provisions of Rule 2, Section 7.

A wrestler may not compete in more than a maximum of thirty (30) sub-varsity and varsity matches from the first starting date to the start of the NJSIAA Tournament; this includes interschool sub-varsity and varsity scrimmages, dual meets, tri-meets, quad-meets and tournaments. No matches regular season meets or tournaments may be scheduled during or after the week of the District Tournament, but a school may schedule interschool "workouts" (excluding bout format-scoring, no officiating and no weigh-ins) the week of the Districts through the week of the State Finals.

CL 1 Scrimmages during the regular season count toward the allowable number of games.

Section 7. Postponed Meets. Any postponed meet may be added to the regular scheduling as noted in Section 7. Maximum Meets.

Section 8. Maximum Meets. A team may not schedule nor may a wrestler participate in more than four weigh-ins per week. A team may schedule only one event involving more than four teams during the week. A two-day tournament with a weigh-in each day will count as two weigh-ins.

NOTE: Make-up matches must fall within the four weigh-in regulations.

CL 1 A wrestler may not compete in MORE than a maximum of 30 sub-varsity and varsity matches during the regular season (exclusive of the NJSIAA Tournament, Team and Individual). Teams not qualifying for or being eliminated from the Team Tournament may compete consistent with Rule 24, Section 7 and such meets during the week of the Team Tournament will not count towards the maximum thirty (30) sub-varsity and varsity matches governing a wrestler. (Thirty [30] sub-varsity and varsity matches are exclusive of NJSIAA Tournaments, both Individual and Team.)

CL 2 Two-day tournaments that are held on a Saturday and a Sunday will be considered as a tournament for the week of the initial day the tournament starts (in this case Saturday).

Section 9. Weight Certification.

Article 1... **SEE NJSIAA RULES AND REGULATIONS**

NOTE: New Weight Classes: 106 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220, 285

Section 10. Weight Classification.

Article 1...Each Match – A wrestler’s actual weight, minimum certified weight, and weight class at which the wrestler participated must be recorded in the team’s scorebook, in ink, and signed by the referee at the conclusion of the meet.

*CL 1 Each meet – each wrestler’s name, weight class, and actual weight must be recorded on **the OPC** weigh-in form. At the conclusion of the weigh-in period, opposing coaches must sign the form and a copy of this form must be provided to the opposing coach upon request. When a wrestler represents his school at a particular weight class, his name, actual weight, and weight class will immediately be transferred from the weigh-in form and entered in the official scorebook by the official scorer. The scorebook will be signed by the referee at the conclusion of the meet.*

CL 2 Once all the information (name, weight class, and actual weight) from the weigh-in form has been transferred to the scorebook and signed by the referee, the scorebook will become the official document of the meet.

NOTE: Due to the fact that teams may weigh in two or more contestants per weight class, the weigh-in sheet provides both teams with the necessary information of who is eligible to wrestle. The scorebook will record the results of the matches.

A wrestler appearing on a weigh-in sheet at one weight class may move up one weight class at match time, providing he meets National Federation criteria.

Article 2...Weight Class Participation

- (a) A wrestler may never wrestle below that wrestler’s minimum weight classification.
- (b) A contestant shall not wrestle more than one weight class above that class for which the contestant’s actual stripped weight, at the time of weigh-in, qualifies the contestant.
- (c) A contestant may not weigh-in more than one weight class above the weight of certification without recertifying at a higher weight.

CL 1 (a) If a wrestler is certified at 120 pounds, he may only weigh in for the 120 pound or 126 pound weight class without losing his 120 pound eligibility.

(b) If he weighs in at 126 pounds or less for the 126 weight class, he may wrestle 132 at meet time without losing eligibility to wrestle at 120 pounds.

*(c) If he weighs in above 126 pounds, he may wrestle at the 132 weight class **BUT he WILL LOSE** his eligibility at 120 since he has weighed in more than one weight class above his certified weight.*

Article 3...Weight Reduction – At no time is the use of sweat boxes, hot showers, whirlpools, rubber, vinyl or plastic type suits or similar heating devices permitted, for weight reduction purposes. Failure to comply with this regulation shall disqualify an individual from competition.

Section 11. Skin Infection/Contagious Disease.

The official will check and rule on skin infections, contagious diseases, and the like. Before being permitted to wrestle, any wrestler judged not fit to wrestle must present the NJSIAA form from a physician certifying that an exam took place pertaining to that condition within the last seven (7) days, clearing that contestant for competition.

Section 12. Equipment.

- (a) Headgear – It is mandatory that all wrestlers wear a protective headgear at all times during practice and while participating in a match.

Section 13.

1. Any player with two or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of an NJSIAA tournament, will be ineligible to compete in said tournament.

2. Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct prior to the start of a tournament will not be permitted to participate in same. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.

CL 1 Teams with three or more disqualifications cannot win a District Team Championship Title.

**NJSIAA INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES CONCERNING
SCHOOL/COACH/ATHLETE PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

The NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations has for all intent and purposes defined the twelve-month sequence of participation in the following manner:

(A) In-Season; (B) Out-of-Season and (C) Summer Recess

A. In Season

The Constitution clearly stipulates this time frame by our Rules and Regulations and causes few problems with the exception of early season practice and the length of the seasons. The participation limits and association with coaches is clearly established and needs no elaboration here. (Rule 2)

Athletes in some sections of the State play in out-of-school (non-school sponsored) competition which is not prohibited by our rules during the in-season period. This competition is not sponsored by the schools in any way and the NJSIAA does not sanction said participation which is a local option in that regard. (Rule 1, Sec. 8, Art. 1)

B. Out-of-Season Time Frame

During this period athletes may not be involved in intramurals in which they have attained team status. Coaches may participate in these programs as long as their players are not involved. (Rule 1, Sec. 3)

Open-gym and recreation participation are permitted for players as long as their coaches are not present. In the same vein, coaches may be involved but not with their athletes present. (Rule 1, Sec. 4, 5)

Camp/clinic participation is permitted for players provided their coaches are not involved. (Rule 1, Sec 6)

While the open-gym programs can be sponsored by the member schools, recreation and camp/clinic sponsorship is prohibited. (Rule 1)

A Student-Athlete may be involved with a non-school team with the approval of the school in accordance with our rule. (Rule 1, Sec. 8, Art. 2)

PARTICIPATION CHART (OUT-OF-SEASON TIME FRAME)

	<u>Athletes</u>	<u>Coaches</u>	<u>School-Related Sponsorship</u>
Intramurals	(#1) No	Yes (w/a)	Yes
Open-Gym	Yes (w/c)	Yes (w/a)	Yes
Camps	Yes (w/c)	Yes (w/a)	No
Clinics/Participatory	Yes (w/c)	Yes (w/a)	No
Clinics/Non Participatory	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recreation Programs	Yes (w/c)	Yes (w/a)	No
Independent Play	(#2) Yes (w/c)	Yes (w/a)	No

(w/c) – Without Coach

(w/a) – Without Athletes

(#1) – If student has attained team status in the sport being offered. All Freshmen are considered to have team status.

(#2) – An athlete may compete on a non-school team (independent) with approval of the school. See Rule 1, Sec. 8, Art. 2 for Limitations.

C. Summer Recess

Participation Limitations Summer Time Frame – Practice sessions during the summer period are the prerogative of the member school within existing regulations.

A coach/team or Student-Athlete may not be sponsored or supported by a school or school-related group (or Booster Club) when team (interscholastic) or individual competition takes place as part of the activity in: camps, clinics, recreation programs/independent play.

PARTICIPATION CHART (SUMMER TIME FRAME)

<u>Camps</u>	<u>Athletes</u>	School	
		<u>Coaches</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Team Individual Interscholastic Competition	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	No
<u>Clinics</u>			
Team/Individual Interscholastic Competition	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	No
<u>School's Summer Camp(s)</u>			
Practice Only	Yes	Yes	Yes (2)
<u>Recreation/Independent Programs</u>			
Team/Individual	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	No
<u>Open-Gym Facility</u>			
Practice Only	Yes	Yes	Yes (2)

(1) Not representing their school.

(2) ONLY FOR THAT SCHOOL'S ATHLETES/PROGRAMS INVOLVING INTRA-SQUAD PRACTICE.

PLEASE NOTE: The NJSIAA does not regulate or sanction non-school activity and to that extent member schools, for their own protection, are encouraged to inform their coaches and athletes of their independent status when involved in said activities. Information supplied to coaches/athletes should include, but not be limited to, issues dealing with eligibility, injuries, insurance and potential litigation on the part of participants and use of the school name or nickname. In addition, coaches/players must be instructed not to use the school name or nickname in any non-school participation.

TRANSFER CHART (Summary of Key Rules Regarding Transfers)

	<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>SCRIMMAGE</u>	<u>REGULAR SEASON</u>
With bona fide change of residence			
Varsity level Participation	Yes	Yes	Yes
With bona fide change of residence			
Sub-varsity Participation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Without bona fide change of residence			
Varsity level Participation	Yes	No	Yes, after 30 day sit period
Without bona fide change of residence			
Sub-varsity Participation	Yes	Yes	Yes

- **Bona fide change of residence is defined as moving with a parent/guardian from one public secondary school district to another public secondary school district**
- **Varsity Participation is defined as playing in one play of an interscholastic varsity level regular season contest. This participation refers to the previous year prior to the transfer.**
- **30 day sit out period begins with the first regular season interscholastic scheduled contest.**
- **If a transfer occurs during the season of the sport in question, and it requires a 30 day sit out, the clock starts from the first day of attendance in the "new" school.**
- **Note that students transferring during the season may not be eligible for post season competition. See the specific sport regulations (Rules 3 through 24) for more detailed information.**

NJSIAA MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR REVIEW OF OFFICIALS' CHAPTERS

Certification of an Officials' Chapter or Association is at the discretion of the Executive Committee, which may consider, among other things, the need for a new chapter or association, the number of new officials in the membership of the new chapter or association, and whether the new chapter or association was created as a result of a conflict with an existing chapter or association. In addition, all officials' chapters or associations must meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible for consideration by the Executive Committee:

1. The chapter must provide evidence of officiating experience of its membership noting league, conference, or levels of competition and years of service.
2. The chapter must provide a list of their duly elected officers and membership.
3. The chapter must provide a copy of their Constitution and Bylaws for review by the NJSIAA.
4. The chapter must agree to grant the NJSIAA the final authority for testing, training, and evaluating procedures adopted by the chapter.
5. The chapter must provide an outline of their testing, training, and evaluating procedures for certification of prospective and present members. All members must pass an annual written examination, as approved by the NJSIAA.
6. The chapter must agree to comply with all the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA; decisions of the Executive Committee of the NJSIAA; and the tenets of agreements effected by the Officials' Councils and the NJSIAA.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION OF OFFICIALS

The Executive Committee, at its discretion, may approve the certification or registration of officials and/or officials chapters in all sports, and may establish the minimum requirements for testing, training and evaluating of officials.

I. Testing

- (a) Candidate must provide at least two references attesting to his/her character.
- (b) All candidates and members must pass a National Federation Rules Examination or other comprehensive exam approved by the NJSIAA.

II. Training

- (a) Candidates must align themselves with an approved chapter of officials within ninety (90) days of notification of successfully passing the approved exam.
- (b) Chapters must designate a rules interpreter who must attend any NJSIAA Rules Interpretation meeting and who must conduct a chapter rules interpretations meeting prior to the opening of the interscholastic sport season for that sport. Attendance at the annual chapters rules interpretation meeting shall be mandatory for all members.
- (c) Chapters shall conduct meetings at which the rules, the mechanics, and NJSIAA modifications are reviewed for the in-service improvement of officiating. A member shall be required to attend a minimum of three (3) meetings annually.
- (d) Cadet and in-service training programs must be established to insure a high caliber of officiating for the member schools.

III. Evaluation and Certification

- (a) Chapters shall develop a means of evaluating their members for continuing their membership in good standing.
- (b) Chapter secretaries shall furnish the NJSIAA with a list of their members in good standing by the NJSIAA designated date and include payment of dues for members so listed.
- (c) Registration by the Chapter will not be issued or renewed for any adult [An adult is defined as any person eighteen {18} years of age or older]:
 - (1) Convicted, or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt or violation, in regard to an offense against a minor or any sexual offense unless/until such offense has been reversed by proper authority with jurisdiction over the matter; or,
 - (2) Convicted, or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt or violation, in regard to an offense involving any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance as prescribed by federal or state law or regulation, prior to five (5) years following the completion of any sentence/parole/probation period imposed for the offense; or,

(d) Currently Registered Officials

- (1) When a currently registered official is indicted or charged with any indictable criminal offense or charged with a violation of any statute pertaining to minors, drugs or a controlled substance, such license will automatically be suspended, pending resolution or the indictment or charge. Conviction or adjudication of fault, guilt or a violation under any such indictment or charge shall result in immediate and automatic forfeiture of the officiating license.
- (2) Currently registered officials must inform the local chapter of any such indictment or indictable criminal charge immediately upon receipt of or upon having knowledge of such indictment or charge. Failure to notify the chapter shall itself be a basis for immediate and automatic forfeiture of the officiating license.

- (e) Reinstatement/Reapplication for Registration. An official whose registration has been forfeited, suspended or revoked or an applicant who is denied registration, under the provisions of this policy, may petition the chapter for reinstatement/reapplication based on the following:

- (1) If suspension, revocation or forfeiture of registration is based upon conviction, adjudication or finding of guilt as a result of an indictable offense: The official/applicant may petition the chapter for registration one year after the completion of the parole/probation period; other than conviction of illegal illicit drugs, controlled substance where a 5 year probation period is used, or immediately upon dismissal or reversal of the charge or conviction (provided the offense was NOT involving a minor or sexual offense).
- (2) If suspension, revocation, forfeiture or denial of registration is based upon any conviction, adjudication or finding of guilt involving a minor or sexual offense, reinstatement/reapplication will not be permitted, unless/until such offense has been reversed by proper authority having jurisdiction over the matter.

IV. All registered NJSIAA officials are considered independent contractors and not employees of the Association.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (9TH GRADE) ATHLETICS

FOREWORD

The philosophy, objectives and regulations under which Junior High Schools (9th grade) may become members of the NJSIAA are not intended to influence expansion of existing athletic programs, nor to promote programs where none exist, nor to exert undue pressures for the establishment of interscholastic athletic programs in the Junior High Schools (9th grade) of the state.

The recommendations which are made are promulgated toward the establishment of policies and practices for athletic programs in Junior High Schools (9th grade) of New Jersey.

PHILOSOPHY

If athletics are to serve educational ends, they must be wisely guided, developed, and administered as a vital and effective phase of the educational program. Each school district should develop a philosophy of desirable goals and values from which a sound athletic curriculum can be built.

Participation in sound athletic programs contributes to individual development, physical skill, health, strength, self-reliance, emotional maturity, social competencies, and good sportsmanship.

Junior High School (9th grade) athletics shall be an integral part of the Junior High School (9th grade) educational program and the Junior High School (9th grade) Principal shall be responsible for guiding the school athletic program in line with the accepted philosophy of the school. Every school should conduct as complete an athletic program as meets the needs of the Junior High School (9th grade) child. Participation and competition shall be kept at a "readiness level" with the age and physical development of the early adolescent ever in mind.

The intramural program shall be the foundation of the school athletic program providing opportunity for the total school population to meet its athletic needs and interests. The interschool athlete program grows out of and in no way handicaps the intramural program.

In fulfillment of this philosophy member Junior High Schools (9th grade) subscribe to the following:

1. The entire athletic program shall be determined and under the direction of the Principal and faculty of the school.
2. The athletic program shall in no way interfere with the academic program, but rather integrated with other activities essential to Junior High School (9th grade) youth.
3. Interschool athletic participation offers an opportunity for a select group with a special talent to perform.
4. The interschool athletic program through team competition provides children another opportunity to recognize their abilities and limitations.
5. The interschool athletic program provides early opportunities for children to develop and express leadership qualities.
6. The interschool athletic program shall not be a farm or feeder system for high school athletic teams. Improved articulation between Junior (9th grade) and Senior High Schools and community should always be sought.
7. The interschool athletic program should be financed by the local board of education.
8. The interschool athletic program should be administered through established standards and controls. These standards and controls should be established by the schools and administrators or through membership in an association composed of representing groups interested in good wholesome athletic programs for the children of New Jersey.

SPECIFIC REGULATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

Unless otherwise specified in the paragraphs which here follow, the Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for Senior High Schools apply to Junior High School and 9th grade member schools of this Association.

A. Membership

1. Membership in the Junior High School Division of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association is a voluntary one.

2. Any Junior High School approved by the New Jersey Department of Education as a secondary school shall be eligible to apply for membership.
 3. A school shall become a member of the Junior High School Division of NJSIAA when the membership request has been properly executed and it is officially accepted by action of the NJSIAA Executive Committee.
- B. Grade Limitation**
Students in 6th, 7th or 8th grades who will reach age nineteen (19) prior to September 1 of their senior year while properly enrolled in a member school may request a waiver of the Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.I, Pre-High School Student, to have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for four (4) years prior to becoming ineligible.
- C. Interpretation**
This is not meant to restrict grades 7 and 8 from participating with other schools in competition at their own level.
- D. Supervision**
All pupils on Junior High (9th grade) Interscholastic teams must be enrolled in the same school and be under the supervision of the same administrative head.
- E. Classification**
There will be no classification of Junior High Schools on the basis of enrollment.
- F. Eligibility**
1. Academic Requirements
The same eligibility requirements for 9th grade pupils will be enforced as applies in the high schools.
 2. Age Requirements
An athlete becomes ineligible for Junior High School or 9th grade athletics if he/she attains the age of sixteen prior to September 1. However, any athlete attaining age sixteen on or after September 1 shall be eligible for the ensuing school year.
- G. Semester Attendance**
A pupil becomes ineligible for Junior High School or 9th grade interscholastic athletic competition after he/she spends two (2) semesters in the 9th grade.
- H. Transfers**
Article V, Section 4.K of the Bylaws applies.
- I. Dues**
Each school shall be assessed an annual dues of \$60.00 for membership in the Junior High School Division of NJSIAA.
- J. Officials**
It is urgently suggested that qualified and registered officials be used in all interscholastic games.
- K. Safety Measures**
In order to assure Junior High School (9th grade) contestants optimum protection against injury to their bodies and their health, the following minimum regulations shall be enforced:
1. Physical Examination
In each school year before a pupil participates in an organized practice session or game of the athletic program, he/she must have a physical examination and present the athletic Participation Form properly signed by himself and his parents (or guardian). This form shall be filed with the administrative head of the school.
 2. Conditioning Period
To insure good physical condition of participants each athlete should be given sufficient days of practice and conditioning before engaging in any interscholastic contest.
 3. Equipment
Proper equipment and safety precautions must be stressed, such as properly fitted and protective clothing, pads, shoes, helmets, etc.
 4. Facilities
The physical facilities such as playing areas, locker and shower rooms, bleachers, transportation, etc., shall be designed and maintained to safeguard the health and safety of all participants and spectators.
- L. Competition**
1. It is recommended that schools compete with member schools only or with schools following similar regulations.
 2. In contests between Junior and Senior High Schools on a 9th grade level, the Junior High School regulations will be mandatory.
 3. Wrestling weight classes shall be the same as those provided for high schools in the National Federation Wrestling Rules with the following exception:
 - (a) Add a 90-lb. weight class (Wrestler must weigh at least 75 lbs. to compete at this weight class.)
- M. Penalties**
The penalty for violation of these Rules and Regulations may be suspension or expulsion.

NJSIAA PROCEDURES

PROCEDURE – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES AT INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS

Players and coaches involved with alcoholic beverages/illegal substances during or after the game at the game site or on school property, including chartered busses, shall be suspended from NJSIAA tournament play for one year and be denied any championship rights.

This action was taken in support of the fact that such actions concerning alcoholic beverages/illegal substances are in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-15a, N.J.S.A. 2C:33-16, N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10 as noted below.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-15a

Any person under the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages who knowingly possesses without legal authority, or who knowingly consumes any alcoholic beverage in any school, public conveyance, public place, or place of public assembly, or motor vehicle, is guilty of a disorderly persons offense and shall be fined not less than \$100.00...

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-16

Any person of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages, who knowingly and without the express written permission of the school board, its delegated authority, or any school Principal, brings or possesses any alcoholic beverages on any property used for school purposes which is owned by any school or school board, is guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7

Any person who violates subsection a. of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5 by distributing, dispensing or possessing with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous or controlled substance analog while on any school property used for school purposes which is owned by any elementary or secondary school or school board, or within 1,000 feet of any school property or school bus, or while on any school bus, is guilty of a crime of the third degree and shall...

N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10

It is unlawful for any person, knowingly or purposely to obtain, or to possess, actually or constructively, a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog, unless the substance was obtained directly or pursuant to a valid prescription or order form from a practitioner, while acting in the course of his professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized...

STEROID TESTING PROCEDURES

In accordance with Executive Order 72, issued by the Governor of the State of New Jersey, Richard J. Codey, on December 20, 2005, the NJSIAA will test a random selection of student athletes, who have qualified, as individuals or as members of a team, for state championship competition.

1. List of banned substances: A list of banned substances shall be prepared annually by the Medical Advisory Committee, and approved by the Executive Committee.
2. Consent form: Before participating in interscholastic sports, the student-athlete and the student-athlete's parent or guardian shall consent, in writing, to random testing in accordance with this policy. Failure to sign the consent form renders the student-athlete ineligible.
3. Selection of athletes to be tested: Tested athletes will be selected randomly from all of those athletes participating in championship competition. Testing may occur at any state championship tournament or state championship site.
4. Administration of tests: Tests shall be administered by a certified laboratory, selected by the Executive Director and approved by the Executive Committee.
5. Testing methodology: The methodology for taking and handling samples shall be in accordance with current legal standards.
6. Sufficiency of results: No test shall be considered a positive result unless the approved laboratory reports a positive result, and the NJSIAA's medical review officer confirms that there was no medical reason for the positive result. A "B" sample shall be available in the event of an appeal.
7. Appeal process: If the certified laboratory reports that a student-athlete's sample has tested positive, and the medical review officer confirms that there is no medical reason for a positive result, a penalty shall be imposed unless the student-athlete proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that he or she bears no fault or negligence for the violation. Appeals shall be heard by a NJSIAA committee consisting of two members of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director/designee, a trainer and a physician. Appeal of a decision of the Committee shall be to the Commissioner of Education, for public school athletes, and to the superior court, for non-public athletes. Hearings shall be held in accordance with NJSIAA By-Laws, Article XIII, "Hearing Procedure."
8. Penalties. Any person who tests positively in an NJSIAA administered test, or any person who refuses to provide a testing sample, or any person who reports his or her own violation, shall immediately forfeit his or her eligibility to participate in NJSIAA competition for a period of one year from the date of the test. Any such person shall also forfeit any individual honor earned while in violation. No person who tests positive, refuses

to provide a test sample, or who reports his or her own violation shall resume eligibility until he or she has undergone counseling and produced a negative test result.

9. **Confidentiality:** Results of all tests shall be considered confidential and shall only be disclosed to the individual, his or her parents and his or her school.
10. **Compilation of results:** The Executive Committee shall annually compile and report the results of the testing program.
11. **Yearly renewal of the steroid policy:** The Executive Committee shall annually determine whether this policy shall be renewed or discontinued.

ANONYMOUS CONTACT POLICY STATEMENT

The high school principal, athletic director and coaches are responsible for assuring conformation with NJSIAA eligibility and other regulations, as evidenced by the eligibility affidavits. The NJSIAA relies on its member schools to self-report any eligibility or other violations that they may encounter, to avoid penalties in addition to forfeitures set forth in Article X, Section 1 of the Bylaws. The NJSIAA discourages anonymous complaints against schools. If anonymous complaints are received, the NJSIAA will convey that complaint to the school in question to investigate. If the school determines that there is a violation, no penalties will be imposed other than forfeiture. However, if at a later time it is determined by the NJSIAA that there was a violation based on competent evidence, then more substantial penalties may be imposed on the school and/or responsible school athletic personnel.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROCEDURE

The NJSIAA and the National Federation recommend that a physician be present at athletic contests and available (on call) during practice sessions. With many sports activities in progress at any one time, it is often impossible to have physicians present at all contests. In fact, some small communities in rural areas and inner-city schools may not have the services of a physician. This makes it mandatory for the school administrators and coaches to arrange a procedure to obtain medical care and treatment for emergencies to include athletic trainer where applicable.

Some sources of assistance that may be utilized when physicians are not available are certified athletic trainers, emergency medical technicians usually on emergency vehicles, ambulance vehicle with trained personnel, rescue vehicles with trained first-aid personnel and, in some areas, National Guard or Army Reserve medical personnel assigned to ambulance duty. Schools may also have other school personnel qualified in first-aid, who may be available for duty during activities

Recommended procedures that may be followed in successful emergency care are:

1. Immediate, on the spot first-aid by an individual with adequate training.
2. Communication System. An available, non-pay telephone with an outside line to contact a physician or ambulance service. Arrangements should be made in advance to insure availability.
3. Emergency care facility. Arrangements should be made, in advance, with staff personnel of local hospital or clinic to notify, in case of emergency, that emergency service is necessary.
4. Notification. The facility to which the injured player is being transported should be immediately informed of the injured player's status. Necessary personnel and equipment should be available at the facility or physicians, on call, could be notified of the emergency.
5. Transportation. Ambulance, emergency vehicle, first-aid vehicle or rescue vehicle, with appropriate equipment and personnel may be parked at the field or game site. If this procedure is not feasible, prior arrangements should be made to have equipment on call when an emergency develops. Again, an available, non-pay telephone with an outside line should be immediately available.
6. Communities without physicians, medical clinics or hospital service should complete arrangements with medical personnel and hospital facilities in the nearest community where such services are available.

The plan of action specified above should be carefully covered, in advance, with responsibilities of all concerned – trainer, coach, vehicle personnel, school administrators, local police, deputies, or constables – defined. When an emergency does occur, everyone involved can function as an informed, effective team.

Local plans of action to meet emergency situations will vary depending on availability of medical personnel and facilities, the location of the playing field or site and communications. In all cases, the emergency situation plan is best developed through cooperative action of local school personnel, participating professional medical staff and allied groups.

When there is a school physician or community health department providing school health services, the medical people involved should share in the planning. When no such service exists, the school administration should request medical assistance through the local medical professional groups, the county medical society, the community hospital staff or personal contact with a physician. Many doctors may be interested in assisting as team physicians but school administrators should initiate the first contact. Ethics of the medical profession necessitates this procedure.

Understanding is the key to an effective emergency care plan. Everyone involved – school personnel, medical professionals, allied medical groups, transportation staff, and the like – must know exactly what is going to be done in an emergency and who will be responsible for carrying out the various tasks involved. When this procedure has been completed, the players, coaches, administrators, parents, and medical personnel will know that everything possible has been done to protect the health, safety and welfare of a player who may be injured.

TRANSGENDER POLICY

1. A transgender student, defined as a student whose gender identity differs from the student's birth sex, shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in a manner that is consistent with the student's gender identity, under any of the following conditions:
 - a. The student provides an official record, such as a revised birth certificate, a driver's license or a passport, demonstrating legal recognition of the student's reassigned sex, or
 - b. A physician certifies that the student has had appropriate clinical treatment for transition to the reassigned sex, or
 - c. A physician certifies that the student is in the process of transition to the reassigned sex.
2. The determination of a student's sex-assignment for interscholastic athletics shall be made by the student's school.
3. The determination of a student's sex-assignment for interscholastic athletics shall remain in effect for the duration of the student's high school eligibility.
4. In the event of a positive test result under the NJSIAA's "General Prohibition Against Performance Enhancing Drugs," a transgender student's use of a banned substance may be considered by the NJSIAA medical review officer as a medical reason for the positive result.
5. Any member school may appeal the eligibility of a transgender student on the grounds that the student's participation in interscholastic athletics would adversely affect competition or safety.
 - a. Any such appeal will be heard by the Eligibility Appeals Committee.
 - b. The hearing will be confidential.
 - c. The Eligibility Appeals Committee will not consider whether the school has properly determined the student's sex-assignment.

PROCEDURE FOR BOY/GIRL COMPETITION

Although the implementation of Title 6 and the final decision on Boy/Girl participation in interscholastic athletics in New Jersey is the jurisdiction of the Office of Equal Educational Opportunity (OEEO), New Jersey Department of Education, the NJSIAA Executive Committee has approved the following guidelines for NJSIAA athletic programs:

1. Males shall be excluded from female athletic teams although there are no teams for boys in the same sport.
2. Based on the directives of the Commissioner of Education, girls shall be allowed to participate in any boys' sports teams, on an equal basis with boys, provided that the same sports team is not available to girls at that school.
3. Female athletes are not entitled to participate on boys' teams where there are girls' teams in the same sport. However, if particular events are not provided to girls' teams in the same sport, then girls must be allowed to try out for those events not offered to the female team.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

Presented by the NJSIAA Medical Advisory Committee

PURPOSE

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Executive Committee has adopted this policy in an effort to minimize the possibility of transmission of any infectious disease during a high school athletic practice or contest.

The policy primarily addresses bloodborne pathogens such as Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). However, it also discusses Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and commonsense precautions against the spread of less serious infections such as influenza and the common cold.

Much of this policy has been written with contact sports such as football, wrestling, and basketball in mind. However, it is applicable for all sports.

The entire text of this policy is available upon request.

Guidelines for withdrawal of teams from competition upon diagnosis of infectious diseases.

School administrators should rely solely upon the advice of the school's medical inspector in determining the action to withdraw a team from competition when a member is diagnosed as having an infectious disease.

CONCUSSION POLICY

The NJSIAA Concussion Policy mirrors the state law as it pertains to the development of interscholastic athletic head injury safety training program, required measures to protect student athletes with concussions, and the continuing education for athletic trainers.

A student who participates in an interscholastic sports program and who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury while engaged in a sports competition or practice shall be immediately removed from the sports competition or practice. A student-athlete who is removed from competition or practice shall not participate in further sports activity until he is evaluated by a physician or other healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions, and receives written clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return to competition or practice.

Written clearance may take place at game site on game day, if so given by trained physician as stated above. Written release forms, must be present at all practices and competitions. However, once a student-athlete is removed from competition or a practice, only a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions can sign off on a written clearance that would allow a concussed or suspected concussed athlete to return. NJSIAA has created a standardized written, RTP, form that will be available on NJSIAA.ORG. When a student athlete is evaluated by a trained physician and is NOT cleared to return to play or practice that day/night, the school district's Return to Play guidelines shall be followed.

Game officials will follow the protocol previously established and disseminated on September 1, 2010, namely upon observing any signs, symptoms or behaviors that are consistent with a concussion, and the signs, symptoms or behaviors are a result of an impact or contact of the player with another person, an object or the ground, the student athlete is immediately removed from play and may not return to play without a written clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. The mechanics to enforce the rule are as follows:

- Using sound game management procedures and judgment, upon observing a player who exhibits the signs, symptoms or behaviors that are consistent with a concussion, the official shall follow the sport specific guidelines for handling an injured player.
- When appropriate, call time out. If the player's safety is in jeopardy, call time out immediately.
- Beckon the physician/ATC onto the playing surface.
- Observe the injured player.
- Other game officials keep players/others away from the injured player.
- Apprise the physician/ATC of your observations as to the signs, symptoms, behaviors that are consistent with a concussion, including any conversation that you had with the injured player (any questions and answers that took place prior to the physician/ATC arriving).
- Note the game time, score, period or half, player name/number, etc when injury and removal took place (for those sports that officials do not normally keep a game card on their person, begin doing so).
- If the prescribed written clearance form is signed by a physician, and the player returns to play that day/night, the official in charge must obtain a copy of the signed written clearance form and subsequently submit it to the association's keeper of records.

Schools and officials are reminded that NJSIAA is a 100% state, meaning that we follow the playing rules established by the NFHS. Every NFHS sports rule book contains the following:

...Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

“CLUB” PROGRAMS – A MISCONCEPTION

The NJSIAA recognizes twenty (20) separate and distinct sports for which the member schools have approved rules and regulations to govern interscholastic competition. These are listed under Contest Rules, Section 9, Rule 2, Rules and Regulations.

As a pilot program, many member schools have initiated bona fide club programs in a recognized sport to determine the interest and feasibility of seeking Board of Education approval to conduct the program on an interscholastic basis. Most often these programs function with limited financial support from the Board; the coach volunteers his/her services gratis; students, booster clubs, and sometimes the Board provide the equipment; facilities are made available for the program; and before long this club program matures into a skilled, competitive, stature seeking program.

In order to establish a firm credibility for the program, at this point the school agrees to schedule scrimmages or games with schools conducting similar club programs. The misconception is that such scrimmages or games may take place since the Board of Education condones it, even though they have not formally approved the program, without relinquishing the title of a club activity. **THE MOMENT INTERSCHOOL SCRIMMAGES OR GAMES TAKE PLACE, THE PROGRAM IS NO LONGER A CLUB ACTIVITY**, and member schools must adhere to all NJSIAA rules and regulations governing the interscholastic program.

The interscholastic status then requires both schools to conduct their programs within the rules and regulations of the NJSIAA and the State Board of Education; i.e., eligibility forms must be on file, physical examinations are required, seasonal guidelines observed, course requirements must be met, and all other regulatory provisions satisfied.

QUESTION: When does a club program become an interscholastic sport?

ANSWER: The day an interschool scrimmage or game takes place.

All member schools sponsoring programs under the “Club” label and competing in interschool scrimmages or games are reminded they are subject to Executive Committee action within the penalties outlined in the NJSIAA Bylaws, Article X, Section 1 through 3.

PROCEDURE – “COACHES” APPOINTED TO ACCOMPANY TEAMS OR INDIVIDUALS TO NJSIAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Member schools are reminded that a team or an individual is not permitted to compete in NJSIAA Championship events unless a properly appointed “coach” is present, and was present at six (6) practices prior to the event. When making these assignments, a public school must be aware of the provisions of the New Jersey Administrative Code, Section 6A:9-5.19, entitled “Athletics Personnel,” which mandates the requirements which a board of education must follow when appointing individuals in a coaching capacity. The practice of having a parent, a private instructor, or other adults accompany a student-athlete as the coach is a violation of this provision. Your country superintendent will be able to confirm the certification or lack thereof of the individual you are assigning. A properly appointed coach will thereafter be subject to the Rules and Regulations, Rule 2, Section 11 - Out-of-Season Practice.

Although non-public schools are not governed by the provisions of the Administrative Code, it is important that such assignments be made in the best interests of the student-athlete; when a parent, a private instructor, or other adults are appointed as coaches by the principal to accompany student-athletes, such coach will thereafter be subject to the Rules and Regulations, Rule 2, Section 11 - Out-of-Season Practice.

Gymnastics “spotters” must be approved coaches within this regulation; therefore, tournament directors are instructed to disqualify any contestant who is accompanied by someone in a coaching/spotting capacity who is not properly certified by the board of education in public schools or appointed by the principal in non-public schools.

A principal’s signature on the event entry form certifies that the coach/certified faculty member has been appointed by the board of education within the provisions of the Administrative Code or the rules of the private school.

IF A PROPERLY QUALIFIED AND CERTIFIED APPOINTMENT CANNOT BE MADE, THE SCHOOL SHOULD NOT ENTER THE TEAM OR INDIVIDUAL IN AN NJSIAA EVENT.

Such appointments must be approved by the Board of Education; neither the NJSIAA nor the meet director has the authority or the responsibility for enforcement of this statute, sole jurisdiction rests with the Department of Education, and, therefore, a Principal’s signature on the entry form certifies that the coach/certified faculty member has been appointed by the Board of Education within the provisions of Title 6 Education.

National Athletic Trainers' Association Pre-Season Heat Acclimatization Guidelines for Secondary School Athletics

DEFINITIONS

Before participating in the preseason practice period, all student-athletes should undergo a pre-participation medical examination administered by a physician (MD or DO) or as required/approved by state law. The examination can identify predisposing factors related to a number of safety concerns, including the identification of youths at particular risk for exertional heat illness.

The *heat-acclimatization period* is defined as the initial 14 consecutive days of preseason practice for all student-athletes. The goal of the acclimatization period is to enhance exercise heat tolerance and the ability to exercise safely and effectively in warm to hot conditions. This period should begin on the first day of practice or conditioning before the regular season. Any practices or conditioning conducted before this time should not be considered a part of the heat-acclimatization period. Regardless of the conditioning program and conditioning status leading up to the first formal practice, all student-athletes (including those who arrive at preseason practice after the first day of practice) should follow the 14-day heat-acclimatization plan. During the preseason heat acclimatization period, if practice occurs on 6 consecutive days, student-athletes should have 1 day of complete rest (no conditioning, walk-throughs, practices, etc).

Days on which athletes do not practice due to a scheduled rest day, injury, or illness do not count toward the heat-acclimatization period. For example, an athlete who sits out the third and fourth days of practice during this time (eg, Wednesday and Thursday) will resume practice as if on day 3 of the heat-acclimatization period when returning to practice on Friday.

A *practice* is defined as the period of time a participant engages in a coach-supervised, school-approved, sport- or conditioning-related physical activity. Each individual practice should last no more than 3 hours. Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are included as part of the 3-hour practice time. Regardless of ambient temperature conditions, all conditioning and weight-room activities should be considered part of practice.

A *walk-through* is defined as a teaching opportunity with the athletes not wearing protective equipment (eg, helmets, shoulder pads, catcher's gear, shin guards) or using other sport-related equipment (eg, footballs, lacrosse sticks, blocking sleds, pitching machines, soccer balls, marker cones). The walk-through is not part of the 3-hour practice period, can last no more than 1 hour per day, and does not include conditioning or weight-room activities.

A *recovery period* is defined as the time between the end of 1 practice or walk-through and the beginning of the next practice or walk-through. During this time, athletes should rest in a cool environment, with no sport- or conditioning-related activity permitted (eg, speed or agility drills, strength training, conditioning, or walk-through). Treatment with the athletic trainer is permissible.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 14-DAY HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION PERIOD

Core Principles:

1. Days 1 through 5 of the heat-acclimatization period consist of the first 5 days of formal practice. During this time, athletes may not participate in more than 1 practice per day.
2. If a practice is interrupted by inclement weather or heat restrictions, the practice should recommence once conditions are deemed safe. Total practice time should not exceed 3 hours in any 1 day.
3. A 1-hour maximum walk-through is permitted during days 1–5 of the heat-acclimatization period. However, a 3-hour recovery period should be inserted between the practice and walk-through (or vice versa).
4. During days 1–2 of the heat-acclimatization period, in sports requiring helmets or shoulder pads, a helmet should be the only protective equipment permitted (goalies, as in the case of field hockey and related sports, should not wear full protective gear or perform activities that would require protective equipment). During days 3–5, only helmets and shoulder pads should be worn. Beginning on day 6, all protective equipment may be worn and full contact may begin.
 - A. Football only: On days 3–5, contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may be initiated.
 - B. Full-contact sports: 100% live contact drills should begin no earlier than day 6.
5. Beginning no earlier than day 6 and continuing through day 14, double-practice days must be followed by a single-practice day. On single-practice days, 1 walk-through is permitted, separated from the practice by at least 3 hours of continuous rest. When a double practice day is followed by a rest day, another double practice day is permitted after the rest day.
6. On a double-practice day, neither practice should exceed 3 hours in duration, and student-athletes should not participate in more than 5 total hours of practice. Warm-up, stretching, cool-down, walk-through, conditioning, and weight-room activities are included as part of the practice time. The 2 practices should be separated by at least 3 continuous hours in a cool environment.
7. Because the risk of exertional heat illnesses during the preseason heat-acclimatization period is high, we strongly recommend that an athletic trainer be on site before, during, and after all practices.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION OF COACHES

The *New Jersey Administrative Code* sets forth qualifications for the coaching of public school pupils. These qualifications are found at *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.19*, as follows:

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.19 Athletics personnel

- (a) Any teaching staff member in the employ of a district board of education shall be permitted to organize public school pupils for purposes of coaching or for conducting games, events or contests in physical education or athletics.
- (b) School districts shall be permitted to employ any holder of a New Jersey teaching certificate to work in the interscholastic athletic program provided that the position has been advertised.
- (c) In the event there is no qualified and certified applicant, the holder of a county substitute credential pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5* is authorized to serve as an athletic coach in the district in which he or she is employed for a designated sports season, provided that:
 1. The district chief school administrator demonstrates to the county superintendent that:
 - i. The vacant coaching position had been advertised; and
 - ii. There was no qualified applicant based on the written standards of the district board of education;
 2. The district chief school administrator provides a letter to the county superintendent attesting to the prospective employee's knowledge and experience in the sport in which he or she will coach; and
 3. The district board of education obtains the county superintendent's approval prior to such employment. The 20-day limitation noted in *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-6.5(b)* shall not apply to such coaching situations.

NJSIAA COACHING CERTIFICATION AND REGULATIONS

A person shall be eligible to coach in any interscholastic contest, provided the person satisfies all of the conditions listed below (For the purposes of this section, "coach" shall mean all persons who coach an interscholastic high school athletic team in any way, whether for pay or as a volunteer at the varsity, junior varsity and/or freshman level – ninth grade through twelve grade).

In addition to State Department of Education Regulations, the following regulations must be adhered to:

1. The person's appointment as coach must be approved by the local educational agency responsible for the member school at which the person coaches.
2. All new coaches will have one year after being hired to register for the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching (Blended Version) course. Upon completion of the classroom components, coaches will have sixty (60) days to complete the remaining four (4) components. A certificate of course completion must be submitted to respective athletic supervisors by June 30th to be eligible to coach at an NJSIAA member school for the subsequent school year.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY A COACH TAKE THE NFHS FUNDMENTALS of COACHING COURSE COMPLETE-LY ON-LINE (the on-line version does NOT contain the specific NJSIAA component).

3. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, all new coaches will have one year after being hired to successfully complete a course in "Sports First Aid."
4. All coaches must be CPR certified **and [AED] certified**.
5. Coaches currently in place, and/or who have experience coaching in an NJSIAA high school prior to the 2006-2007 school year, will be exempt from provisions 2 and 3 above. (While experienced coaches will not be required to adhere to all of the provisions listed above, it is recommended that all coaches complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching and Sports First Aid Courses in addition to having CPR certification.)

Note: The above regulations do not apply to the coaches appointed by the school to accompany student athletes to individual events.

Paraprofessional Aide Positions

Nothing in the rules governing coaching positions would preclude a board of education from creating, pursuant to *N.J.A.C. 6A:32-4.7*, paraprofessional aide positions to assist in the supervision of athletic activities under the direction of a certified coach. However, all such positions must be created and maintained in full compliance with the provisions of *N.J.A.C. 6A:32-4.7*, including requirements for written job descriptions and qualification standards, and approvals by, and annual reporting to, the county superintendent. As with classroom aides employed to assist certified teachers, athletic paraprofessionals may only function under the direct supervision of a certified coach, or if not assisting with coaching duties, under the direct supervision of designated certified staff; they may not independently undertake coaching duties or any other duties requiring educational certification. Additionally, all persons employed by a district in a paraprofessional capacity (i.e., not serving on a volunteer basis) are subject to the criminal history record check law.

If a board contemplates the use of an aide (paid or unpaid), the policies of the local board must be adopted and in place regarding this type of position, and the rules of the league or conference to which the district belongs must be followed.

Please contact your county superintendent of schools should you have any questions.

PROCEDURE – DISQUALIFICATION OF COACHES/PLAYERS

The following guidelines will serve to implement, clarify and interpret the provisions of Note 4: Specific Sport Regulations, on pages 93-95 of the NJSIAA Handbook.

The rules in many sports are now providing explicit instructions as to the removal of a coach/player from the game and the designated area to which they are assigned. **IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES WHICH REQUIRE DISQUALIFICATION WITHIN A SPORT, THE OFFICIAL MUST BE COGNIZANT OF THESE RULES AS THEY APPLY TO THAT SPECIFIC SPORT.** These circumstances have necessitated establishing specific guidelines for officials to follow when a coach/player is disqualified.

Whenever it becomes necessary to disqualify a coach from the game, the official should ascertain the availability of another coach or qualified faculty member who can assume responsibility for the team, and then employ the following procedures:

1. If the administrator or representative is able to designate such a person, the disqualified coach should be removed from the immediate area;
2. If the administrator or representative is not able to make this designation, the disqualified coach should be assigned to an area where the coach can visually observe the game and be available to protect the safety and welfare of the team. If the disqualified coach uses this privilege to communicate with the team or is again guilty of an unsportsmanlike act, the game shall be terminated and the Central Office of the NJSIAA notified in writing.
3. Any coach/player disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two (2) regularly scheduled games/meets, with the exception of football which will carry a one (1) game disqualification, at that level of competition and all other game(s) meet(s) in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties which the NJSIAA or a league/conference may assess. Such disqualification prevents a coach/player from being present at the site.

CL 1 Definition of not being present at the site means the disqualified player or coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the bus, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet.

Any player/coach in violation of this provision will be cause for forfeiture of those games during the period of disqualification.

CL 2 These NJSIAA procedures will supersede a playing rule which requires a coach or player to leave the premises upon disqualification; therefore, a player will be confined to the bench area to remain under the supervision of the coach. If said player continues to be disruptive or acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, the official may terminate the game/event.

Officials must use discretion in exercising their prerogative as most often these situations call for a high degree of tact. The unruly coach should be dealt with in a stern but courteous manner the very first time actions prompt any cautioning by an official. This will usually forestall any punitive measures having to be taken at a later and more critical time of the game.

Mechanics at Time of Disqualification

1. Call time out – stop the action.
2. Do not hurry – if player is disqualified, request player to accompany you to the coach – go directly to coach, if player hesitates – give a direct statement of explanation to the coach/player as to why “player” was disqualified – do not debate the issue – be professional, courteous and assertive. If coach is disqualified, same procedure applies.
3. Go to opposing coach, and give exact same statement.
4. Resume the game.

Upon Conclusion of Game

1. If conditions permit, include a brief explanation of reason for disqualification, name and/or number of coach/player and offending school in each team’s scorebook before signing same, if signature is required.
2. Any questions relative to period of disqualification should be referred to NJSIAA. The official is not an enforcer of the additional game(s) disqualification; however, if the official is aware of the presence of a coach/player at a game during the disqualification period, the offending individual should be reported to the NJSIAA by the official.
3. The coach of the offending team (freshman, junior varsity, varsity has a dual responsibility with the official to report each disqualification to his/her Athletic Director in person or via phone by noon of the next day. Failure of a coach/official to follow the prescribed procedure in reporting the disqualification *does not* void the penalty and, if the official is at fault, it should be reported to the official’s Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA.
4. A written report on the NJSIAA Disqualification Form (no other form will be accepted) must be forwarded to the offending school’s Principal by the official(s) within three (3) days of the disqualification; a copy of this report must also be forwarded to the official(s)’ Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA Central Office. **FAILURE TO FILE THESE REPORTS WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE ACTION BY THE CHAPTER AND THE NJSIAA.**

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association

1161 Route 130 North, P.O. Box 487

Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

Disqualification Form/Termination of Game

Please Print or Type

All information must be supplied.

RE: NJSIAA Rules & Regulations, Rule 2
Specific Sport Regulations, Note 4

Sport _____ Level: _____ Frosh Date of Event _____

_____ JV Ejection _____

Men's _____ Women's _____ _____ Varsity Termination _____

Home School _____ Opponent _____

Conference _____

Official(s) Assigned (please print)

Phone Numbers

_____ Home _____ Work _____

_____ Home _____ Work _____

_____ Home _____ Work _____

_____ Home _____ Work _____

Player/Coach Disqualified _____

(name and number)

School _____

Reason for Ejection: Unsportsmanlike flagrant misconduct - Physical ()

Reason for Termination: Verbal ()

Description: (Use reverse side if necessary)

Signature of Official Who Declared Disqualification/Termination _____

Date Filed _____

This form must be used for all sports.

Referee/Umpire/Official **must** file this report within **three (3) days** of disqualification/termination to:

1. Offending School Principal (s)
2. Chapter Secretary
3. NJSIAA – PO Box 487 Robbinsville, NJ 08691

REMINDER: The school athletic director must be notified by the official in person or by phone no later than noon of the next day following the disqualification.

THIS FORM MAY BE FAXED TO THE NJSIAA @ 609-259-3047

IF FAXED PLEASE DO NOT FOLLOW WITH HARD COPY

5. Disqualifications for Federated/Non-Member Schools will not be reported to the NJSIAA. Officials will forward D.Q. forms to the Federated School Ex. Sec. for their records. Any disqualifications for member schools will continue to be reported to the NJSIAA regardless of the opponent's status.

ATTENTION:

- (a) Once a coach/player has been disqualified, NO appeals will be honored from the player, coach, official or any other party. Disqualification is a judgement call and officials must be certain the act warrants disqualification. All complaints against an official must be directed to the official's Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA.
- (b) Any coach who is disqualified a second time in single or multiple sports within a 365 day period will be required to appear before the Controversies Committee.

Clarifications – Disqualification Rule

The Cardinal Rule is:

- Officials officiate the game.
- Coaches coach the game.
- Players play the game.
- Concentrate on your area of the game.

CL 1 Officials are reminded that prudent judgement should be utilized prior to any disqualification. An official may not have a "change of mind" after the disqualification has been enforced; there is no such condition as "the act was not serious enough for the player/coach to be disqualified from additional game(s)." All disqualification for flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct will always carry the additional game(s) penalty; flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct is not a "playing rule" violation. The determination of disqualification must be made at the time of the violation.

CL 2 Flagrant is a glaring action by a player or coach which is excessive physical play or unacceptable conduct as adjudged by the game/meet official(s).

CL 3 Regular season, rescheduled or tournament games which are in place prior to the disqualification will be used to satisfy the penalty; any games arranged by the school after the disqualification to be played during the disqualification period will be added to the penalty. Scrimmages cannot be used to satisfy the disqualification rule. The competition must begin in order to fulfill the requirements of the disqualification rule.

CL 4 "Not being present at the site" means the disqualified player or coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet. Any player/coach in violation of this provision will be cause for forfeiture of those games during the period of disqualification.

CL 5 Ejection or removal of a player for a specific sport rule will carry the disqualification penalty only when it includes a flagrant unsportsmanlike act.

CL 6 Seniors who are disqualified from their last game will serve the penalty in a subsequent sports season. When seniors are disqualified from their last game of their high school careers, member schools are required to take proper administrative action to discipline the offending student.

CL 7 Seniors who quit a sport and have not fulfilled their penalty in that sport, must serve it in the new sport before beginning playing in the new sport.

CL 8 Any player/coach disqualified in single or multiple sports for a second time will have the penalty doubled (i.e., in football disqualified for two (2) games; all other sports – four (4) games. Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.

CL 9 Any player with two or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of an NJSIAA tournament, will be ineligible to compete in said tournament. A second disqualification for an individual in any game/meet/match supersedes NFHS rules in this regard.

CL 10 Any varsity team accumulating three or more player or coach disqualifications for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct prior to the start of a tournament will not be permitted to participate in same. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.

CL 11 Single/multiple sports – on the third offense; players disqualified will be suspended indefinitely, and must apply, in writing, to the NJSIAA through the office of their Principal for reinstatement. Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.

CL 12 Any coach disqualified a second time in single or multiple sports in a 365 day period from the date of the first disqualification will be required to appear before the Controversies Committee with the Principal and the Athletic Director.

CL 13 Any coach who is disqualified and/or has three or more players on a team disqualified during the course of the preceding school year must complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course. This course license must be obtained from the NJSIAA with the course completion certificate due to the NJSIAA within sixty (60) days of initial NJSIAA notification of the disqualification requirement.

PROCEDURE FOR FILING REQUEST FOR AN ELIGIBILITY WAIVER

The NJSIAA Eligibility Committee meets prior to each Sports Season and at the end of the school year to review eligibility waiver requests. For said request, schools must forward to the NJSIAA Central Office 15 copies of the following, ten days prior to the scheduled meeting:

1. A letter from the Principal requesting a ruling noting any pertinent factors which will aid the Eligibility Committee or the Eligibility Appeals Committee in their review of the case.
2. The NJSIAA Eligibility Waiver Request Form filled in completely. The date of birth must be included along with a record of the student's participation in interscholastic athletics, noting sport and year.
3. A complete transcript of the student's scholastic record from first entrance into the ninth grade to the present with written consent of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to release same.
4. Any relevant documentation which will be helpful to the Committee such as the parent's letter, a hospital/physician's/psychologist's/psychiatrist's/Counselor's report or a Child Study team's recommendation.

All appeals from initial decisions of the Eligibility Committee, as well as initial decisions when the Eligibility Committee cannot consider an eligibility request in a timely fashion, shall be determined by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. The Principal or assigned representative must be present to provide information for the appeal before the Eligibility Appeals Committee. In addition, all parties are entitled to be represented by Counsel. The Eligibility Appeals Committee will rule on eligibility requests in emergent circumstances provided the Principal requests a case to be considered and so states in writing.

Requests for waiver of an NJSIAA regulation by any party other than the school will be heard and interpreted as not having the support of the school when the Principal or his/her authorized representative is not present.

The Eligibility Appeals Committee will make initial eligibility decisions in the interim between Eligibility Committee meetings and in all unsigned Transfer cases.

PROCEDURE FOR SUSPENDED FOOTBALL GAMES

Games interrupted/suspended due to reasons beyond anyone's control, e.g., electrical storms, torrential rains and the like. All games to be continued will be at the site of the interrupted game unless otherwise agreed upon by competing schools.

- a. If both schools agree, the game will be a completed game or the game will be continued from the point of interruption but no later than Tuesday of the following week.
- b. If both schools belong to the same Conference (divisional or inter-divisional game), the Conference must have adopted guidelines in the event the schools do not agree to resolve the issue by mutual agreement; however, if the game is to be continued from the point of interruption, it must be played no later than Tuesday of the following week.
- c. If the game is a non-conference game, and the schools do not agree to resolve the issue, the NJSIAA will resolve the issue as follows:
 1. If the point difference is twenty-two (22) points or more, the game shall be a completed game regardless of the point of interruption.
 2. If the interrupted game has completed three (3) quarters, the game will be a completed game.
 3. If the game is interrupted after the completion of the first half and the point difference is fifteen (15) or more points, the game shall be a completed game.
 4. All other games, except as provided in #5, will be continued from the point of interruption no later than Tuesday of the following week. If the schools cannot agree on the date, the game will be continued on the Monday following the game at 3:00 p.m.
 5. Whenever it is not considered prudent to complete an interrupted game, the Executive Director will have the authority to rule on the status of the game.

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association
ELIGIBILITY WAIVER REQUEST FORM

Please attach the Principal's letter, stating the reasons for the request of a waiver, along with the student's transcript and this form and forward to the NJSIAA. The NJSIAA requires that this form be completed by the school/parties requesting said waiver. Back-up documentation in the form of school records, doctor's notes, etc. must accompany this form.

SCHOOL/CITY _____ATHLETIC DIRECTOR _____

STUDENT'S NAME _____ AGE _____ D.O.B. _____

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN NAME _____

STUDENT'S HOME ADDRESS _____

TYPE OF WAIVER REQUESTED: AGE _____ CREDITS _____ SEMESTERS _____

Date of initial entrance into 9th Grade _____ at _____ School

Academic History: (Please attach complete transcript from initial 9th grade to present)

	<u>Credits Earned</u>	<u>Year Earned</u>	<u>School</u>
9 th Grade	_____	_____	_____
10 th Grade	_____	_____	_____
11 th Grade	_____	_____	_____
12 th Grade	_____	_____	_____

Classification

Type of classification: _____

Date of reevaluation: _____

Date of original classification: _____

Indicate Special Education program, placement or modifications for current school year:

Student's Athletic Participation since first entrance into the ninth grade:

<u>School/Year</u>	<u>Sport(s)</u>	<u>Level</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Request Eligibility for the following sport(s):

Principal's Signature _____

Date _____

Phone _____

Required Enclosures:

NOTE: The parents/guardians also agree to the submission to the NJSIAA of any pertinent records, including transcripts and classification information, maintained by the schools.

- _____Principal's Letter
- _____Transcript(s)
- _____Information relevant to case (if applicable)
- _____Eligibility Waiver Request Form

**PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING AN EXCEPTION TO THE TRANSFER RULE, BYLAWS,
ARTICLE V, SECTION 4.K (2), FOR THOSE EXCHANGE STUDENTS SPONSORED
BY AN ACCEPTED FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

DEFINITION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT/ACCEPTED PROGRAMS

Any student transferring from a foreign high school under the sponsorship of an accepted foreign exchange program listed on pages 87-88.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

ALL INFORMATION MUST BE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

1. Student is eligible only if enrolled for credit.
2. Eligibility must be verified and approved by the NJSIAA prior to interscholastic participation.
3. The NJSIAA will not process any eligibility requests until all documentation as listed below has been forwarded to the Central Office.
A copy of:
 - a. Birth certificate. (DOB on passport is accepted.)
 - b. Month/year of first entrance into 9th grade or month/year of 9th year beyond kindergarten, signed by the Principal of the foreign school.
 - c. A transcript of scholastic record, starting with the first entry into the 9th grade or 9th year beyond kindergarten signed by the Principal of foreign school.
 - d. Verification of sponsorship by the foreign exchange agency.
 - e. Attach description of the living accommodation accorded the student and the amount of contact between the student/parents and the school's coaching or athletic staff. (Signed by host parent.)
4. Exception to any student eligibility rule shall not be granted if "sufficient evidence" exists to "reasonably believe" that "non-compliance to the rule in question was motivated by the student's, a community person's, or school's effort to gain a desired athletic advantage or to intentionally circumvent a rule."
5. A completed Foreign Student Application Form. This form must be completed by the present school NOT BY THE FOREIGN STUDENT. It is the responsibility of the foreign exchange agency to secure the foreign school Principal's signature on transcripts and record of interscholastic athletic participation.
6. Direct Placement. Until recently only the school's coaching staff, athletic director, and his/her staff were held responsible for contacting and/or speaking to possible Foreign Exchange students to the United States. Now NO ONE in the foreign country or the USA may speak with the student or his/her parents. A direct placement is one in which either the student or the sending organization in the foreign country is party to an arrangement with any other party, including school personnel, for the student to attend a particular school or live with a particular host family. Such direct placement must be reported to the particular school and the National Federation of State High School Associations prior to the first day of classes. Probably the best approach to take is for you and your subordinates not to get involved with the foreign exchange student process until the student officially enrolls in your school.
6. Consistent with Article V, Section 4.K and Section 3.d of the Interpretive Guidelines, all Foreign Student Applications will be reviewed by the NJSIAA staff to assure compliance with eligibility requirements. To allow time for such review, completed applications must be submitted immediately upon the foreign student's entry into the member school, and notification of interest to participate in interscholastic athletics. If the NJSIAA staff determines that there is sufficient evidence to reasonably believe that the transfer was motivated by the student's, a community person's, or school's effort to gain a desired athletic advantage or to intentionally circumvent a rule, then the foreign student will be ineligible until a hearing is held by the Eligibility Appeals Committee (EAC) within thirty (30) days and an oral decision reached on that date, which shall be expressed more fully in writing by the EAC within ten days. Until such hearing is concluded, the foreign student shall be ineligible.

ACCEPTED PROGRAMS

Students sponsored by accepted foreign exchange programs (CSIET) must file an NJSIAA Foreign Exchange Student Request for Eligibility form prior to participating.

FOREIGN STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO A MEMBER SCHOOL INVOLVING RECRUITMENT OR TO SEEK AN ATHLETIC ADVANTAGE WILL BE DECLARED INELIGIBLE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AND SCHOOLS DELIBERATELY PARTICIPATING IN SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE ADOPTED POLICY AND CRITERIA REGARDING FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A foreign exchange program's primary purpose is to improve the foreign student's knowledge of American culture and language through active participation in family, school and community life.

SELECTION

Sponsors must assume responsibility for selection of students to participate, limited to secondary school students who have not graduated from a foreign secondary school with comparable requirements of a secondary school in the U.S. Sufficient knowledge of English to enable the student to function in an English-speaking environment shall be a part of the screening criteria.

NOTE: Students who have graduated from a foreign secondary school are ineligible until they secure verification that the school's graduation requirements are not comparable to a secondary high school in New Jersey.

One such agency for verification is:

World Education Service, Inc.
Bolling Green Station
PO Box 5087
New York, NY 10274-5087
Phone: 212-966-6311

AGREEMENTS

Sponsors are responsible for assuring the terms are fully understood by students and parents and hosts. To provide written provisions to the host school and host family and specify clearly total costs

ORIENTATION

For student participants an orientation program, both pre-departure and upon arrival in the United States, must be conducted, written copies of the program criteria provided and notification that eligibility to participate in activities must be met prior to participation.

PRIOR TO 9TH GRADE

Registration with the NJSIAA of a foreign-born student is not required if that student has begun his/her schooling in a member school district below the 9th grade level.

INSURANCE

The program sponsor is responsible for insuring every student selected to participate with at least the minimum coverage required by the criteria. Such information shall be provided to the host school including the amount and carrier of insurance.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

Sponsors must plan to ensure students are not clustered. No more than four (4) foreign students placed by a sponsor will be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a member school. No more than two (2) foreign exchange/foreign students may represent a high school in the same sport.

No placement without first notifying and obtaining consent of the high school Principal. Approval for admission must be obtained.

Placement must be arranged at least five weeks in advance of student's departure from the student's native country and must be prior to arrival in the United States. Placement shall be made by the sponsors at random and without requests in the name of a specific student being made by the student or representative of the school for the school.

The United States host family placement must be made before the arrival of the student in the United States. The host family shall have the right of refusal for hosting a named student, but shall not be offered choices nor be allowed to specify.

SUPERVISION

Sponsors must assume the responsibility for resolving problems, including, if necessary, the changing of host families and the early return home of the exchange students because of personal or family difficulties. Contacts with students and their host families shall be made periodically throughout their exchange visit. The host family shall be provided with a copy of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of both local and national officials who can be contacted at any time in case of an emergency or other problems.

EMPLOYMENT

Students are not permitted to accept full time employment during their stay in the United States. However, noncompetitive small jobs, not to exceed ten (10) hours per week are permitted.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The sponsors must guarantee return transportation for students, demonstrated by purchase of round-trip tickets on regularly scheduled flights or chartered flights, or combination of the two.

Sponsors are required to make available for review by the Department of State an audited financial statement of their operations.

REPORTS

Sponsors must furnish the Department of State an annual report on their programs at the end of each year. A copy of this report shall be made available to host schools upon request.

SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM DESIGNATION

Sponsors who are found to be in violation of the above criteria are subject to having program designations suspended or revoked in accordance with Section 63.16 of the Regulations Governing Designated Exchange Visitor Program.

NJSIAA ELIGIBILITY

- A. For the purpose of eligibility in NJSIAA member schools, foreign students sponsored by *a program that does not meet* the above criteria shall be required to comply with the Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K (2).
- B. For *a program that meets the above criteria* the students sponsored by such a program recognized by NJSIAA as meeting the above criteria may have the transfer rule waived by application to the NJSIAA Executive Director via NJSIAA provided "Foreign Exchange Students Request for Eligibility" form.
- C. The NJSIAA Executive Committee has defined an Accepted Foreign Exchange Program as one which one has been accepted by CSJET. (Council on Standards for International Educational Travel) and included in the following listing.

ORGANIZATIONS ACCEPTED FOR LISTING IN THE CSJET 2010-20101 ADVISORY LIST

Name of Organization

Academic & Cultural Exchange
Academic Foundation for International Cultural Exchange (AFICE)
AFS-USA
American Academic & Cultural Exchange, Inc.
American Councils for International Education (ACTR/ACCELS)
American Cultural Exchange Service
AIFS Foundation - Academic Year in America
American Intercultural Student Exchange
Amicus International Student Exchange
ASPECT Foundation
ASSE International Student Exchange Program
ASSIST (American Secondary Schools for International Students & Teachers)
Association for Teenage Diplomats
AYUSA International
Azumano International
Center for Cultural Interchange
Council for Educational Travel, USA
Council for International Educational Exchange
Cultural Academic Student Exchange
Cultural Homestay International
Education Travel and Culture
Educational and Cultural Interactions
Educational Resource Development Trust (ERDT/SHARE!)
EF Foundation for Foreign Study
Face the World Foundation
F.L.A.G..
Forte International Exchange Association
Foundation for Academic Cultural Exchange
Foundation for Worldwide International Student Exchange
German American Partnership Program, Inc. (GAPP)
Global Insights
International Cultural Exchange Services
International Experience USA
International Fellowship
International Student Exchange
The Laurasian Institution
Learning and Achievement Foundation
Nacel Open Door
NorthWest Student Exchange
NW Services PEACE Program
Organization for Cultural Exchange Among Nations (OCEAN)
Pacific Intercultural Exchange

PAX - Program for Academic Exchange
Peace4Kids, Inc.
Quest International
Reflections International
Rotary Youth Exchange Program
States' 4-H International Exchange Programs
STS Foundation
Student American International
Terra Lingua USA
The Traveling School
United Studies Student Exchange
World Experience
World Heritage
World Link, Inc.
Youth For Understanding USA

- D. The NJSIAA Executive Committee shall review as needed and adopt for NJSIAA eligibility purposes a list of programs. The NJSIAA Executive Committee reserves the right to remove from this list, any program that permits or allows students, schools or school representatives to select, specify or influence the program sponsor's assignment or selection of foreign exchange students and/or a program that does not meet the criteria herein.

Sponsors desiring being included on the CSJET Advisory List should contact:

Council on Standards for International Educational Travel
212 South Henry Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 888-787-2970
Fax: 703.739.9035
E-mail: mailbox@csiet.org
Website: www.csiet.org

PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING APPLICATION FORELIGIBILITY OF FOREIGN STUDENT ENROLLING (ENROLLED) IN A MEMBER SCHOOL

DEFINITION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS/NON-ACCEPTED PROGRAMS

Any Student transferring from a foreign high school under the sponsorship of an accepted foreign exchange program listed on pages 137-138.

Students sponsored by programs, individuals or families not included on the list of foreign exchange programs (CSJET) accepted by the Executive Committee must make application on a form provided by the NJSIAA. Such students will be subject to the thirty (30) day rule [Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K (2)], and a Transfer Waiver Form must be processed.

CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

1. Student is eligible only if enrolled for credit.
2. Eligibility must be verified and approved by the NJSIAA prior to interscholastic participation.
3. The NJSIAA will not process any eligibility requests until all documentation as listed below has been forwarded to the Central Office. **ALL INFORMATION MUST BE TRANSLATED IN ENGLISH BY THE FOREIGN SCHOOLS.**
A copy of:
 - a. Birth certificate. (DOB on passport is accepted.)
 - b. Month/year of first entrance into 9th grade or month/year of 9th year beyond kindergarten signed by the Principal of foreign school.
 - c. A transcript of scholastic record, starting with the first entry into the 9th grade or 9th year beyond kindergarten signed by the Principal of foreign school.
 - d. A description of the student's prior participation in any sport for participants (ages 14 and above), e.g., level of activity, years of participation to determine the student's level of play in those countries where "high school" programs are not offered.
 - e. A description of the living accommodations accorded the student and the amount of contact between the student/parents and the school's coaching or athletic staff. (Signed by the host parent)

**NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
FOREIGN EXCHANGE/STUDENT REQUEST FOR ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION**

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SCHOOL – NOT BY THE STUDENT

NOTE: ALL information on all materials submitted must be translated into English
Instructions for completion are found in the NJSIAA Handbook

Section I – Student Record Information (please print/type)

1. Name of Student _____ 2. Date of Birth _____
Address _____ City _____ Country _____ Zip _____
3. Name of Foreign School Transferring from _____
Address _____ City _____ Country _____ Zip _____
4. Name of Parents _____
Address _____ City _____ Country _____ Zip _____
A. The **host family** should attach a description of the living accommodations accorded the student and the amount of contact between the student/parents and the school's coaching or athletic staff.
5. Person in U.S.A. with whom student resides _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
6. Graduate of another foreign or United States School (12th grade)? Yes _____ No _____
7. Month/Year student entered 9th grade _____ OR 8. How many years in school up to present? _____
9. Meets all NJSIAA Eligibility Requirements? Yes _____ No _____ If no, please specify _____
10. Last date previously attended foreign school _____ 11. Date of enrollment in present school _____
12. Has student previously attended school in United States? Yes _____ No _____ If yes - dates attended _____
If yes – School _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
13. Will student receive credits for courses taken at your school? Yes _____ No _____
Note: Student will not be eligible if your school does not grant credits for courses taken.
14. Current grade in your school _____
15. Class or Symbol VISA issued to student, sub-letter and digit which is stamped on I-94 Form of Passport, lower right _____
16. Student's Signature _____ Date Signed _____

Section II – Foreign Exchange Program Sponsorship

Name of CSJET/NJSIAA Accepted Foreign Exchange Program _____

If sponsorship is by any other organization, the executive officer of the organization must verify sponsorship on the organizations letterhead. For all other foreign students not residing in the United States with their parents, the Transfer Waiver Form must be processed.

If students are enrolled in your school for credit under an accepted (CSJET/NJSIAA) foreign exchange program, the NJSIAA will waive the transfer rule and they will be eligible for interscholastic athletics provided they are **not** graduates of another school which is the equivalent of our 12-year program and all other NJSIAA eligibility requirements are verified as being met.

Section III – Foreign Student

If the student is **not** sponsored by a CSJET/NJSIAA accepted program, please give a detailed explanation of why, how and under what conditions the student is residing in your school district and seeks eligibility as a foreign transfer student. A Transfer Waiver Form must be processed. Information relative to student's athletic experience in school or non-school programs starting with the first entrance into the ninth grade must be documented on the Transfer Waiver Form by the foreign high school Principal, when the Principal is unable to provide such information it must be provided by the family with whom the student resides. Athletic participation will be evaluated in "non-school" play for "varsity" status. (Attach information if more space is needed.)

PRESENT SCHOOL _____

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

DO NOT FORWARD APPLICATION UNLESS COPY OF BIRTH CERTIFICATE, TRANSCRIPT FROM FIRST ENTRANCE INTO 9TH GRADE ARE ENCLOSED. ALSO A COMPLETED TRANSFER WAIVER FORM IS REQUIRED IF STUDENT IS NOT SPONSORED BY AN ACCEPTED CSJET/NJSIAA PROGRAM OR IF THE FOREIGN STUDENT(S) RESIDES WITH THEIR PARENTS WHO HAVE MOVED TO THE UNITED STATES. APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED IF 6/2007 DATE DOES NOT APPEAR BELOW.

SECTION IV – Action of NJSIAA Office

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Pending _____
Reason (s) _____

Executive Director _____ Date _____

Send to: NJSIAA
Attention: Foreign Student Eligibility
Route 130, P. O. Box 487
Robbinsville, NJ 08691

6/2007

4. Exception to any student eligibility rule shall not be granted if “sufficient evidence” exists to “reasonably believe” that “noncompliance to the rule in question was motivated by the student’s, a community person’s, or school’s effort to gain a desired athletic advantage or to intentionally circumvent a rule.”
5. A completed Foreign Student Application Form. This form must be completed by the Present School NOT BY THE FOREIGN STUDENT. It is the responsibility of the foreign student’s “guardian” to secure the foreign school Principal’s signature on transcripts, record of interscholastic athletic participation and Transfer Waiver Form.
6. A completed Transfer Waiver Form processed by the Present School and the Previous School.
7. The processing of a Foreign Student Application form and the procedure for determining eligibility will be governed by Section 6 of the Requirements for Foreign Exchange Students.

WHO MUST APPLY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY?

All foreign students who are enrolled or to be enrolled in an NJSIAA member school for the school year or during the school year whose parents/guardian have not *moved* into your school district at time of enrollment.

Depending upon your local policies, students may participate in practice but may not participate interscholastically until eligibility is established.

The establishment of interscholastic eligibility is for those students who participate in games or scrimmages between/with other schools in those programs under NJSIAA jurisdiction. Local policies determine participation eligibility in all other activities.

WHO VERIFIES THE STUDENT MEETS ALL OTHER ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS?

The school Principal is responsible to verify and declare the student eligible for interscholastic competition by keeping on file for each sport an eligibility list of students meeting all NJSIAA requirements.

WHO COMPLETES THE REQUEST FOR ELIGIBILITY FORM?

Whomever is authorized by the Principal to do so; the Principal’s signature verifies the information accuracy and that the school eligibility standards have also been met.

TO WHOM IS THE REQUEST SUBMITTED?

TO: NJSIAA
 1161 Route 130 North, P.O. Box 487
 Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

HOW WILL THE REQUEST BE PROCESSED?

The Executive Director will approve or disapprove all requests. If disapproved, the member school will be requested to provide additional information or in some cases may be requested to attend a hearing of the matter at which the Principal, the student, and all interested parties must be present.

The NJSIAA may request documentation by the student’s foreign school Principal, noting the month/year of first entrance into the 9th grade or the 9th year following kindergarten.

ATTENTION: All regulations provided for Accepted Programs apply to Non-Accepted Programs/Foreign Students.

Member schools will have the responsibility of making certain that foreign students with an F1 Visa status comply with the requirements of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act, as amended in 8 U.S.C. 1184, effective November, 1996.

EXCERPTS FROM LEAGUE/CONFERENCE POSITION STATEMENT

Adopted by NJSIAA Executive Committee on April 11, 1983
 and amended on June 6, 2002.

Guiding Principles

The Association is charged with establishing *statewide standards* for the conduct of the interscholastic sports which cannot be left to local or regional discretion, including the establishment and enforcement of minimum standards of eligibility of Student-Athletes, as well as the rules and regulations for the various interscholastic sports, the maintenance of standards of sportsmanship; and the conduct of statewide championships in various sports. As such, the Association cannot delegate these vital responsibilities to any member school or group of such schools, whether they be formed as a conference or not. On the other hand, the Executive Committee recognizes that there must be greater home rule among our conferences so as to foster an improvement in both the quantity and quality of athletic programs; convenient and reasonable scheduling of sports activities; and the development of greater sportsmanship and competition. Toward that end, conferences will be given the greatest degree of self-governance, provided that there is not a violation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, as well as

the standardized rules and regulations for the conduct of interscholastic sports, and the mandate of the Commissioner of Education that all schools receive an opportunity to have a full schedule of interscholastic sports for their students. While the respective roles of the parent association and the member conferences is not easily discernible, the Executive Committee believes that it must set down certain guidelines, which will hereafter be observed by member schools. In doing so, the Committee wishes to make clear that this statement is intended to clarify the relationship between the State Association and local conferences. Accordingly, the Executive Committee reserves all of its rights under the Association's Constitution and Bylaws.

The Role of NJSIAA

The role of NJSIAA, principally through its Executive Committee, will continue to exercise the following responsibilities *vis a vis* various conferences and leagues:

1. The determination of eligibility for Student-Athletes.
2. The maintenance of rules and regulations governing the conduct of various interscholastic sports, including contest rules, the calendar for the start of practice, and the start of, and conclusion of, regular seasons, and the minima and maxima of contests in any sport.
3. The determination of state champions in the various sports.
4. Assuring that all students enrolled in member schools, who would otherwise be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports, are not precluded from a full opportunity to do so, irrespective of their race, sex, religion, or the school that they are attending.
5. Review of all constitution conferences, pursuant to Article XII, Section 2 of the Association Bylaws, and the exercise of other authority granted to it under the Association Constitution and Bylaws.

The Role of Individual Leagues and Conferences

The Executive Committee strongly believes that our conferences must be strengthened, rather than weakened, if they are to perform the very important tasks for which they were originally created. Therefore, conferences should have exclusive authority over certain functions, which will not be appealable to the Association; while at the same time assuming expanded authority for other responsibilities, with a very limited review by the Association.

A. Exclusive Responsibilities

In addition to the traditional internal matters which have never been appealable to the Association, such as the election of officers and the conduct of meetings, conferences will have the exclusive authority over the following functions:

1. Any academic or recreational activity conducted by a conference outside of the interscholastic sports within the jurisdiction or the NJSIAA.
2. The determination of conference or league championships.
3. Internal finances and administration of league activities.

B. Responsibilities of Leagues and Conferences Appealable to the NJSIAA

The following responsibilities will be vested in conferences, with a limited right to appeal by member schools who are challenging league or conference determinations:

1. The Association will continue to exercise its supervisory role to assure *membership* by applicant schools in appropriate conferences and leagues. However, unless it can be shown that there has been a violation of the order of the Commissioner of Education that there be an opportunity for a full schedule of interscholastic sports, there will be no appeals from conference and league *scheduling*.
2. Many of the larger conferences and leagues have segmented their membership into "divisions," usually on the basis of geography or size. Unless it can be shown that such divisional breakdowns are violation of the order of the Commissioner of Education or at variance with the "Conference Criteria" established in May, 1981 by the Association, no appeal from such internal divisional alignments will be considered by the NJSIAA.* In that vein, the Executive Committee wants to strongly emphasize that a school should not have the right to appeal its placement in a division because the school believes that it should be given a "weaker" or "stronger" schedule. The ability of member schools to have a winning season, or to obtain state or national prominence in its particular sport, is simply not a concern of the Association.
3. To assure full scheduling for all member schools, every member school should be allowed to enter a League or Conference appropriate to size and geography and other factors set forth in the "Conference Criteria," as approved by the Commissioner of Education.* Any school denied entrance into a League or Conference may appeal to the NJSIAA. When a school seeks to transfer membership from one conference to another, any appeal from denial by either Conference must be based on substantial reasons, recognizing the goal of assuring the stability of Conference structures.
4. The various conferences are strongly encouraged to adopt disciplinary procedures by which infractions of good sportsmanship can be penalized after there has been an observance of appropriate due process. Toward that end, all conferences which have not done so, should set forth in their Constitution and/or Bylaws, specific violations and penalties which may be assessed for such violations, as well as a hearing procedure. Pursuant to Article XIII of the NJSIAA Bylaws, any school or school official or coach penalized by a conference may

appeal to the Executive Committee. However, that Committee's role will be limited to determine whether the actions of the conferences were arbitrary or capricious or in violation of the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws. The NJSIAA and its Executive Committee will not substitute its judgement concerning such issues for that of the conference.

5. The conferences are strongly encouraged to maintain appropriate health and safety standards for athletic facilities among their member schools, provided that such standards are not being utilized to exclude schools, contrary to the order of the Commissioner of Education. Accordingly, the Executive Committee's role on appeal will be limited to determine whether the action of the conference is arbitrary and capricious or in violation of the order of the Commissioner of Education concerning the inclusion of minority and non-public schools. Neither the NJSIAA nor its Executive Committee will substitute its judgement on such questions of health and safety for that of the individual conferences.
6. Article V of the NJSIAA Bylaws incorporates a comprehensive set of minimum eligibility standards for student athletes. While the NJSIAA will continue to exercise exclusive authority in determining the eligibility of students, member schools and conferences will continue to be free to adopt *higher* eligibility standards. Neither the NJSIAA nor its Executive Committee will interfere in the adoption of such standards, or the enforcement of them by a conference, league or member schools, unless it can be shown these standards are arbitrary or capricious or in violation of the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws.

PROCEDURE WHEN OFFICIALS FAIL TO ARRIVE OR ARE UNABLE TO CONTINUE

Member schools on a few occasions have been faced with the failure of officials to arrive for a scheduled event. The NJSIAA would like to re-emphasize the absolute necessity for having properly executed contracts, in writing, with either the individual official or the chapter assignor. The officials have been repeatedly advised to report to the game site well in advance of the starting time for a pre-game meeting, and to permit ample time for their pre-game duties relative to facility inspection, equipment approval and instructions to game-related aides.

Hopeful, that schools will never have the experience of having teams poised for action, with thousands of spectators awaiting the start of the contest only to discover late arriving or totally absent officials, the following recommendations are provided as a procedural plan in the event officials fail to arrive for the game.

To reassure yourself, a reminder should be forwarded to officials one week prior to the game. Schools must not permit contracted officials to assign substitute officials without the approval of the school.

If the officials have failed to arrive within one half hour of game time, an attempt should be made to contact the officials or their assignor.

When it becomes apparent that the expected officials will not be present for the game, the following procedure is recommended:

1. Contact chapter assignor, chapter secretary, or local NJSIAA officials for last minute replacements,
If this fails:
2. Request via the P.A. system that NJSIAA officials (of the sport in question) report to a central location.
Assignment to be the responsibility of the home Athletic Director.

Every attempt should be made to play the game, unless it can be clearly established that to do so would not be in the best interests of the participating schools.

The responsibility for assigning officials and for determining the playing or postponing of a game under these circumstances rests with the Principal and the Athletic Director of the host school – this is not a coaching staff decision. When only one (1) official arrives for a game to which two (2) officials-umpires are usually assigned, the game must be played. Same applies when an official is unable to complete the assignment.

Schools withholding their teams from competition under these conditions will be subject to severe punitive action under Article X of the Bylaws and officials are required to report the violation to the NJSIAA within three (3) days.

**The Commissioner of Education mandated that the NJSIAA provide an opportunity for public schools with high minority enrollment to join appropriate athletic conferences utilizing Conference Criteria such as enrollment, geography and the impact on the involved conference.*

PROCEDURE – CONTROVERSY OFFICIALS – SCHOOLS – LEAGUES/CONFERENCES

Prior, during, or after a New Jersey Interscholastic athletic event if an incident occurs between officials, players, spectators, and/or school personnel and the incident warrants investigation, the following procedures should be followed:

- a. Immediate attempt should be made to resolve the incident at the local administrative level with building Principals. A report with request for review should be forwarded to the school administration.
- b. If there is no successful resolution of the incident at this level, and the aggrieved party is an official, then all facts should be presented in written form to the president of the official's chapter who will forward a written hearing request to the appropriate league or conference.
- c. If the aggrieved party is a member school, then all facts shall be presented in a written form to the league or conference or official's chapter, as the case may be; with a request for a hearing.
- d. At this time, the Executive Director of the NJSIAA shall be notified in writing of the hearing request by the aggrieved party's chapter, league or conference.
- e. The NJSIAA will become directly involved in the incident; (1) If, after a hearing, the case is referred to the NJSIAA Controversy Committee or (2) If the aggrieved party believes the hearing action to be unsatisfactory and requests further review by the NJSIAA Controversy Committee.
- f. Whenever a coach removes a team from the field/court prior to the conclusion of the game, meet or event, an official must report this violation to the NJSIAA immediately; and all disqualifications within seven (7) days.

THE USE OF A PROSTHESIS (ARTIFICIAL LIMB)

Federal legislation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of a physical handicap, makes it difficult for state associations to defend the former blanket prohibition of the use of a prosthesis when challenged in the courts.

Many sports now have revised rules to provide “artificial limbs which, in the judgement of the rules administering officials, are no more dangerous to players than the corresponding human limb and do not place an opponent at a disadvantage may be permitted.” The NJSIAA endorses this policy so long as it is not in conflict with the rules for a specific sport.

The NJSIAA procedure for approving the wearing of a prosthesis by a Student-Athlete will be as follows:

1. The member school must notify the NJSIAA and arrange for a meeting to determine the legality of the prosthesis; present at this meeting must be the school physician, Athletic Director, Principal, coach, a representative from NJSIAA, and the player who must be fully equipped as he/she will be when competing; an athletic trainer or other school representative may also be present.
2. The criteria recommended as a guideline to follow in determining the legality and suitability of wearing a prosthesis in a contact sport are:
 - a. The prosthesis should be approved at any Juvenile Amputee Clinic listed in the National Directory. Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, 1199 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, New Jersey 07052 is the only New Jersey clinic listed.
 - b. Prosthesis should be properly padded.
 - c. Signed approval by an orthopedic surgeon or physician associated with a juvenile amputee clinic and the school physician. Such approval must be represented to the officials before each game for the official's final inspection and approval of proper padding.

CL 1 A series of photos showing the unpadded, partially padded, and full padding of the approved prosthesis should be included.

NOTE: Member schools are given this advance notice to allay the possibility of having a prosthesis declared illegal, thereby preventing the player from participating until approval is granted.

(Participant Uniforms)

Schools may modify uniforms for their athletes for religious reasons. The religious group must file a letter with the school. A copy of the letter must accompany the participant at each event to be available for the official to review and approve.

PROCEDURE FOR FILING A PROTEST OR DECLARING A FORFEIT

Protest – The NJSIAA Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1 provides that:

Section 1. Protests against alleged violations of contracts, violations of the accepted standards of good sportsmanship, or of the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, must be reported in writing and posted by the Principals of the participating schools or the game officials to the Executive Committee, through the Executive Director, within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the time of such violation, with a copy to the alleged violator. Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation of the playing rules will not be honored.

The one hundred twenty (120) hour provision will be satisfied, if the school's Principal notifies the League or Conference President, in writing, prior to the expiration of this time period since disputes and controversies involving League or Conference members must be initially heard at that level.

NOTE: See CL 1 on page 60 – Article VII, Section 1.

“Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules will not be honored” does not preclude a League or Conference from addressing same; however, the NJSIAA will not honor such protests for non-conference games/meets, neither will the NJSIAA hear appeals to a League or Conference decision based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation of the playing rule.

Forfeit – Schools may not mutually agree to a forfeit; only Leagues or Conferences or the NJSIAA may award forfeits.

When submitting records for tournament qualification, schools listing forfeit wins/losses must attach an explanation for same.

Coaches must be cautioned not to refuse to play or to complete a game/meet. Such decisions are within the jurisdiction of the game/meet officials once game/meet has started, or rest with home management and/or tournament director if the game/meet has not started.

Forfeit – League/Conference – Non-Conference

When a penalty involving a forfeit is assessed against a member school by a League or Conference it is mandatory that the conference/league Secretary submit, immediately in writing, the action taken, reason why, schools involved, date and site of the game/meet/match to the Central Office. This applies to all sports.

If a member school in a non-conference game/meet/match feels a forfeit might be warranted, relevant information as stated above should be forwarded by the Principal, immediately in writing, to the Central Office for the Executive Director's decision.

SALES/SOLICITATIONS

Only NJSIAA promotional items will be sold at NJSIAA tournaments. No solicitations, sale of publications or products, or similar activities are permitted without prior authorization from NJSIAA.

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association is the sponsoring association for all levels of State Tournaments/Championships. The NJSIAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these Tournaments/Championships and the sale or distribution of clothing, souvenirs or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the NJSIAA.

PROCEDURE DURING STRIKES

It is the philosophy of the NJSIAA Executive Committee that interscholastic athletes should not be used as a pawn during professional negotiations between the Board of Education and the Educational Association. Although athletics is only a part of the total school program, it is obvious that the emotions of people are aroused when anything seems to disrupt the athletic program or deprive young people of an opportunity to participate.

Therefore, we recommend that boards of education, administrators, coaches, and professional organizations begin to plan now in advance of any crisis, i.e., withholding of services, work stoppage, so that rational decisions can be made before serious conflicts and problems develop. Students, advisors, parents, and coaches should know in advance whether co-curricular programs, including athletics, will continue to be postponed during a professional labor dispute. If no planning is done, it is likely that students will suffer most, even though they are the innocent bystanders in the negotiations process.

The NJSIAA Executive Committee has adopted the following guidelines for situations which may arise during a professional labor dispute:

1. The decision whether to continue the athletic program or not must be made at the local level, but the safety and well-being of the participants ought to be the primary factor in reaching that decision. If practices or contests are carried on, the local administration ought to be aware of the responsibility for continuous competent supervision and limitations on practices, scrimmages, etc.
2. When a contest must be postponed, it may, by mutual agreement between the contesting schools, be rescheduled. If a postponed game cannot be rescheduled before the end of the regular season, a forfeit shall be declared.
3. In any state tournament, the records of teams at the time of the cut-off date will determine the eligibility of a team to participate. Games not played up to the cut-off date for tournament qualification must be forfeited.

CL When forfeits are received, a member school may not compete on the "forfeit day" when such competition would put the school in conflict with the number of games permitted per day/week/season unless the forfeiture is expunged from the record by League or Conference action or by mutual agreement of the schools.

4. If a school has already entered a state tournament and is unable to compete in any scheduled game, that game shall be declared a forfeit and a win shall be credited to the offended school.
5. Transfer students who are affected by a strike will count those days as if school was in session and games being played provided the regular game schedule has begun.
6. We urge all school districts to plan ahead so that everyone is aware of these responsibilities in case of an emergency. The NJSIAA will continue to be available for advice and consultation whenever requested.

STATEMENT CONCERNING COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENTS

The following guidelines have been developed to insure that all commercial endorsements meet goals and objectives of the Association, and are undertaken for the benefit of the NJSIAA, its member schools, and their Student-Athletes.

1. All commercial endorsements must have the approval of the Executive Committee on recommendation of the Finance Committee.
2. No member of the Executive Committee (including the Finance Committee) or any member of the NJSIAA staff will participate or vote on approving any endorsement of a commercial sponsor if they have any direct ownership interest in such sponsor.
3. In considering any commercial endorsement, the NJSIAA will apply the following criteria:
 - a. The relationship of the commercial sponsorship to the goals and objectives of the Association.
 - b. The benefits to be derived from the sponsorships or activities by the Association and its member schools.
 - c. The quality of the production or program with appropriate evaluation and references.
 - d. The time length and extent of commitment required by the activities.
 - e. The ultimate educational value of the activities or the beneficial educational effect of conducting the activities (e.g. the support of a particular educational program through sponsorships).
 - f. The possibility of creating a conflict of interest for the Association.
 - g. The clarity of purpose and activities of the program or service to be sponsored.
 - h. The positive nature of a sponsor's product or activity.
 - i. The effect of the financial activities on the maintenance and improvement of the positive image by the Association.
 - j. The willingness of a sponsor to enter into a save-harmless agreement with the Association.
 - k. The necessity of avoiding sponsorships or activities which are in any way connected to productions or services of questionable value to or, in fact, detrimental to students (e.g. alcohol and tobacco products, medicines, gambling, etc.).
 - l. The prohibition on advocating a religion or political party.

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF LIGHTNING

Termination, or temporary suspension, must always take place when an electrical storm is imminent. The decision to terminate or suspend a game/meet/event when an electrical storm is imminent may be made by either the host school or the official.

As noted previously, a chain of command and designated decision-maker should be established for each organized practice and competition.

Recognition

Coaches, certified athletic trainers, athletes and administrators should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm

development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately 2-3 miles, any time that lightning can be seen or thunder heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- * Monitor Weather Patterns - Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the practice or competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- * Flash to Bang - This method is used to assess how far away lightning is striking. It is determined by counting the number of seconds it takes to hear a clap of thunder after witnessing a flash of lightning. The number of seconds is then divided by five to get the distance in miles, to the lightning flash. Generally a 30-second or less flash-to-bang count suggests removal of the athletes from the field to a safe shelter is advisable.
- * National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take proper precautions.

Management:

- * Evacuation - If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators should evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- * Thirty-minute rule - Once lightning has been recognized, it is recommended to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count should reset the clock and another count should begin.
- * When one contest is suspended on a site due to thunder being heard and/or lightning being observed, all contests on that site will be suspended.

Education on Lightning Danger

Coaches, athletic trainers, officials, administrators, as well as athletes, should be educated regarding the signs indicating nearby thunderstorm development. Generally speaking, it is felt that anytime that lightning can be seen, or thunder heard, risk is already present. Assessing how far away lightning is striking can be accomplished utilizing the flash-to-bang method. The flash-to-bang method is derived from the fact that light travels significantly faster than sound. Light travels approximately 186,000 miles/second, and sound travels approximately 740 miles/hour, which translates to a speed of one mile every five seconds. The flash-to-bang method is used by counting the number of seconds it takes to hear the clap of thunder after witnessing a flash of lightning. Divide the number of seconds by five to get the distance, in miles, to the lightning flash. For example, if the designated weather monitor counts to 30 between the time he/she witnessed the lightning flash to the time he/she hears the thunder, the lightning flash occurred approximately six miles from the weather monitor's position ($30\text{sec} \times 1\text{-mile}/5\text{-sec}=6$ miles)

Criteria for Suspension and Resumption of Activity

A 30-second flash-to-bang count corresponds to a distance of six miles, which should provide ample opportunity to remove the athletes from the playing field, and get them to a safe shelter.

After the suspension, the plan should include strict, documented criteria for the resumption of activities. It is recommended to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count should reset the clock and another count should begin. The combination of the 30-second flash-to-bang count to suspend activity and the 30-minute delay after the last lightning flash to resume activity is commonly referred to as the "30-30 Rule."

Evacuation Plan

All personnel, athletes and spectators should be clearly informed of available safe structures or shelters in the event a thunderstorm approaches. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues. The person in authority must be aware of the amount of time it takes to get to each structure and the number of persons each structure can safely hold. For large events, time needed for evacuation is increased and there must be a method (i.e., announcement over loud speaker) for communicating the need for evacuation and directing both athletes and spectators to the appropriate safe shelters.

Safe Structures: The most ideal structure is a fully enclosed, substantial building with plumbing, electrical wiring and telephone service, which aids in grounding the structure. A fully enclosed automobile with a hard metal roof and rolled up windows is also a reasonable choice. School buses are an excellent lightning shelter that can be utilized for large groups of people. However, it is important to avoid contact with any metal while inside the vehicle.

Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm as the current from a local lightning strike can enter the building via the plumbing pipelines or electrical connections. It is also considered unsafe to stand near utilities, use corded telephones or headsets during a thunderstorm, due to the danger of electrical current traveling through the telephone line. Cellular and cordless telephones are considered reasonably safe and can be used to summon help during a thunderstorm.

When caught in a thunderstorm without availability or time to reach safe structures, you can minimize the risk of lightning-related injury by following a few basic guidelines:

- * Avoid being the highest object. Seek a thick grove of small trees or bushes surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch.
- * Avoid contact with anything that would be attractive to lightning. Stay away from freestanding trees, poles, antennas, towers, bleachers, baseball dugouts, metal fences, standing pools of water and golf carts.
- * Crouch down with legs together, the weight on the balls of the feet, arms wrapped around knees, and head down with ears covered.

PROCEDURE – BEFORE A GAME IS TERMINATED

The host school management has full responsibility for determining whether or not conditions are such as to postpone or start a game/meet. Schools must know that once a game/meet/event has started, the official(s) have jurisdiction for terminating same prematurely.

TERMINATION, ONCE THE GAME HAS STARTED, IS NOT THE PREROGATIVE OF A COACH OR SCHOOL MANAGEMENT, AND THE ACTION OF REMOVING A TEAM FROM THE EVENT PRIOR TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE GAME/MEET/EVENT, REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WILL RESULT IN SEVERE PUNITIVE ACTION BY THE NJSIAA CONTROVERSIES OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The following procedure should be implemented before termination of the event by the official(s):

1. Coaches and/or players should be penalized for misconduct as provided for in the playing rules;
2. Continued misconduct should result in the coach(es) of the teams being advised to correct the situation or be faced with possible termination of the game;
3. Officials should confer and, if they consider the circumstances warrant, teams should be directed to their respective bench areas while the coaches, Athletic Directors, and administrators of the schools discuss, in the center of the field or in a private area, an attempt to restore control of their teams and/or spectators;
4. When it is apparent to the game official(s) and the host school administration that to continue the event would present a clear and present danger to the safety and welfare of any party, the game should be terminated and the schools' head coaches advised accordingly. This should not be a unilateral decision; however, if the responsible parties are unable or unwilling to control their teams and/or spectators, the official(s) must inform the head coach(es) of the teams that the game is terminated.
5. Officials must not rule on forfeiture of any prematurely terminated events; only conferences and/or the NJSIAA have the jurisdiction to determine forfeits. All games terminated due to control problems, will require a comprehensive report to the NJSIAA Central Office and the Chapter Secretaries by the officials and the Principals of the involved schools. Said report from the officials should be forwarded immediately to the NJSIAA with a copy to the principals of the involved schools. The report(s) will be forwarded to the League/Conference for a hearing by them prior to any action by the NJSIAA.

PROCEDURE FOR FILING A TRANSFER FORM

Whenever a student-athlete transfers from one secondary school to another, the Principal of the student's present or new school must process (2) copies of the Transfer Form. This means that a Transfer Form must be completed whether or not the student has transferred as a result of a parental change of residence. This changes the former standard, which only required completion of what was called a "Transfer Waiver Form" when a student transferred without a parental change in residence. Upon completion of the Transfer Form, the form must be forwarded to the previous school for the proper signatures indicating recruitment or seeking an athletic advantage was not involved in the transfer. The previous school must return the signed forms immediately to the present school or, if they do not sign the forms, same must be returned to the present school. Schools are cautioned that if the transfer occurs during the school year, the school should not forward Transfer Form to Previous School until student has officially enrolled on a for-credit basis, i.e., registration plus actual attendance. If the transfer occurs during the summer, the Transfer Form should be forwarded from the present school to the previous school when the student enrolls in the new school, in order to assure that the student is eligible to participate when school starts.

The guidance department should notify the athletic department of all transfer students upon enrollment so that Transfer Forms can be processed immediately when the transfer student-athlete reports as a candidate for the team.

If forms are duly signed, the present school must return a copy of the completed form to the previous school and to the NJSIAA noting the date of eligibility to participate.

Coaches must be alerted to identify all transfer students at the first practice session, or when new candidates report, so that the player does not suffer a period of ineligibility.

REFUSAL TO SIGN A TRANSFER FORM MAY NOT BE BASED UPON NONPAYMENT OF FEES, TUITION OR FAILURE TO RETURN SCHOOL PROPERTY AND THE LIKE.

New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association
1161 Route 130 North, P.O. Box 487 Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

TRANSFER FORM

The undersigned hereby certify that the student named herein has transferred to his/her present school of enrollment without inducement or recruitment or to seek an athletic advantage. The parents/guardians also agree to the submission to the NJSIAA of any pertinent records, including transcripts, maintained by the schools. Refusal to sign the Transfer Form **may not** be based upon nonpayment of fees, failure to return school property and the like. **The Transfer Form is necessary for students who are residing with their parents who have moved to the United States or who have moved from one public secondary school district to another public secondary school district.**

Step 1 – TO BE COMPLETED BY PRESENT SCHOOL AND FORWARDED TO PREVIOUS SCHOOL:

Student's Name _____ D.O.B. _____

Name of Present School _____ City _____

Date of Enrollment at Present School (If enrollment occurs after the beginning of the school year, Month, Day, Year, Student first attended class) _____

Signature of Principal indicates above student has met all NJSIAA eligibility requirements as provided for in the Bylaws, Article V.

NO STAMPED SIGNATURES ACCEPTED!

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

Athletic Director's Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Residence _____ Date _____

Step 2 – TO BE COMPLETED BY PREVIOUS SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY AND RETURNED TO PRESENT SCHOOL:

Name of Previous School _____ City _____

Date of Withdrawal _____ Student First Entered Ninth Grade/School _____ Date _____

A. List all sports in which the student was awarded a VARSITY letter in a sports season during the calendar year prior to the transfer:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Student is ineligible for thirty (30) calendar days from the start of the Present School's regular schedule for each sport listed above.

B. Has the student participated in a 9-12 program while in the 6, 7, 8th grade? Yes _____ No _____ (See Bylaws, Article V, Sec. 4.I)

ATTENTION: If the student is from a high school in a foreign country which does not sponsor interscholastic athletics, the adult(s) with whom the student is domiciled must attach a summary of the sports in which the student participated in a non-school community and/or national team/program for participants 14 years old or above. Said participation will be evaluated in "non-school" play to determine varsity status.

Check box if there is evidence that the student transferred for athletic advantage

Check box if there is evidence that the student was recruited

If either of the above boxes is checked, do not sign below and please state reason(s).

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____

Athletic Director's Signature _____ Date _____

If unsigned, please state reason(s): _____

(Attach additional information if necessary)

PLEASE MAIL TRANSFER WAIVER FORM TO NJSIAA - DO NOT FAX

Revised 6/2010

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

The NJSIAA took the occasion of its 75th Anniversary, 1994, to inaugurate the Annual Scholar-Athlete Luncheon which provides the opportunity to recognize outstanding student-athletes from our member schools. With the assistance of our co-sponsors we are able to make this luncheon an annual event.

In 1997, continuing education scholarships were added to the Scholar-Athlete Program.

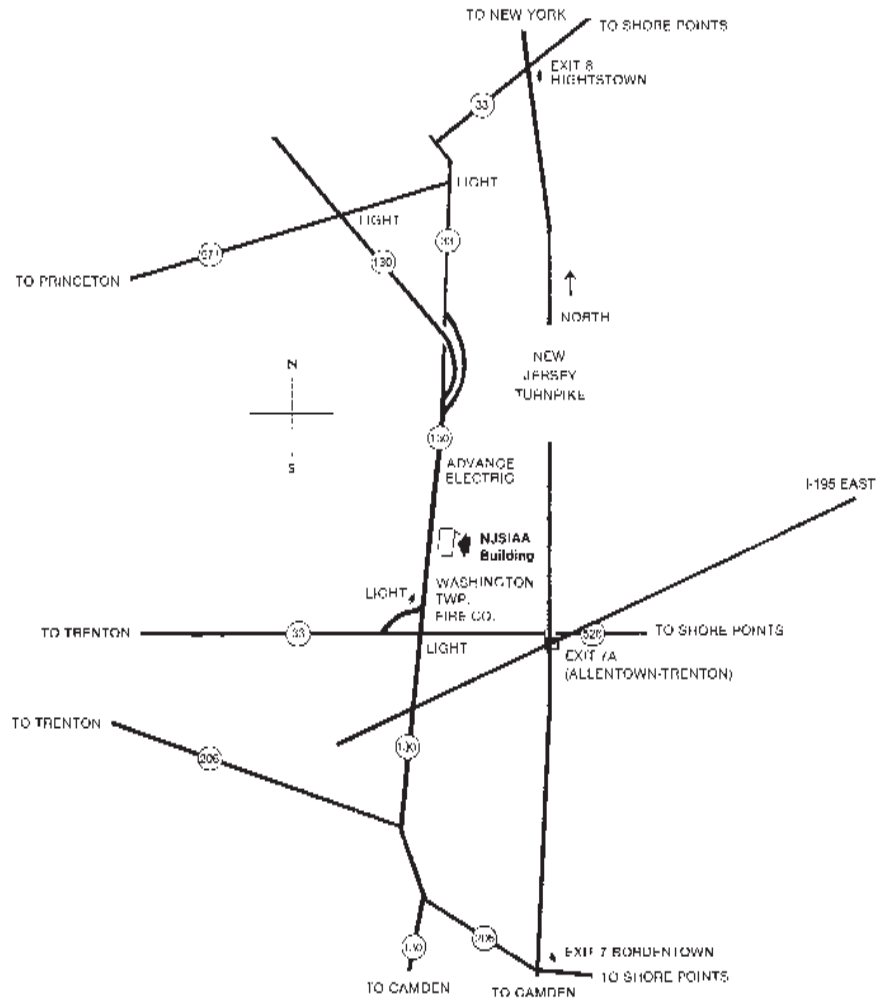
Criteria: Graduating senior
 Grade point average no less than 3.0 (scale of 4 - 1)
 Participation in an NJSIAA varsity sport
 Outstanding school and community citizenship

NJSCA HALL OF FAME

Recipients honored at Annual Luncheon.

ShopRite Cup

Six cups (one per group) awarded at the conclusion of competition for Fall, Winter and Spring based on most points earned during state championship competition. (General Classification is used to determine school's group for this competition.)



Exit 5B off of I-195 West
Two miles North on Rt. 130