

CONSTITUTION

Article 1

NAME

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

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

Schools eligible for membership in this Association must be accredited secondary institutions. 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. 13 ex officio representatives; and,
- 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	NJ Council of Catholic Diocesan Superintendents
NJ School Boards Association	NJ Scholastic Coaches Association
Education Committees of NJ State Legislature	NJ Registered Officials
NJ Association of School Administrators	Directors of Athletics Association of NJ
NJ Association of School Business Officials	NJ Association of Independent Schools
NJ Principals and Supervisors Association	Immediate Past President, NJSIAA
Special Olympics New Jersey	

Section 2d

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

- a. 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
- b. Eight (8) representatives elected by the Executive Committee of the NJSIAA, the majority of whom shall be women or ethnic minorities.

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 ($\frac{2}{3}$) 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 **ballots cast** 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 postal/electronic 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

New Jersey 18A:1-1. Definitions: "Public school" means a school, under college grade, which derives its support entirely or in part from public funds; these schools 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; and,*
 - 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 Executive Committee Minutes and posted on the NJSIAA website.

CL 4: Member schools must sign an affidavit which states they will play out-of-state contests under NJSIAA rules.

CL 5: 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, or the Executive Director, 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 December 1. All such proposals shall be considered by the Advisory Committee before January 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 February 1. All such proposals endorsed by the Executive Committee shall be distributed to the membership prior to May 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 February 1.

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

Prior to April 1, at least two (2) 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 ballots cast at the Annual Meeting.

Section 4

All amendments will become effective on July 1, following the Annual Meeting unless by a separate two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the ballots cast 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 (of each calendar year) unless otherwise stipulated.

NOTE: CL indicates clarifications which are italicized.