

Chapter 3
ATHLETIC CONTEST RULES

Subchapter A
ATHLETIC PLAN

NOTE: Rules that list the sport or sports to which they apply shall apply only to the sport(s) listed.

The purposes of the athletic program for the participant schools are:

- A. to assist, advise and aid the private and parochial schools in organizing and conducting interschool athletics;
- B. to devise and prepare eligibility rules that will equalize and stimulate wholesome competition between schools of similar size, and reinforce the curriculum;
- C. to regulate competition so that students, schools, and their fans can secure the greatest educational, social, recreational and aesthetic benefits from the contests;
- D. to reinforce the concept to all participant schools that athletics is an integral part of the educational program;
- E. to preserve the game for the overall benefit of the contestant and not sacrifice the contestant to the game;
- F. to promote the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play in all contests;
- G. to promote among the players, schools and fans a spirit of friendly rivalry and a respect for the rules; and
- H. to forward the concept of accepting decisions of sports officials without protest and treating officials as co-partners in the educational process of competition.

The Athletic Code and the Athletic Code for Coaches carry the force of rule. Member schools, participant schools and/or covered school district personnel who violate any of the provisions of these codes will be subject to penalty.

- A. THE ATHLETIC CODE. The general Athletic Code means to:
1. Play the game in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship, observing all rules, both in letter and intent.
 2. Coach and sponsor the teams and individuals without resorting to unethical tactics, trickery which attempts to skirt the rules, or any unfair tactic which detracts from sound educational principles.
 3. Accept decisions of sports and school officials without protest, and without questioning their honesty or integrity, and extend protection and courtesy to sports officials from participants, school personnel, and spectators remembering that officials are guests.
 4. Regard opponents as guests, putting clean play and good sportsmanship above victory at any cost. Win without boast and lose without bitterness. Victory is important, but the most important thing in sports is striving to excel and the positive feelings it fosters between those who play fair and have no excuse when they lose. The development of re-creative aspects and positive human relations should be stressed in all competition.
 5. Provide information or evidence as soon as possible regarding eligibility of any contestant or school to the local administration, then to the proper district executive committee. To withhold information is considered dishonorable and contrary to good sportsmanship. Schools guilty of violating this section may be subject to penalty as described in Sections 23 and 25 including disqualification from district honors in the germane activity. Covered school district personnel guilty of violating this section may be subject to the range of penalties as described in Sections 23 and 25.
 6. Not provide inducement for athletic purposes. Inducement means to encourage a student to change schools for the purpose of participating in TAPPS activities by offering the student or the student's parent cash, waiver of tuition, board or lodging, transportation, a job, or other valuable consideration to induce the student to enroll in a participant school.
 7. Avoid tampering with students whether the student is enrolled in a TAPPS or other school.

- B. THE ATHLETIC CODE FOR COACHES. The code for athletic sponsors includes the principles described in Subsection 131 and the purposes listed in Section 130. Further, the coach's code includes:
1. **Being aware of, understanding, and following all rules governing the competition for which the coach is responsible.**
 2. Informing one's immediate supervisor in writing the next school day after a contest if ejected from that contest for unsportsmanlike actions, or, in football, if given three 15-yard unsportsmanlike penalties during one contest, knowing that such conduct requires automatic penalty.
 3. Abstaining from removing team from contest in protest.
 4. Treating athletes based on what is best for the education, general welfare, and health of the student.
 5. Professional loyalty to other coaches.
 6. Adhering to in season and out of season practice regulations.
 7. Adhering to policies which do not force athletes to specialize or restrict them from participation in other sports.
 8. Allowing students to participate in one school sport without requiring, as a prerequisite, participation in another school sport.
 9. Abstaining from any practice which would bring financial gain to the coach by using a student's participation in a camp, clinic, league, or other non-school athletic event, such as a rebate for each player sent to a particular camp or from each player using a particular product. Coaches shall not charge a fee for private instruction to student athletes during the school year. The restriction on charging fees for private instruction applies only to those students who are:
 - a. in grades 9-12;
 - b. from the coach's school; and
 - c. participating in the sport for which the coach is responsible.
 10. Abstaining from any practice that makes a student feel pressured to participate in non-school activities.
 11. Avoiding any coaching practice which would endanger the welfare or safety of any player.
 12. Emphasizing the academic progress of all participants by a regular, documented check of their academic standing, both in season and out of season.

13. Scheduling games and practices to avoid unnecessary loss of study or class time.
14. Utilizing the best and most current teaching, coaching, and training methods through affiliation with professional associations and publications.
15. Abstaining from any practice that solicits teachers to modify a participant student's grade for eligibility purposes.
16. Avoiding any actions that encourage, condone, or tolerate the use of performance enhancing drugs by any student athlete.
17. Emphasizing a chemical awareness program that informs and educates students of the damaging effects of anabolic steroids and other illegal drugs.
18. Disclosing to opposing schools any known conflict of interest with an assigned sports official prior to a contest.
19. **All coaches with less than five (5) years coaching experience in either public or private schools must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course prior to coaching at a TAPPS member school. See Section 138.**
20. **Individuals who are under suspension or are ineligible to coach in recognized athletic leagues (TAPPS, UIL, NCAA, etc.) are not eligible to participate in TAPPS as Athletic Director, Coach, Assistant Coach or other such capacity, whether paid or unpaid for these services.**

- A. SCHOOL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE. Responsibility for the proper administration, contracts, arrangements, control and scheduling of athletic contests in all member schools shall be under the supervision of the superintendent or a designated administrator.
- B. PREVIOUS SUSPENSION. The TAPPS Executive Board shall forfeit any contest won by an individual or school if it finds a school employee previously suspended under Section 23 participated on behalf of the individual or school in the contest plan while prohibited from doing so under order of the TAPPS Executive Board.
- C. COACH OR ADULT SUPERVISOR. No student shall represent his or her school at any time in connection with TAPPS competition unless accompanied by a coach or another appointed member of the school faculty. The coach or sponsor must have completed SCOPE and training for the activity in question. **Exception:** A non-school employee may serve as the adult supervisor of students when appointed by the administrator in areas where no coaching/directing takes place. These individuals may provide the transportation to and from the activity and be responsible for the supervision of participants.
- D. PROFESSIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM. All personnel coaching in grades 9-12 shall sign a **Professional Acknowledgment Form** prior to the beginning of their coaching responsibilities each school year. These forms shall be on file in the superintendent's office or designated location at the TAPPS member school.

- A. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION. Refer to Section 22 for general responsibilities.
- B. PRINCIPLES. The district executive committee shall uphold the principle that high school athletics, when properly controlled, are worthwhile and educational.
- C. **RECRUITING/INDUCEMENT/TAMPERING. Refer to Section 87 for specific information. The district executive committee shall investigate any efforts to induce players for athletic purposes. Inducement and tampering are violations and may subject the school at fault to disqualification. Disqualification may be made by the committee after the school has been given an opportunity to be heard. A school in violation shall remain disqualified for the period of time specified as determined by the district.**
- D. SCHEDULING.
 - 1. The district executive committee shall arrange a schedule to determine district representatives prior to the deadline specified in the current TAPPS calendar.
 - 2. **The district executive committee should refer to the TAPPS calendar and avoid scheduling district contests on the same dates as TAPPS Regional and State contests in other activities, including Fine Arts activities.**
- E. CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES. The district president shall certify in writing, eligible district representatives in all athletic activities by the date directed on the TAPPS calendar. Failure to submit timely and accurate information may result in disqualification of the district from the playoffs. The district president must certify eligible representatives without any conditions attached to this certification. In case of dispute, certification to the TAPPS State Office shall be in the form of a written notice naming the eligible schools and must be signed by the majority of the district executive committee.
- F. DISTRICT DISQUALIFICATION. All teams in a TAPPS district shall be disqualified in the playoffs if the district executive committee knowingly certifies a team which has used an ineligible player in any district game unless appropriate action has been taken. Disqualification shall be by the TAPPS Executive Board only upon presentation of sufficient evidence.
- G. ZONES. Refer to Section 22, J. & K. Districts which subdivide into zones for team sports shall determine district representatives by cross-playing the number 1 teams in each zone against the number 2 teams in each zone. The winners of these two inter-zone games (matches) shall be the district representatives. District executive committees shall determine in writing before the season which teams will be the number 1 and number 2 teams from the district in the event both number 2 teams or both number 1 teams win the inter-zone games. If four teams advance in the playoffs, the top two teams from each zone shall play to determine district ranking 1 through 4.
- H. TIES. The district executive committee shall determine in writing prior to the season the method to determine the district representatives in the event two or more schools are tied in

win/loss percentages. If the district executive committee has not provided a procedure prior to the season, the following tie breaker procedures shall apply:

1. *For Team Sports Playing A Single Round-Robin Format:*
 - a. *Two Teams Tied In Percentage For First Place.* The team that defeated the other in head-to-head competition will be the winner. The other team will be the runner-up.
 - b. *Three Teams Tied in Percentage For First Place.*
 Step 1: If one of the teams defeated the other two, that team is the champion. The other teams flip to determine the second place team.
 Step 2: If none of the three defeated the other two, flip (odd coin is the winner, the other two flip again to determine runner-up).
 Step 3: If the tie is three-way for second place in the district and none of the three has beaten the other two, flip (odd coin wins the runner-up spot).
 - c. *Four Teams Tied In Percentage for First Place.*
 Step 1: If one of the teams has defeated the other three, that team is the winner. The other three teams then flip (odd coin wins the runner-up spot).
 Step 2: If none of the four has defeated the other three, the four teams have a blind draw for the winner and the runner-up. Teams who win the draw are the playoff representatives.
 - d. *Four Teams Tied in Percentage for Second (Or Third) Place.* Step 1: If one team has defeated the other three, that team is second (or third) place. If none of the remaining three schools has defeated the other two, then the teams will draw for third place.
 Step 2: If none of the four has defeated the other three, then the four teams have a blind draw for the winner. The team who wins the draw is the runner-up.
2. *For Team Sports Playing A Double Round-Robin Format.*
 - a. *Two Teams Tied in Percentage.* The two teams shall play one game or match (if rules permit).
 - b. *Three Teams Tied In Percentage.* Teams play a district tournament. A draws bye; B plays C and C wins; C plays A. If A wins, C is the district runner-up. If C wins, A plays B for runner-up spot.
 - c. *Four Teams Tied in Percentage.* Teams play a district tournament. Draw for spots. A plays C; B plays D. Winners of the first games play for championship; the loser is the runner-up.
 - d. *More Than Four Teams Tied In Percentage.* Teams play a district tournament.
 - e. *Three Teams Tied In Percentage For Runner-Up.* Teams play a tournament. A draws bye; B plays C and C wins; C plays A. Winner between C and A is the runner-up.
3. Tournaments shall be on consecutive days at one site. The district executive committee may authorize preliminary round games to be played at additional sites, which adjoin the championship site.
4. Any situation not covered in the above tie breaker criteria shall be determined by lot. Unless the district executive committee specifies otherwise prior to the season, tie games shall count as one-half game won and one-half game lost.

- I. EXPENSES OF DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES IN ALL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES. The district executive committee has authority to finance its expenses. It is recommended that the district activity assessment for a sport be determined at the organizational meeting.
1. *Delinquent Assessments.* The failure of a school to pay its assessment promptly after having been notified is a violation.
 2. *Disqualification.* If a school refuses or fails to pay its assessment, it may be disqualified from participation the current and following year until the amount is paid.
 3. *Statement.* At the close of the season the district executive committee shall furnish each participating school in the district a financial statement showing all receipts and disbursements for the season.

- A. **AGREEMENT.** All officials must be satisfactory to both parties and agreed upon in advance. However, beginning a game with an official constitutes agreement.
- B. **Participant schools shall use officials approved by TAPPS.**
- a. **Officials**
All individuals officiating contests involving TAPPS schools must be
 1. Registered with an approved Chapter
 2. Assigned by an approved Chapter
 - b. **Chapters**
All officials' chapters must be approved by TAPPS in order to assign officials for TAPPS contest. Officials chapters are approved by one of the two methods listed below.
 1. Registered and in good standing with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) recognized member association governing high school athletic contests in that state.
 2. Registered and in good standing with TAPPS through the following process.
 - a. Submission of Application
 - b. Submission of Supporting Documentation
 - i. Chapter By-Laws
 - ii. Letters of Reference
 - iii. Statement that all officials will be registered with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) recognized member association governing high school athletic contests in that state.
 - iv. SCOPE Video Certification From
 - c. Review and Approval by the TAPPS Athletic Executive Committee.
 - d. Submitted prior to deadline published on the TAPPS yearly calendar as shown on the TAPPS web site.
- C. **NEUTRAL OFFICIALS.** In all contests, schools should always attempt to secure neutral officials.
- D. **HOST RESPONSIBILITY.** The responsibility to obtain satisfactory officials is upon the host school which must provide names of officials to the visiting school at least 4 days prior to the contest.
- E. **NOTIFICATION.** When names of officials are received by the visiting school, the visiting school shall immediately notify the host school if officials are not satisfactory. Failure of the visiting school to solicit names of officials from the home school within four days of the contest constitutes agreement.

F. FAILURE TO SHOW.

1. If agreed upon officials fail to show, the visiting school shall not be in violation by refusing to play.
 - A. If agreed upon officials fail to show, the visiting school shall not be in violation by refusing to play.
 - a. Host school shall make written notification to the assigning chapter.
 - b. Host school shall make written notification to the TAPPS office.
2. However, earnest effort should be expended to find officials so that the game may be played without additional travel expenses for team and fans.
3. A host school does not have to forfeit the contest unless the district executive committee rules that they have been negligent in contracting and securing officials.
4. If the contest is rescheduled, the home team will host the game at a mutually agreed date and time and reimburse the visiting school 50 cents per mile.
5. By mutual agreement, the visiting team may host the make-up game and no travel allowance be required.

G. SCRATCHES.

1. When officials who have been previously agreed upon by both teams are scratched, the school scratching the officials shall pay them the fee they would have received had they worked the game minus any travel expenses and shall also pay the additional travel costs in obtaining new officials. If scratched officials obtain another game, they do not have to be paid.
2. After a school has accepted an official, and then scratches the official prior to a contest, this action must be approved by the athletic director and the principal of the school taking the action. **Note:** Officials shall not be scratched the day of the game, except by mutual consent of both schools.
3. TAPPS discourages indiscriminate scratching of entire chapters except in cases when potential problems could result with fans and/or school employees.
4. Officiating chapters should be fair in their game assignments, offering smaller schools the opportunity to use higher level officials when possible.
5. When officials do not show, or when the previously agreed upon officials do not show, and the game has to be rescheduled, the chapter shall be responsible for the rescheduled game fee, unless it is determined by the school that an emergency arose beyond the control of the officials

H. PENALTY. The penalty for failure to provide officials is forfeiture of the game or match. The district executive committee shall determine whether or not forfeiture is applicable.

I. FEE VIOLATIONS. If the rules in regard to fees of officials are violated by a participant school, the facts shall be reported to the district executive committee at a meeting to be called as soon as possible after the game. The committee shall decide on the merits of the

case and apply the penalty; or, if an emergency is declared, waive the penalty. The district executive committee may declare that, in its judgment, an emergency arose and, therefore waive the penalty.

J. MAXIMUM MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT.

Officials shall be paid travel reimbursement in accordance with the following:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. Metro | |
| a. 20 Mile Radius | \$12 |
| b. 30 Mile Radius | \$15 |
| c. 40 Mile Radius | \$18 |
| d. 50 Mile Radius | \$20 |
| e. Over 50 Miles | Negotiated |

K. OTHER ALLOWABLE EXPENSES.

1. *Meals.* If there is previous agreement between officials and schools, schools may pay up to the state rate per day for meals.
2. *Lodging.* As necessary and previously agreed upon by the officials and schools, schools may pay lodging.
3. *Ground Transportation.* If prior agreement exists, schools may pay taxi fare, etc., for officials.

L. LIMITATION. No other item shall be included in payment of officials.

M. FEE APPROVAL. Fees are to be paid by the host school or by the game management as approved by the school. TAPPS recommended fee schedule posted under the “Officials” tab on the TAPPS website.

N. PROMPT PAYMENT. Fees are to be paid promptly.

O. EXCEEDING MAXIMUM FEES. The maximum fee listed should be paid to officials working varsity contests. For sub-varsity contests, unless otherwise specified, fees less than the maximum may be negotiated between the chapter and the school. If a participant school exceeds the maximum fee schedule, the district executive committee shall meet as soon as possible to decide if an emergency warranted the excess fee(s). If the school in question proves an emergency caused the overpayment, the district executive committee does not have to assess a penalty.

P. TAPPS SCHOOL, COACHES AND OFFICIALS POSITIVE EXPECTATIONS MEETING (SCOPE) AND REGISTRATION.

1. *Coaches and Officials Required to Register With TAPPS and Attend Meetings.* All officials and all coaches in baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball shall attend a joint SCOPE meeting prescribed by TAPPS **prior to their sport season**. TAPPS schools may meet this requirement by providing meetings or seminars (based on the TAPPS SCOPE DVD) conducted by the Head

Coach/Athletic Director, **prior to the season**. Officials from a local chapter should be invited to attend.

2. *Registration List.* Coaches and officials who register and attend will have their names placed on a registration list which will be forwarded to the TAPPS office or the Officials Association office, or placed on file at the local school. This information will be provided by the local chapters and other groups who hold these meetings. Other information to be provided for each official is: address, division and Social Security number.
3. *TAPPS Registration Fee.* TAPPS may charge a registration fee for officials to help offset costs of programs for officials (rule books, other educational materials, development of materials and meeting costs).
4. *Failure of Official to Register; Loss of Registration.*
 - a. A report of a coach ejection from an official may not be considered or adjudicated by TAPPS unless the official has registered prior to the season.
 - b. Officials who are not registered will not be allowed to work post district games, and should not be used for regular season games. Exceptions will be handled through the TAPPS office.
 - c. Officials must report all ejections of coaches, severe verbal and physical abuse, and any major disruptions that occur during a game. The game administrator is to be informed of the problem the night of the game. Written reports from each official involved are to be mailed to the TAPPS office within the next two working days following the game or match.
 - d. Officials are to conduct themselves in a professional manner before, during and after a contest.
 - e. Officials who violate the provisions of this rule may be removed from the list of registered officials.

Q. **NO PROTESTS.** A protest based on a game or contest official's decision **will not be considered**.

- A. INDIVIDUAL REPORT FORMS. It shall be the responsibility of each school to keep on file the following recommended/required annual forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage, or game.
1. *Medical.* Upon entering high school and each year thereafter, a **MEDICAL HISTORY** and **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION** form must be completed by each student. A standardized form is available from the TAPPS website, which school officials may furnish to physicians if they wish. This form is to be kept on file in the school office. The form is not to be sent to the TAPPS office unless requested.
 2. *Parent or Guardian Permit.* Annual participation permit signed by the student's parent or guardian is **required and kept on file in the school office. Since it provides parent's permission for travel, etc., the coach may keep a copy with him/her. THE FORM IS NOT TO BE SENT TO THE TAPPS OFFICE UNLESS REQUESTED.**
 3. **Rules Acknowledgment.**
Annual TAPPS Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian is required and kept on file in the school office. THE FORM IS NOT TO BE SENT TO THE TAPPS UNLESS REQUESTED.
- B. VARSITY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.
1. *Subchapter K, By-Laws.* Only students satisfying all the requirements in Article V of the TAPPS Constitution and in Subchapter K in By-Laws are eligible for varsity competition.
 2. *Non-District Games.* In any interschool games or contests, only eligible students may participate. Each school shall complete an eligibility list for each sport.
 3. *Eligibility Forms.* Schools must submit comprehensive eligibility forms for all athletic, academic, art, and music contestants. One copy shall be sent to the district president, one **submitted** to the TAPPS office, and one copy shall be filed in the school's office.
 4. *Certification.* Completed eligibility are to be **submitted before** a contestant is allowed to participate in a contest.
 5. *Suspension.* Failure to furnish correct and complete information may, upon request by the proper committee, constitute grounds for suspension.
- C. PREVIOUS ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION FORM. Students who represented their former school in a varsity or sub-varsity athletic contest in grades 9-12 the previous or current school year must have a **Previous Athletic Participation Form** completed prior to participation in a varsity contest in that sport at the new school. This completed and

approved Previous Athletic Participation (transfer) Form must be on file with the district president and the TAPPS State Office.

- D. **MINIMUM PENALTY.** If an eligibility form or a Previous Athletic Participation Form was not filed prior to competition, and it was an inadvertent error and the student is actually eligible under Subchapter K of the By-Laws or Article V of the Constitution, the district executive committee **is not required** to demand forfeiture or to rule the student ineligible. They may assess the minimum penalty of private reprimand to the school.

(During the School Year)

- A. **SUNDAY PROHIBITION.** A TAPPS participant school shall not participate in any athletic contest or conduct any practice, or teach any plays, formations, or skills on Sunday. (Exceptions may be allowed upon appeal to the TAPPS Executive Board, with each case individually considered).
1. *Violation.* Any showing of films to, or meetings of athletes for the purpose of instruction or reviewing of plays, formations, or skills in any sport will be construed as a violation.
 2. *Coaches Sunday Meetings.* This does not prevent coaches from meeting on Sunday or from seeing films or planning an instructional program, provided that no athletes are involved in this meeting.
 3. *Exceptions.*
 - a. *Golf.* If the regional and/or state golf tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, the one 18-hole practice round allowed at the regional and/or state tournament site may be played on the Sunday afternoon preceding the meet (no earlier than 12:00 noon) if permitted by the regional or state meet director.
 - b. *Tennis.* If the regional and/or state tennis tournaments are scheduled on a Monday, and if participants arrive at the site on the preceding Sunday because of travel distance, it will not be construed as a violation of this rule if school district personnel accompany or transport participants to a tennis court for the purpose of practicing on their own, if permitted by the regional or state meet director.
- B. **REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENT COMPETITION ON SUNDAY.** Regional or state tournament directors may reschedule postponed or weather delayed tournaments on Sunday afternoon or evening with prior approval of the tournament director and the participating schools and with prior permission from the TAPPS director.
- C. **SCHOOL OFF-SEASON WORKOUTS, IN SCHOOL DAY PERIOD.** Accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, skills strength training or conditioning exercises may be conducted during the school year within the school day provided such activities do not exceed one regular classroom period not to exceed 60 minutes when classes meet every day (300 minutes per week for block schedules). The 7th, 8th or zero period (after school or before school) for athletics is considered part of the school day, provided all students enrolled in the class are not enrolled in any other physical education classes. The 7th, 8th or zero period may not be longer than other class periods. This period may not exceed one 60-minute period. This period includes dressing, the actual off-season conditioning, redressing in street clothes, etc. Passing and punting machines, chalk talks, and films are permitted. Full team drills are permitted in team sport practices.

- D. **ATHLETIC/ PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES.** Student athletes shall not be enrolled in more than one physical education and/or athletic class whether or not they are receiving credit.
- E. **OFF-SEASON SCHOOL TEAM PRACTICES PROHIBITED.** School teams shall not practice outside the specific allowable practice dates except during the one in-school day practice period. Off-season activities before or after the school day or during the lunch periods are specifically prohibited. **Exception:** The 7th, 8th or zero period (immediately after school or before school) for athletics is considered part of the school day.
- F. **OFF-SEASON SCHOOL FACILITY USE.** Athletes may attend open gyms, facilities and weight rooms. **School personnel shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation is strictly voluntary and never required.** Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a school team. Attendance records may not be kept. Coaches may be present to supervise the facilities and school equipment, if permitted. Coaches shall not provide specific instruction in sport skills. Weight lifting instruction is permitted and progress charts may be kept. Facilities may be made available to athletes under the following conditions:
1. Recreational opportunities receive advance approval by the local school board and administration.
 2. The dates and times of operation shall be announced, posted or publicized so that every student attending that school is aware of the opportunity.
 3. Each activity is based on a first come, first served basis.
 4. **School coaches are responsible for notifying student athletes in their sport that their participation is strictly voluntary, never required, and is in no way a prerequisite for making the team or getting more playing time.**
 5. No instruction may be given on a Sunday or during the off-season of a team sport.
 6. Someone other than a coach may be appointed to supervise facilities.
 7. Coaches should not participate with their athletes in the athletes' sport. Such actions place the responsibility on the coach and school to prove they are not violating Sunday and off-season regulations.
 8. Use of facilities may be restricted to that school's student body. **Note:** If only members of an athletic team are participating in their sport in an open recreational facility, it could be deemed a violation of off-season regulations.
- G. **DAY OF GAME RESTRICTION.** Participation in an off-season program shall not be required for varsity athletes on the day of an in-season varsity competition, or for non-varsity athletes on the day of an in-season non-varsity competition.

H. HOLIDAY RESTRICTION.

A. **CHRISTMAS**

A school shall not conduct contests or practices, use school facilities, personnel or equipment during five consecutive days of December. Any organized or required practice will be a violation of this regulation. **Schools may choose any five consecutive days which include December 24, 25, and 26,** with the following exceptions.

1. When December 26 falls on a Thursday, schools may participate in a tournament game on December 26.
2. Travel will not be permitted on December 25.
A team that has a game on December 23 could travel home on December 24 and still be in compliance with this section.

B. **EASTER**

A school shall not conduct contests or practices, use school facilities, personnel or equipment during Good Friday through Easter. Any organized or required practice will be a violation of this regulation. Travel and practice are not allowed on EASTER Sunday.

- A. **RULE VIOLATIONS.** Students who violate the rules in the specific athletic plans shall be subject to the penalty in the specific athletic plan, or subject to the range of penalties applicable to student representatives in Sections 23 and 24. The regulations in the athletic plans govern all varsity and sub-varsity teams and contestants. Ninth grade (whether in junior high, on a separate campus, or with other high school grades) and other sub-varsity teams and contestants are restricted to the same game limitations, season, etc. as the varsity team.
- B. **ELIGIBILITY RULES.** In addition to rules in individual sports plans, each varsity team and athlete shall observe all rules contained in Article V of the Constitution.
- C. **MINIMUM PENALTY FOR USING INELIGIBLE PLAYER.** In the event an ineligible contestant is used in any TAPPS game or contest, knowingly or unknowingly, **the minimum penalty shall be forfeiture of the game, contest or event.**
- D. **UNATTACHED PARTICIPATION.** In any school sponsored athletic meet or tournament, TAPPS school students shall not be permitted to enter unless prior approval is obtained from their high school and the sponsoring school. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be assessed against the high school sponsoring the meet.

Schools shall abide by rules in the Constitution, by rules in the By-Laws, by rules in the Contest Rules, by rules in the TAPPS News Briefs, by regulations issued from the TAPPS office in the coaches and administrator's sports manuals, and other official notices from the TAPPS office. Where any term or section of the Contest Rules and/or the coaches and administrators' sports manuals is found to be inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws, the Constitution and By-Laws shall prevail and apply and the remaining terms and sections of the Contest Rules and/or the coaches and administrator's sports manuals shall continue in effect.

- A. **ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS.** A school shall not participate in a sports activity unless that sport is indicated on the current contract, signed by the superintendent or designated administrator, and on file in the TAPPS office by **September 1** of the current school year.

Exception: A school which does not participate in football the first year of a new alignment may not participate the second year except by unanimous consent of the district executive committee.

- B. **DISTRICTS AND CLASSIFICATIONS.**

1. *Classifications.* Schools are placed in classifications according to enrollment figures.

2. *District Assignments.*

Schools will be assigned to districts by the TAPPS Executive Board. District assignments and a list of tentative chairs will be mailed out to participant schools prior to the season. The district shall select a permanent president and notify the TAPPS office. However, the superintendent, principal, or coach in each school competing under this plan, is ultimately responsible for ascertaining the name of the district president, time of meeting, etc. If the president moves from a member school, each school in the district has a responsibility to see that a new president is elected and to notify the TAPPS office.

- C. **SCHEDULES**

1. **GAMES**

a. TAPPS Member Schools shall schedule contests with school sponsored teams.

b. TAPPS Member Schools shall not schedule contests with select, AAU, Club or other similar teams.

2. **INTERSTATE and INTERNATIONAL GAMES**

- a. Schools wishing to schedule interstate opponents must obtain approval from TAPPS prior to participating in any single contest or tournament event.
- b. For contests in which the out of state opponent is traveling to Texas,
 - 1. School must be a member in good standing of a recognized State High School organization with eligibility rules in keeping with TAPPS standards.
 - 2. **OUT OF STATE OPPONENT** Application must be completed and approved prior to the date of competition.
- c. For contests in which the TAPPS member school is traveling out of Texas
 - 1. The single contest or tournament must be sanctioned and approved by the NFHS.
 - 3. **OUT OF STATE OPPONENT** Application must be completed and approved prior to the date of competition.

3. **DISTRICT SCHEDULES**

- a. are set by action of the District Executive Committee.
- b. Game days originally agreed upon, either by district schedule or agreement between schools can only be changed by mutual agreement of the schools involved. Change is only valid when agreed upon in writing by both schools.

4. **FAILURE TO COMPLETE SEASON.**

- a. **Regular Season.** A school that does not participate in a sport after signing the acceptance form should notify the TAPPS office prior to the season. A school may be suspended by the TAPPS Executive Board in that activity for a period of one year, unless sufficient justification is shown for not participating.
- b. A school failing to participate in a sport after declaring for the sport (by submission of fees and contract) shall not participate in other district, regional, or state events until a fee equal to the event fee has been paid to the TAPPS office.
- c. **Playoffs.** Any school which qualifies for the playoffs in a sport and fails to participate or complete the official schedule of games/ matches, unless excused for valid reasons by the TAPPS Executive

Board, may be suspended from that activity for a period not to exceed one calendar year.

- d. **FORFEITING A DISTRICT GAME.** If a school forfeits a district game, and does not play that game,
1. the forfeiting school shall not be eligible for the playoffs.
 2. None of the games involving the team cancelling the game will count towards the district standings. It is as if the team was never a part of the district.
 3. The individual players on the team are still eligible for consideration for all-district and all-state.
 4. If the game is played and later ordered to be forfeited by the District Executive Committee or if the school willingly forfeits the game after discovering an ineligible player, or some other rule violation, the team is not automatically removed from the playoffs.
 5. The team's won/loss record for district play, including any losses due to the forfeiture of teams that have played, shall be considered to determine if the team qualifies for a playoff berth.

5. **WEATHER**

1. **Lightning**

In the absence of Lightning Detectors or Predictors, TAPPS rules are as follows :

- a. When thunder is heard or cloud to ground lightning is observed, the storm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
- b. Thirty Minute Rule: Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
- c. After beginning application of the 30 minute rule, any subsequent thunder or flash of lightning shall reset the clock and teams shall wait an additional 30 minutes from that point prior to resuming play.
- d. A school that following the above guidelines shall not be required to forfeit contests.

2. **Temperature**

- a. In the event the outside temperature or heat index reaches 100 degrees as determined by the home team or event host,

interschool contests shall not be played without the mutual consent of all teams involved in the contest.

- b. In the event the outside temperature or chill factor reaches 32 degrees as determined by the home team or event host, interschool contests shall not be played without the mutual consent of all teams involved in the contest.

3. Travel

In the event of snow, ice or other weather conditions affecting travel, consideration should be given to the travel involved before and after a contest. A school that determines travel conditions to be unsafe shall not be required to forfeit contests.

- D. **WIN/LOSS PERCENTAGE.** Non-district games shall not count on a team's district win/loss percentage.
 - 1. Schools shall not forfeit any district games in order to play non-district games. Schools in violation of this provision will be subject to the range of penalties.
 - 2. A game or match canceled after the contract has been signed, unless both parties agree to the cancellation, shall be forfeited by the team canceling the game or match.
 - 3. In football, when two schools agree to play on a 2-year basis, and agree that the home team shall keep 100% of the gate receipts, and the game is canceled the second year by the team that received 100% of the gate receipts the first year, the team that received no gate the first year is entitled to 50% of the net gate receipts from the first game unless mutually agreed otherwise. This is in addition to the forfeiture fee included in the contract.

- E. **PRACTICE / SCRIMMAGE.** A scrimmage is a meeting of not more than four teams for practice purposes which does not count as a game for any of the teams. Admission may not be charged. Officials shall not be paid, but may, by prior agreement with the school, be reimbursed for mileage and meals.
 - 1. A maximum of **three (3)** scrimmages is allowed in football, provided there are at least five days between scrimmages and five days between the last scrimmage and the first game.
 - 2. A maximum of **four (4)** scrimmages in all other sports is allowed.

- F. **PLAYING RULES.**
 - 1. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules govern:
 - a. Baseball

- b. Basketball
 - c. Cross Country
 - d. Softball
 - e. Swim and Dive
 - f. **Soccer – FALL and Winter**
 - g. Track and Field
 - h. Wrestling
2. **NCAA** rules shall govern Football
 3. **USTA** rules shall govern Tennis
 4. **USGA** rules shall govern Golf

Any modification of or exception to a playing rule shall be noted in this manual, or a directive from the TAPPS office, for that sport.

G. **GAME ADMINISTRATOR.** In all TAPPS varsity athletic team contests, a game administrator shall be appointed by the home school. It is highly recommended that a game administrator be present for all sub-varsity games as well. Teams advancing to the state playoffs must insure that an administrator is appointed and present for each game which is held for football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball. The administrator should make themselves known to and be available to assist officials prior to, during or after the contest. That person must be a coach (other than the game coach), teacher, or administrator. It is recommended that a game administrator be designated by the home school for all non-varsity athletic team contests. The responsibilities of the game administrator are as follows:

1. see that officials are directed to their dressing room;
2. meet with the officials prior to game time (preferably on the playing field or court);
3. inform the officials where the game administrator will be seated;
4. assist the officials if they need to discourage unsportsmanlike conduct of a fan, player, or coach (such as removal from the gym);
5. check with the officials after the game to see if there is any misconduct that needs to be reported;
6. offer to provide an escort for the officials to their cars;
7. report incidents to the appropriate school administrator (home team or visitor);
8. report severe verbal abuse or physical contact of the official and any ejections of coaches and fans to the TAPPS office in writing within the next two working days.

H. **COACH TRAINING**

1. All TAPPS coaches (all levels) shall complete the TAPPS SCOPE training prior to the start of their sports season annually.
2. The names of all coaches who complete the SCOPE training shall be sent to the TAPPS office.

3. It is the joint responsibility of the coach and athletic director to insure that the SCOPE and any other training are completed annually prior to the start of the individual's high school coaching duties.
4. Coaches with less than five (5) years experience coaching in public or private schools must complete the following through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) beginning in the:
 - a. Fall 2009 -Fundamentals of Coaching
 - b. Fall 2010 -First Aid for Coaches
 - c. Fall 2011 -Sport Specific (ie. Wrestling: Fundamentals of Coaching Wrestling)
5. Exceptions to #4 with approval from the TAPPS Office
 - a. Coaches with more than five (5) years coaching experience in either public or private school
 - b. Verifiable college courses representing the curriculum listed in #4

I. REMOVAL FROM CONTEST

1. Conditions requiring the removal from a contest shall be determined by the governing organization for each sport as specified in the TAPPS By-Laws and outlined in the published rules for that sport.
2. Any coach or player ejected from a contest, or football coach receiving three or more 15 yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a contest, must
 - a. File a report with the TAPPS Office on the form located on the TAPPS Website
 - b. The form is due the following school day.
 - c. Both TAPPS schools involved in the contest must report any ejection occurring in the contest.
 - d. Fines for an ejection not reported to the TAPPS office by the deadline will be doubled.
 - e. Schools who fail to report an ejection are subject to further sanctions.
3. Coach who has documented SCOPE Training shall receive a
 - a. Private Reprimand
 - b. Suspension from the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.

- c. Coach must complete the NFHS *Teaching and Modeling Behavior or similar* course prior to the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - d. The second and any subsequent ejections are subject to review by the *Athletic Executive Committee* for further sanctions.
 - i. Minimum Penalty to include 2 game suspension
- 4. Coach who has no documented SCOPE Training shall receive a
 - a. Public Reprimand – Coach
 - b. Public Reprimand – Athletic Director
 - c. Suspension from the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - d. Coach must complete the NFHS *Teaching and Modeling Behavior or similar* course prior to the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - e. The second and any subsequent ejections are subject to review by the *Athletic Executive Committee* for further sanctions.
 - i. Minimum Penalty to include 2 game suspension
- 5. Any student ejected from a contest
 - a. shall be suspended from the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - b. The Ejection report is due the following school day.
 - c. The second and any subsequent ejections are subject to review by the *Athletic Executive Committee* for further sanctions.
 - i. Minimum Penalty to include 2 game suspension
- 6. In the event of an ejection, the School shall be responsible for the payment of a fine as follows:
 - a. \$50 for the first ejection, student or coach, in a sport.
 - b. The fee will increase by \$50 for each subsequent ejection through the third ejection in a sport.
 - c. If more than three ejections occur in a sport, the *Athletic Executive Committee* will determine the amount of the fine
 - d. At least \$150 if a player or coach is ejected from a playoff contest.

- e. If three ejections, coaches and players combined, are received in a sport during the season, the coaches and athletic director will be required to meet with the TAPPS Office.
- f. If five ejections, coaches and players combined, are received by a member school during the school year, the athletic director and coaching staff of the member school will be required to meet with the TAPPS Office.
- g. The **FINE** is due in the TAPPS office ten (10) days from the date of ejection. Failure to submit the fine by this deadline will result in the fine being doubled and all games occurring after the ten days being declared a forfeit. Once the fine has been paid games will not be forfeited, however, any games which were forfeited for nonpayment will not be reversed.

7. A coach or player deliberately coming into physical contact with, or threatening to harm an official shall receive a minimum five (5) game suspension.

J. GUARANTEES.

- 1. *Football.* In district and non-district football games, the home team shall keep 100% of the gate receipts after payment of game officials unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both schools.
- 2. *Other Team Sports.* In district and non-district games/matches unless there is mutual agreement or district executive committee ruling, the home team is entitled to 100% of the gate receipts.
- 3. *Playoffs.* In playoff games, at a neutral site, expenses are to be paid from the gate receipts, as well as sharing any profit or loss from the game, and must be agreed upon prior to the game by both schools involved. This agreement should be in writing and signed by both school representatives.
- 4. *Expenses.* Expenses must be mutually agreed upon by the participants.

K. VIDEOTAPING AND FILMING.

- 1. *Non-Conference and District Contests.*
 - a. *Videotaping/Filming by Schools.*
 - 1) It is a violation to videotape or film a non-conference or district athletic contest in which your school or team is not competing unless prior consent of the two schools involved has been obtained.
 - 2) A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape a non-conference or district contest in which it is competing. However, the film or videotape may not be utilized until after the contest has been completed.

- 3) Films and videotapes become the property of the school doing the filming unless by district rule or by consent of the schools involved in the contest.
- b. *Film/Video For Scouting.*
 - 1) TAPPS does not have a rule about exchanging film. It does have a rule that prohibits taping/filming a game in which your school is not involved, UNLESS you have consent of both schools.
2. The film/video belongs to the school that film/tapes a game/scrimmage in which their team is participating, unless district rule or mutual agreement of the schools involved, states otherwise. The film/video cannot be used during the game for coaching purposes.
3. Exchanging films with an opponent is a recognized and accepted practice for scouting purpose. For example; team A is playing team B in game 3 of the season, the coach from A trades his film from game 1 and/or 2 with the coach from team B for his film from game 1 and/or 2. The films are the property of the school doing the filming and they do not have to get permission from anyone to exchange their own property.
4. For a coach to contact a team that has played his opponent and arrange to “borrow” or trade for that film is not a violation. The film is the property of the school that made it legally, since they were involved in the game.
5. Districts may make a rule that member schools may not “loan out” films, after the play-offs begin, in order to “protect” their district representatives. This is a district rule—not a TAPPS rule!
6. Schools in the football play-offs are REQUIRED to exchange 3 quality tapes with their opponent (recipient’s choice)
 - a. No later than 10:00am on Monday, before a Friday Game.
 - b. *Videotaping/ Filming by Individuals.* Any individual taping or filming must have permission from the schools involved in the contest and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.
 - c. *Commercial Uses.* Use of the films or tapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all schools involved in the contest.
7. *Regional and State Playoffs.*
 - a. Schools and/or individuals must have prior approval of the tournament director to film or videotape a regional or state tournament, and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.

- b. Commercial enterprises must have prior approval of the tournament director and the TAPPS director to film or videotape a regional or state tournament, and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.

L. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

1. Live animal mascots, cannons, firearms, fireworks, etc. are prohibited at TAPPS athletic contests.
2. No dogs or other animals are allowed at TAPPS hosted contests.
3. Except in their normal course of business, emergency vehicles shall not flash lights or sound sirens during the course of a game.
4. Noisemakers are prohibited at TAPPS events held at field houses and/ or gymnasiums.
5. In events held in field houses/gyms, megaphones may be used only by cheerleaders, in uniform. Megaphones must not be used to strike walls or playing surfaces.
6. Bands, when permitted, shall play only during time-outs and intermissions. Individual instruments may not be used as noisemakers.
7. No sound systems, other than the one(s) provided by the host school are allowed at TAPPS Secured sites or at neutral sites unless mutually agreed
8. Body paint and like decoration shall not be permitted by players or spectators. (Exception: Small markings as sold by cheer or other school organization on the cheek are permitted) This rule applies to all games held at neutral sites. If a TAPPS school is not going to permit this activity at their facility, the opponent should be notified in advance of the contest.
9. Air horns and bullhorns, handheld or otherwise, are not permitted at any TAPPS contest.
10. The use of, or appearance of using, any controlled substance (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during or after games at contest sites is prohibited by TAPPS.
11. Streamers, confetti or other such materials.

M. STATE PLAYOFF INFORMATION. Playoff information for all applicable sports will be posted on the TAPPS website by the TAPPS office.

N. ALL-STAR GAMES OTHER THAN TAPPS ALL-STAR VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL GAMES. No student shall participate in an all-star game so long as that student has eligibility remaining in that sport. **EXCEPTIONS:** coaches may coach or assist with coaching all star games with written permission from the TAPPS Board.

- O. **JURISDICTION OF INTER-DISTRICT DISPUTES.** The Athletic Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between district winners that have been duly certified.
- P. **CHEERLEADERS; SPIRIT GROUPS.** All cheer and spirit performances at any TAPPS activity shall be in accordance with safety standards as prescribed by the National Federation High School Spirit Handbook.
- Q. **CONCUSSIONS**
Effective August 2, 2010, any player who shows signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion must be removed from the game and shall not return until cleared to play by an appropriate health-care professional.
- R. **TATTOOS**
TATTOOS MUST BE COVERED BY TAPE OR THE UNIFORM AT ALL TIMES. This includes while preparing for competition, during competition and for awards presentations.
- S. **GAME UNIFORM**
1. Athletes shall not remove their Game Jersey or uniform while inside the playing arena.
 2. Removal of one's uniform shall be considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct and subject to sanction.

- A. **REQUIRED PARTICIPATION PROHIBITED.** Students shall not be required to play on a non-school team in any sport as a prerequisite to playing on a school team.
- B. **SUMMER PARTICIPATION.**
1. Participation in summer leagues or attendance at summer athletic camps are not considered school workouts even though there may be several members of a TAPPS school playing on one team in a summer league (or attending the same camp).
 2. **After the last day of the school year in May or June until TAPPS activities begin for the new school year (see TAPPS Calendar), TAPPS will not regulate any leagues or camps except for the conditions listed in paragraph C of Section 139.**
 3. **TAPPS coaches may coach their own athletes in these leagues or camps.**
 4. **ANY SUMMER WORKOUTS MUST BE VOLUNTARY**
 5. **ANY SUMMER WOKOUT SHALL NOT BE A PREREQUISITE FOR TRYING OUT FOR THE SCHOOL TEAM.**
 6. The TAPPS Executive Board has ruled that athletes who are playing on a summer league team, being coached by his/her school coach, as permitted by the Summer Participation Rule, may complete their summer season, even if it ends after the beginning date for school sports with permission of their own school. ***Prior approval must also be obtained from the TAPPS office.***
 7. From the beginning of TAPPS activities, as indicated on the TAPPS calendar until the end of the school year in May or June, TAPPS coaches may coach their own athletes only in TAPPS in-season sports and approved off-season programs.
- C. **SCHOOL EQUIPMENT.** Schools may furnish, in accordance with local school policies, school-owned equipment, with the following restrictions.
1. Schools **will not** furnish any individual baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball or volleyball player equipment, **including uniforms**, shoes, caps, gloves, etc., but may furnish balls and court equipment including nets, standards, goals, etc., for volleyball, basketball and soccer camps.
 2. For football camps, schools may furnish hand dummies, stand-up dummies, passing and kicking machines and footballs. **Use of any other football equipment, including contact equipment, is prohibited.**
 3. For baseball and softball camps, schools may furnish balls, bats, bases, pitching and batting machines, batting helmets and catcher protective equipment. **Use of any other baseball and/or softball equipment is prohibited.**

D. OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION IN NON-SCHOOL TEAM SPORTS, DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

1. **School coaches shall not coach 9-12 grade students from their own school on a non-school team, with the exception of their own adopted or birth children.**
2. **9-12 grade students shall not play for a school coach on a non-school team from the beginning of TAPPS activities, as indicated on the TAPPS calendar until the end of the school year in May or June.**
3. School equipment, name or identity, shall not be used for non-school teams/ leagues.
4. No TAPPS school team may participate in pre-season (before starting date for germane activity), or post-season activity (after district certification dead-line or elimination from state playoff or after play-offs for germane sport).



E. COACHING RESTRICTIONS.

- a. For non-school competition school coaches shall not schedule matched games for students in grades 9-12 from their school during the school year.
- b. School coaches may assist in organizing, selecting players and coaches, and may supervise school facilities for non-school league play.
- c. School coaches shall not coach or instruct 9-12 grade students from their school in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball **or wrestling.**

F. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY TRYOUTS. Neither schools nor coaches shall provide transportation, equipment or defray expenses for students attending college tryouts. Any contest at which a higher admission fee is charged to college coaches than is charged to parents or other adults is considered to be a college tryout.

G. DEFINITIONS

1. **A sports league is an organization that exists to provide a regulated competition for a number of people or teams to compete in a specific sport.**
2. **A sports camp is a camp or clinic that**
 - a. **Consists of three (3) or more students or school teams that meet for the purpose of receiving basic skills in a sport or activity.**
 - b. **places special emphasis on a particular sport or sports and provides specialized instruction, practice or competition;**

- c. involves activities designed to improve overall skills and general knowledge in the sport;
- d. offers diversified experience without instruction in any particular sport;
- e. and extends no longer than a period of one week.
- f. Parents or students must pay all camp/clinic fees, tuition and other related expenses. A scholarship, waiver of fees, or payment of travel expenses shall be considered inducement.

H. Beginning in 2010, there will be a Dead Week” prior to the beginning of TAPPS activities for the new school year. No school or team activities may be held during the week.

1. Athletic Camps are allowed on the high school campus, however, high school students (including incoming freshmen) from the member school may not attend the camp.



2. The following Activities are not allowed:

- a. High School Team Meetings
- b. High School Team Building Activities
- c. High School Team Camps
- d. High School Team Travel / Lodging
- e. High School Physicals
- f. Open Gyms
- g. Open Weight Rooms


TAPPS does not prohibit concurrent participation by TAPPS athletes during the season. Athletes are to be reminded that TAPPS contests and practices take precedence over other league/tournament games or practices.

**Section 141
PLAY-OFF FORMAT**

A. Brackets

1. Brackets in **ALL** Classes Divisions are drawn so that the district champ and **runner up from the same district do not meet in the play-off until the finals.**
2.  In 4A in all sports except football, the higher ranked team shall be the home team the first round; after that, games to be played at a neutral site, by mutual in agreement or coin toss, until TAPPS schedules the site. This includes **Division II Boys Winter Soccer and Division II Girls Winter Soccer.**
3.  In **1A,2A,3A,** and 5A, in all sports except football, the higher ranked team shall be the home team until TAPPS schedules the site.
4. *In **football** the higher ranked team is home until the regional round, which is a neutral site, by mutual agreement or coin toss. If a District Champion gets a bye in the first round, it shall be the home team in the first round in which it plays, unless its opponent is also a district champion, in which case the game will be at a neutral site, by mutual agreement or coin toss.*
*In **6 man football**, the higher ranked team is home in the first round only, then neutral site, by agreement or coin toss. District Champs receiving a bye in the first round, are **NOT** home team in second round; must be neutral site by agreement or coin toss.*

B. Games

5. When securing a neutral site, the game shall be scheduled approximately half-way between the two schools, unless mutually agreed otherwise. If the two schools cannot agree, each shall select a neutral site and settle the game site by a coin toss.
6. Unless mutually agreed otherwise, the game field or court must meet the minimum standard for competition as indicated in the approved rules for that sport, to be used in district and play-off games.
7.  **Game days are indicated on the TAPPS Calendar**, unless both teams otherwise agree. If game dates are changed by mutual agreement, the game cannot interfere with the next round of the play-off.
8. Game times are by mutual agreement or coin toss.
9. If the home team moves the game to a facility other than their home court or field, the home team assumes the full expense of the facility rental, unless otherwise agreed upon.
10. Regional, Semi-finals and finals in volleyball and basketball, finals in football, and semi-finals and finals in soccer, baseball and softball are scheduled by TAPPS and can only be changed by action of the TAPPS Executive Board.
11. In all play-off games, (other than regional, semi-final and finals provided by TAPPS) all game expenses shall be paid from the gate receipts. Any remaining

funds are to be equally divided by the two schools, unless mutually agreed otherwise. If the game is played at the facility of the home team, and gate receipts do not cover the game expenses, the home team should absorb the loss, since the visiting team had travel expenses, unless mutually agreed otherwise. If the game is played at a neutral site, and the gate receipts do not cover expenses, both teams should share in the expenses equally, unless mutually agreed otherwise.

12. Teams that qualify for the play-offs are allowed one practice game, in each round of the play-off until they are eliminated or the championship is decided. Play-off practice games do not count in the total number of games allowed per season.

13. In Playoff Brackets, other than football, the following formula will be used to determine playoff qualifiers from each district.

Teams in District	Advance to Playoffs
1	1
2	1
3	2
4	2
5	3
6	3
7	4
8	4
9	5
10	5
11	6
12	6

After application of the above table, teams will be added to insure the brackets are set on a 12 team, 16 team, 24 team, or 32 team bracket. If a team that would not have qualified for the playoffs under the above 50% rule is placed in the bracket, that team may opt to withdraw from the playoffs prior to the first round games without penalty. This decision must be made prior to district certification and no team shall be advanced in the district rankings to take this position. However, once entering the playoffs a team must complete the postseason.

(Sections 142-144 reserved for expansion.)