

# Article 9 - Middle Level Activities Bylaws

## 9.1 PURPOSE

**9.1.1** - The primary goal of seventh and eighth grade activities programs is participation. The purpose should be to encourage and promote participation of all students in a variety of activities; every student who chooses to participate should be granted that opportunity.

## 9.2 MEMBERSHIP

**9.2.1** - Whenever a school system has a high school that becomes a member of the Nebraska School Activities Association, all interscholastic activities involving students enrolled in grades above the sixth shall be enrolled and governed by the rules of the NSAA. A membership fee shall be assessed for each high school and each school including grades seven and/or eight.

**9.2.2** - Any other school system operating any single grade or combination of grades seven and eight may apply for an associate membership under the condition that, if accepted, it shall comply with all regulations of the association including the payment of the annual membership fee.

**9.2.3** - Membership of schools involving grades seven and/or eight shall be termed associate memberships. Associate memberships may be acquired upon proper application, agreement to be governed by the rules, and payment of dues, with the understanding that associate members shall not acquire any voting rights or any vested interest in the assets of the association.

## 9.3 COACHING REGULATIONS

**9.3.1** - All coaches of programs involving students in grades seven and eight must be approved by the principal and superintendent.

## 9.4 CONSENT OF PARENT AND STUDENT

**9.4.1** - A student shall become eligible for practice and competition in each activity that is under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska School Activities Association when a certificate of consent, signed by the student and one of his/her parents or guardian, is on file with the principal. The certificate of consent shall contain an acknowledgement that the major rules and regulations governing the student's eligibility to participate in interscholastic activities have been disclosed to the student and his/her parent or guardian.

## 9.5 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

**9.5.1** - Each student who expects to participate in athletic contests shall present to the superintendent or principal once each year, before actual participation in any interschool sport, a physician's certificate on a form recommended by the NSAA that he/she is physically fit for athletic participation.

**9.5.2** - The individual giving a physical examination for the purpose of certifying a student is physically fit to participate in athletic activities should be licensed to diagnose, treat, or recommend treatment in the areas covered by the recommended physical examination form. The individual giving a medical opinion must do so within the scope of his/her training and within the limits defined by state statutes as to services that can be legally performed by the field of practice to which the individual belongs.

**9.5.3** - The requirement that a student must have a physical examination once each year has been interpreted to mean the examination must be given during the school year in which the student participates or during the summer vacation period which precedes the school year in which the individual participates. A physical taken in the summer vacation period or anytime during the school year is good only to the end of the school year. Any physical taken May 1 or after will be considered a part of summer vacation.

**9.5.4** - The completed physical examination forms must be kept on file at the local school.

## 9.6 SUNDAY CONTESTS

**9.6.1** - No school that is a member of the NSAA shall be permitted to engage in any interschool contest on Sunday.

## **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 9.6.1**

*A middle school that has been participating in Sunday competition in the past and whose governing board permits Sunday competition may petition the NSAA for approval for that school to engage in Sunday competition.*

## **9.7 DECEMBER MORATORIUM**

**9.7.1** - For five consecutive days in December, there shall be no practice and no interschool competition by individuals or teams in any athletic activity sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association. The specific dates for each five-day period will be set by the Board of Directors for three years in advance.

*[The moratorium is to include December 24 and 25 and the 5-days must be consecutive for each activity.]*

## **9.8 CONTEST LIMITS**

*[Contest limitations are defined by the Nebraska Department of Education in Rule 10 and Rule 14. Those limits are as follows:]*

**9.8.1** - No student in grades seven or eight participates in interscholastic athletic contests between schools within a school system or between school systems which exceed six games in football, fourteen matches in volleyball, twelve games in basketball, eight meets in wrestling, eight meets in track and field, and eight contests in all other activities. Contest limits shall be based on the total number of contests played. Each game, match, or meet played in a tournament shall count as one of the contests permitted within these contest limits.

*Q: Are 7th and 8th graders permitted to participate in school-sponsored sports and in non-school sponsored sports simultaneously?*

*A: Yes, 7th and 8th graders are permitted to participate on non-school teams and in non-school competition while also participating on a school team.*

## **9.9 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**9.9.1** - Each school shall adopt and enforce a scholastic eligibility rule for seventh and eighth grades. That local scholastic policy shall govern students for seventh and eighth grade interscholastic competition.

**9.9.2** - A student shall become eligible for four semesters of junior high/middle school activities participation beginning with his/her initial enrollment in grade seven.

**9.9.3** - No student who has attained the age of fifteen years shall be eligible for junior high/middle school interschool competition except as follows: a student who becomes fifteen years of age on or after August 1 shall be eligible on the basis of age until the end of the current school year.

*[Questions relevant to 6th grade participation shall be directed to the Nebraska Department of Education.]*

## **9.10 COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP**

**9.10.1** - If a member junior high/middle school does not offer a particular activity program, it is permissible for that school to enter into a cooperative sharing agreement with another school that does offer the program.

## **9.11 SPORTSMANSHIP**

**9.11.1** - Schools shall adopt a local policy to govern sportsmanship for junior high/middle school level.