



CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

2023-2024

2023-2024 Constitution & Bylaws



CHANGES IN BYLAWS & APPROVED RULINGS

2.1.3	Student/Parent Consent Form New form must be used in 2023-24. Spanish version also available on the NSAA website.
2.7.5.2	International Transfer Student <i>Regardless of grade placement, CSJET-listed J-1 or F-1 non-immigrant visa program participants are only eligible in the school district in which the student's host family lives, unless permission is granted by the NSAA Executive Director through a hardship waiver.</i>
2.7.6	Home School Transfers Due to the amendment of Nebraska State Statute 79-2,136, the NSAA Board of Directors adopted the amended standing determination for participation of part-time students effective July 1, 2023. The determination allows part-time students to participate if enrolled in at least 5 credit hours per semester. Further, such part-time students who are enrolled in subsequent semesters must have successfully completed 20 credit hours in the immediately preceding semester, of which at least 5 of those credit hours must have been earned at the member school. The Board and Executive Director will enforce this determination until such time as the Constitution and/or Bylaws may be amended to harmonize them with the requirements of state law applicable to NSAA member schools.
AR 2.7.8.2	Students Missing May 1st Transfer Deadline Students who do not meet the May 1 st transfer deadline but enroll at the school they transferred to on the first day of classes would be immediately eligible on the last day of the moratorium or after the first semester ends.
AR 2.11	Penalties Remove \$200 fine for opting out of the postseason.
AR 2.12.2	Coach Certification Any NDE certificate/permit allowing someone to teach permitted for coach certification.
2.13.4.7	Winter Co-op Deadline – Moved to October 1
AR 3.3.1.2 (2)	Replacement Games When a team cancels/forfeits its season, affected teams may replace the forfeited contest with another affected team or a team that hasn't exceeded the contest limitation if there are 7 days remaining before postseason seeding.
AR 3.3.1.2 (3, 4, 5)	Football Forfeits (3) Ineligible for postseason, (4) \$1000 to opponent for lost home game, (5) Pay officials
AR 3.5.1 (2)	In-Season College Camps & Clinics During the season, students are permitted to attend & participate in college camps & clinics.
3.7.1.c	Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) Students may engage in NIL activities, but are subject to the guidelines in 3.7.1.c.
3.11.1.5 (1)	Basketball Quarter Limits If a student participates in varsity and non-varsity basketball games, the student shall be limited to seven quarters of participation per day.
3.11.7.3	Softball Game Limits Contest limit increased from 17 to 18 in Class B and Class C.
3.11.10.4	Track & Field Meet Limit Participation in interschool track and field competition by any school student shall be limited to twelve meets. This would not include district or state championships.
6.6.3.1	Speech Individual Event Limit In all classes, a student may enter and participate in three events.
	Wildcard Sports Results of all out-of-state contests will be factored in to the wildcard standings used for postseason seeding.
<i>Not all situations are explicitly covered in the Constitution & Bylaws. Additional activity specific information is available in NSAA Activity Manuals on the NSAA website.</i>	

District Officers 2023-2024

Term Expires July 31 of:

District I

Term	Officer	Alternate
------	---------	-----------

2024	Dr. Dana Wiseman, Sutton, Board of Director	Dr. Mitchell Stine, Norris
2026	Kara Graham, Lincoln Southeast, Board of Director	Dr. Liz Standish, Lincoln Public Schools
2024	Dr. J.J. Toczek, Lincoln Public Schools, Chairperson	Zach Limbach, Lincoln East
2026	Matt Uher, Lincoln Northeast, Vice Chairperson	Dallas Sweet, Malcolm
2025	John Moody, Seward, Secretary	David Davis, Fairbury

District II

Term	Officer	Alternate
------	---------	-----------

2024	Dr. Nick Wemhoff, Fort Calhoun, Board of Director	James Shada, Arlington
2026	Thomas Lee, Omaha Westview, Board of Director	Robert Aranda, Omaha Westside
2026	James Shada, Arlington, Chairperson	Robert Barry, Wahoo
2024	Rochelle Rohlfs, Omaha Marian, Vice Chairperson	Tim Kwapnioski, Columbus
2026	Chad Holtz, Bellevue East, Secretary	Jon Mauro, Bellevue West

District III

Term	Officer	Alternate
------	---------	-----------

2025	Dr. Jon Cerny, Bancroft-Rosalie, Board of Director	Jeff Bellar, Norfolk Catholic
2025	Jeff Bellar, Norfolk Catholic, Chairperson	AJ Johnson, Hartington-Newcastle
2026	Mike Sanne, Boyd County, Vice Chairperson	AJ Johnson, Hartington-Newcastle
2024	Brad Hoelsing, Wausa, Secretary	Jeff Messersmith, Bloomfield

District IV

Term	Officer	Alternate
------	---------	-----------

2027	Darren Tobey, Broken Bow, Board of Director	PJ Smith, Northwest
2024	Phil Truax, Lexington, Chairperson	Jordan Cudney, Hershey
2025	Alan Frank, Adams Central, Vice Chairperson	Danny McMurtry, Maxwell
2026	Seth Ryker, Gothenburg, Secretary	Ryan Hogue, Kearney

District V

Term	Officer	Alternate
------	---------	-----------

2027	Robert Drews, Arapahoe, Board of Director	Randy Geier, Wauneta-Palisade
2026	Sam Dunn, Loomis, Chairperson	Jarod Albers, Cambridge
2024	Jon Davis, Alma, Vice Chairperson	Darin Nichols, McCook
2025	Craig Newcomb, Bertrand, Secretary	Daren Hatch, Elwood

District VI

Term	Officer	Alternate
------	---------	-----------

2025	Dr. Troy Unzicker, Alliance, Board of Director	Mike Halley, Valentine
2025	Kari Gifford, Banner County, Chairperson	TBD
2026	Bec Ray, Thedford	Todd Westover, Hemingford
2024	Eugene Hanks, Crawford, Secretary	Bec Ray, Thedford

INDEX

A

Academic Transfers	2.7.1
Accommodation Request	2.14 Appendix 3
Administrative Authority	1.6.1
Administrative Responsibility	2.1.1
Age	2.3
Alleged Violations	1.10.2
All-Star Competition	3.6
Alternates to Board of Directors	1.7.5
Amateur Rule	3.7
Annual Participation Report	3.10
Assumed Name	3.9
Athlete Conduct	3.3.11.1
Attendance Requirements	2.4
Authorized Representative	1.9.1
Awards	2.15

B

Baseball	3.11.2
Basketball	3.11.1
Board of Directors	1.6.1
Boundaries – Schools	2.6.1.2
Bowling	3.11.13

C

Camps/Clinics	3.2.6
Catastrophic Insurance	nsaahome.org
Caucus Committee	1.5.4
Change for Academics	2.7.1
Change of Domicile	2.6.9–11
Cheerleading	3.3.7 (AR)
Classification	2.13
Coaching	2.12
Coach Ejections	2.11.4
Collegiate Participation	3.8
Competition Regulations	3.3
Concussion Education	2.12 (AR)
Conditioning Programs – School Year	3.2.4
Conditioning Programs – Summer	3.2.8.3
Conduct & Sportsmanship	3.3.11
Conduct - Competition	2.10.1
Consolidating Schools	2.6.5
Constitutional Amendments	1.5.3.8
Contracts for Contests	3.3.3
Cooperative Sponsorship	2.13.4
Cross Country	3.11.3

D

Debate	4.1
December Moratorium	3.1.2
Disputes between Schools	3.3.5
District Assignments	3.3.6
District Managing Committee	1.7
District Meetings	1.5.1
District Organization	1.4.1
Domicile Eligibility	2.6
Dual Enrollment	2.6.6
Due Process Procedure	1.10
Dues & Registration Fees	1.3.2

E

Ejections	2.11
-----------------	------

Eligibility	2.1.1
End of Season	3.1.1.2
Emerging/Add Activity	2.14.1AR
Enrollment Figures	2.13.2.1-4
Equal Opportunity for Participation	2.14
Exceptions to Eligibility Rules	2.9
Executive Director	1.6.2

F

First Contest Dates	3.1.1.2
Fiscal Year	1.6.3
Football	3.11.4
Forfeits	3.3.1.2 AR

G

Gender Participation	
Policy	2.14 Appendix 4
General Provisions	1.9
Golf	3.11.5
Guardians	2.6.2.1

H

Hardship Waiver	1.6.2.1, 1.10.3
Hardship Hearing Procedure	1.10.3.12
Hearing Procedure	Appendix 1
High School Graduates	2.2.4
Home School District	2.6.3.1
Home School Transfers	2.7.6

I

Individual Instruction	3.5.2
International Transfers	2.7.5
Interstate Competition	1.8.5.1.1
Institutional Control	2.11.6
Investigations	2.11.5

J

Journalism	8.1
Junior High Game Limits	3.3.13.2, 9.8

L

Learning Centers	2.6.7
Learning Disabilities	2.6.8
Legal Parents – Definition	2.6.2
Legislation Enactment	1.5.3.6
Legislative Commission	1.5.2

M

May 1 Transfer	2.7.8
McKinney-Vento Act	2.6.12
Membership	1.2, 9.2
Middle Level Activities	9.0
Music	7.1

N

Name, Image & Likeness	3.7.1
Negative actions against officials and judges	Appendix 6
New Cooperative Agreements	2.13.4.5
Non-Varsity Competition	3.3.12
NSAA Scheduled Contests	3.3.1.1

O

Officials..... 3.12

Open Gym

Opening of Seasons..... 3.1.1.2

Open Meetings Policy Appendix 2

Opting Up a Classification 2.13.2AR

Organization of NSAA Districts..... 1.4.1

Organized Practice..... 3.2.3

Out-of-Season Programs..... 3.2

Out-of-State Contests..... 3.3.8

Outside Participation 3.5

P

Parents 2.6.2

Parental Consent..... 2.1.3, 9.4

Participant Ejections..... 2.11.3

Participants – Definition..... 2.2.1

Penalties..... 2.11

Physical Exams 3.4, 9.5

Play Production 5.1

Playing Rules 3.3.4

Practice 3.2.3

Preceding Semester..... 2.5.2

Private Instruction..... 3.5.2

Prohibited Activities 3.3.14

Proposals 1.5.3.5

Protests 3.12.4

Purpose..... 1.1.2

R

Recruiting 2.8

Representative Assembly..... 1.5.3

S

Sanctions..... 1.8

Scheduled Contests 3.3.1

Scholastic Requirements..... 2.5

Scrimmages 3.3.2, 3.11.1.6.1

Second Semester Eligibility 2.2.5

Semester Limitations..... 2.2.2

Seventh & Eighth Graders

 Age..... 2.3.2

 Competition 3.3.13

 On High School Teams 2.6.4

Soccer 3.11.6

Softball 3.11.7

Special Services Certificate..... 2.12.2.1

Speech 6.1

Sportsmanship 3.3.11

State Contests..... 3.3.7

Student Eligibility 2.1.1

Student Violations..... 2.11.2

Students Governed 1.9.5

Summer Activities..... 3.2.7

Summer School..... 2.5.3

Sunday Competition 3.3.9, 9.6

Supervision at Contests..... 3.3.10

Swimming & Diving 3.11.8

T

Tennis..... 3.11.9

Track & Field 3.11.10

Transfer Eligibility 2.7

Transfer Exceptions 2.7.8

U

Undue Influence..... 2.8

Unified Sports..... 3.11.14

Unmanned Aerial (Drone) Appendix 5

Unsportsmanlike Conduct 3.3.11

V

Violation Investigations 2.11.5

Volleyball..... 3.11.11

W

Ward of the State 2.6.11

Wrestling 3.11.12

Constitution—Article 1

1.1 NAME AND PURPOSE

- 1.1.1 This organization shall be known as the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA).
- 1.1.2 The public and non-public high schools of Nebraska voluntarily agreed to form the Nebraska School Activities Association for the following purposes:
 - a. to formulate and make policies to promote high ideals of citizenship, fair competition, sportsmanship and teamwork which will complement the member schools' curriculum programs.
 - b. to foster uniformity of standards in interscholastic activity competition.
 - c. to organize, develop, direct and regulate an interscholastic activity program which is equitable and will guide and promote the health and physical welfare of all participants.

1.2 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.2.1 Any public or non-public school operating any grade or grades above the sixth and rated Approved or Accredited by the Nebraska State Department of Education may become a member of this Association.
- 1.2.2 Payment of annual dues, submission of completed membership application form, and agreement to comply with all rules and regulations are necessary for membership in this Association.

1.3 DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

- 1.3.1 Membership dues shall be \$40.00 per year for each school. The annual dues are payable during the month of July for the ensuing year. Failure to pay dues on or before September 30 for any current year shall result in forfeiture of membership.
Reinstatement of a delinquent member school shall be authorized only upon payment of a penalty of five dollars (\$5.00) and upon payment of all dues in arrears.
- 1.3.2 If the Board of Directors believes it is necessary to have additional income in order to carry out the Association's program of activities, a participation fee may be assessed each school for each activity in which the school participates. The amount of the fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors, and the total fee assessed each school shall be paid on or before the opening date of each sport season.

1.4 DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

- 1.4.1 For the purpose of effecting equitable representation in the government of the Association, the State shall be divided into six basic districts. The boundaries of these districts shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. NSAA district boundaries will be reviewed at least every ten (10) years, and more frequently if the need exists, by a formal review committee comprised of eight (8) member schools and two members of the Board of Directors.
- 1.4.2 Whenever it is deemed advisable for the effective administration and direction of a single competitive event or festival, the Board of Directors may subdivide a district or form other areas within the State without regard for district boundaries.

1.5 LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE AND AUTHORITY

- 1.5.1 **District Meetings.** Each district shall hold a minimum of two meetings each year. The first meeting shall be held by December 1 and the second meeting shall be held by February 1.
 - 1.5.1.1 The purpose of the first district meeting shall be for the transaction of other business which may properly come before it.
 - 1.5.1.2 Proposed changes in the Constitution and Bylaws must be introduced during the first district meeting, and shall be presented by a representative of a member school district located within that respective NSAA district.
All legislative proposals are submitted to the NSAA electronically. After the NSAA staff verifies the proposals to confirm the Bylaw or rule reference, the proposals are posted on-line for all schools to view. After the October 1 deadline for submitting proposals, the NSAA will e-mail the respective NSAA district proposals to each member school within that district.
An administrator's signature is not required for submission as access to the proposal form may only be obtained through the secured administrator's log-in on the NSAA web site.
 - 1.5.1.3 Upon the majority approval of member schools present at the first district meeting, written proposals presented that day by the respective Board of Directors member may be added to the meeting agenda.
 - 1.5.1.4 At all district meetings of this Association, each member school shall be entitled to one vote. The administrative head of the school or any school official so designated shall be considered the representative of the member school.
 - 1.5.1.5 All proposed changes receiving a majority vote at the first district meeting in each district shall be forwarded to the Executive Director by December 15. The Executive Director will compile all proposals received from all districts and send the accumulated proposals to all member schools for local study.
 - 1.5.1.6 The purpose of the second district meeting is for the election of officers and to review and act on all proposals submitted during the first district meeting. New proposals and/or amendments are not permitted. The minutes of this meeting are to be forwarded to the Executive Director.

- 1.5.2 **Legislative Commission.** There shall be a Legislative Commission composed of the members of the Board of Directors and the chairperson of each District Managing Committee.
- 1.5.2.1 The Legislative Commission should meet annually, on a date set by the Board of Directors, at least forty-five days prior to the Representative Assembly.
- 1.5.2.2 The Legislative Commission shall consider and screen the proposals for changes in the Constitution and Bylaws passed by the districts to be submitted to the Representative Assembly.
- 1.5.2.3 Proposals for changes in the Constitution and Bylaws that receive six or more of the fourteen votes of the members of the Legislative Commission or proposals for changes in the Constitution and Bylaws that have been passed by three or more districts shall be placed on the Representative Assembly agenda.
- 1.5.2.4 The voting results on each proposal shall be sent to the member schools within seven days following the Legislative Commission meeting.
- 1.5.3 **Representative Assembly.** The legislative authority of this Association shall be vested in a Representative Assembly that shall be responsible for establishing policy for the effective regulation of school activities for which this Association has been created.
- 1.5.3.1 The Representative Assembly shall be composed of the District Managing Committee members (Ref. 1.7.2) and voting members, and elected representatives from each district.
 - a. The elected representatives are selected on the basis of one representative for each 3,000 students or major fraction thereof, enrolled in grades 9 through 11 in each district based upon the enrollment figures submitted by October 1 of the preceding school year to the Nebraska Department of Education.
 - b. At least one-half of the total representation from each district in this Assembly shall be school administrators (persons whose job responsibilities are of such nature as to require an administrative and supervisory certificate).

Each district delegation may include but not exceed one director of each activity sponsored by the Association, but in no event shall the delegation exceed the total number of representatives allowed in the preceding paragraph.
- 1.5.3.2 An equal number of alternate representatives shall be chosen, keeping in mind that at least one-half shall be administrative personnel.
- 1.5.3.3 In the event that both the elected voting member (delegate) and his/her alternate are unable to attend the Representative Assembly, the respective District Managing Committee has the authority to appoint an official delegate in order that each district will have a full complement of delegates attending.
- 1.5.3.4 A majority of the total membership of the Representative Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- 1.5.3.5 The Representative Assembly shall consider all items placed on the agenda by the Legislative Commission. New proposals may be submitted to the Representative Assembly if introduced as "other business," and provided the proposals receive the consent of a majority of the members of the Assembly.
 - a. Proposals introduced as "other business" and approved by the majority of the members of the Assembly shall be presented in written form with sufficient copies for each representative. Such proposals shall be brought up for discussion immediately following the prepared agenda.
- 1.5.3.6 Legislation may be enacted by a three-fifths majority vote at any annual meeting provided changes in the Constitution, or the Bylaws pertaining to eligibility rules for participation in interschool activities, or new proposals brought up on the floor under "other business" shall be approved by member schools of the Association. With the consent of three-fifths of the membership present at any annual meeting, the Representative Assembly may refer other legislative proposals to member schools.
 - a. Whenever a proposal is referred to the membership of the Association, it shall be accompanied by a statement of the principal arguments for and against its enactment.
 - b. Any proposal so referred shall become valid as a rule of the Association when approved by three-fifths of the member schools voting on the issue, provided the votes cast in favor of such proposal shall equal or exceed thirty-five percent of the total membership of the Association.
- 1.5.3.7 It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director to determine the expense allowance of each representative to the Representative Assembly and to pay such expenses from the general funds of the Association.
- 1.5.3.8 **Amendments.** Amendments may be made to the Constitution as specified in Paragraph 1.5.3.6 or whenever fifteen percent of the member schools petition the proposal of an amendment to the Constitution, the Board of Directors shall direct the Executive Director to conduct a referendum on the proposal. Amendments offered in this manner shall become a valid part of the Constitution when ratified by three-fifths of the member schools taking part in such referendum provided the votes cast in favor equal or exceed thirty-five percent of the total membership of the Association.
 - a. Whenever a proposal is referred to the membership of the Association, it shall be accompanied by a statement of the principal arguments for and against its adoption.

1.5.4 CLASSIFICATION CAUCUS COMMITTEE

1.5.4.1 Each classification of member schools established pursuant to this Constitution shall form a caucus made up of member schools in such classifications, which shall be referred to as a Classification Caucus.

1.5.4.2 **Meetings.** Each class shall hold a caucus meeting each year.

1.5.4.2.1 A Classification Caucus may initiate proposals for adoption, amendment or repeal of Association Bylaws/Approved Rulings, provided that any such proposal shall not affect student eligibility or materially affect Association and member school finances. Each such proposal shall include a cost and revenue analysis, and the proposed effective date of the proposed adoption, amendment or repeal of an Association Bylaw/Approved Ruling.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 1.5.4.2.1

1. *The NSAA staff shall designate a late summer/early fall date, time and location for an initial meeting for each Classification Caucus to meet to discuss possible proposals to be considered in each class. Member schools shall be invited to such meetings, but attendance is optional for schools.*
2. *“Materially affect finances” shall mean any expense in excess of \$500. Those making proposals through the Classification Caucus shall consider all costs, not the least of which includes trophies and medals; reimbursements to schools for participation in state events; programming costs to make the necessary NSAA software changes to accommodate the proposal; added member school travel, lodging and meal costs; added costs for Association or member school equipment acquisition or changes and added personnel costs. If such costs to the NSAA are projected to exceed \$500, such legislative proposals will need to be introduced through the normal NSAA District Meeting legislative process. If there is a question as to whether the added cost exceeds \$500, the executive director or Board of Directors shall make the final decisions as to whether such proposal can be introduced through the Classification Caucus process.*
3. *Classification caucus proposals initiated for consideration shall only affect the class in which it was submitted.*

1.5.4.2.2 All proposals for the adoption of, amendment to or repeal of Association Bylaws/Approved Rulings must be submitted by a Classification Caucus Representative electronically to the NSAA no later than October 1.

1.5.4.2.3 After the October 1 deadline, the NSAA shall forward the proposals to the Classification Caucus Review Committee.

1.5.4.3 Classification Caucus Review Committee

1.5.4.3.1 The Classification Caucus Review Committee shall be comprised of two representatives from each of the four (4) NSAA classifications representing Classes A, B, C and D qualified to serve under paragraph 1.5.1.4, and the Chairperson of the NSAA Board of Directors. The NSAA Executive Director or designee shall serve in an ex-officio capacity.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 1.5.4.3.1

In the event that a representative is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, the representatives of that respective class may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy. The terms of Classification Caucus members shall be three-year terms, and a rotation system shall be established to assure that each of the six NSAA Districts has representation on the Classification Caucus and to assure there is a systematic rotation of Classification Caucus members.

1.5.4.3.2 The Classification Caucus Review Committee shall hold a minimum of two meetings each year. Minutes shall be taken of such meetings, and posted on the NSAA website. The first meeting shall be held in October and the second meeting shall be held in February.

1.5.4.3.2.1 At the first meeting of the Classification Caucus Committee, the committee shall:

- a. review each submitted proposal;
- b. take action on each proposal submitted; and
- c. return the proposal to the submitting Classification Caucus along with any adopted comments and recommendations. The Classification Caucus may consider the committee’s comments and recommendations, and may submit amendments to the proposal on or before November 15.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 1.5.4.3.2.1

The Classification Caucus members from each of the NSAA Districts shall make a presentation of the Classification Caucus proposals to their District’s membership at the annual November District Meetings where the membership can hear and discuss such proposals.

1.5.4.3.2.2 At the second meeting of the Classification Caucus Committee, the committee shall consider all submitted proposals and any subsequent amendments thereto, and take action on all submitted proposals with amendments, if any.

1.5.4.3.3 The Classification Caucus Review Committee shall approve or disapprove proposed Classification Caucus proposals for the adoption of, amendment to, or repeal of Association Bylaws/Approved Rulings. To be approved, all proposals must receive an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) or more of the

committee members present and voting on the proposal.

Disapproved Classification Caucus proposals shall be referred back to the Classification Caucus submitting same with a statement from the committee of reasons for such disapproval. Approved Classification Caucus proposals shall be forwarded to the Board of Directors for action according to this article.

1.5.4.4 Each proposal approved by the Classification Caucus Review Committee will be posted on the NSAA website as an approved Classification Caucus proposal, and each such proposal shall be presented as an information item at the annual NSAA Representative Assembly meeting.

1.5.4.5 Following the annual Representative Assembly meeting, the Board of Directors shall direct the Executive Director to conduct a referendum on the Classification Caucus proposal that shall be submitted to the members of the Classification Caucus participating in the activity subject to the proposed Bylaw change. The Classification Caucus proposal shall be accompanied by a statement of the rationale for such proposal. Each Classification Caucus proposal must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the member schools voting in such referendum. If a proposal for the adoption, amendment or repeal of an Approved Ruling is approved by the members voting thereon, such Class Caucus proposal must then be ratified by the Board of Directors. The Classification Caucus proposal shall become a part of the Association Bylaws/Approved Rulings on the effective date set forth in the approved proposal.

1.6 JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY

1.6.1.1 **Board of Directors.** The judicial and administrative authority of this association shall reside in a Board of Directors which shall be composed of one representative from each district and one additional representative from each NSAA district whose total grades 9-11 student population exceeds 12,000 students.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 1.6.1.1

The Nebraska School Activities Association was founded upon the doctrine of equality of all school members and equal treatment of all of the students and staff of its member schools. The NSAA school membership presents a diverse population of students and staff to be represented by the district representative on the Board of Directors with differences of race, color, national origin, religion, marital status, sex, age, or disability. In selecting the district representative for the Board of Directors, school members of each district are encouraged to consider the diversity of the member schools, students, and staff of such district in the context of the representation of such diverse groups as part of the nomination and individualized consideration of each applicant for a position on the Board of Directors.

At least one of the two District 1 Board of Director positions shall be designated for a female representative and at least one of the two District 2 Board of Director positions shall be designated for a racial minority representative.

1.6.1.2 Each member of the Board of Directors shall be a superintendent of schools, a high school principal, or a supervisor whose duties are primarily administrative and are of such nature to require an administrative and supervisory certificate.

1.6.1.3 **Election and term of office.** Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at annual district meetings. The term of office shall be four years and shall commence on August 1 succeeding the date of election. An alternate member of the Board of Directors shall be chosen in each district to succeed to membership on the Board of Directors in case of a vacancy in the district represented. The alternate member shall serve as the member of the Board of Directors of the district represented in all interschool controversies in which the member from that district has a special or a personal interest.

1.6.1.3.1 When an NSAA district's student population dictates that a second Board of Directors member be elected, that second board position shall be elected from among qualified candidates from the classification of schools in the district whose grades 9-11 student population represents the greatest student population.

1.6.1.3.2 Election of the additional Board of Directors members in those districts whose total grades 9-11 student population exceeds 12,000 students shall be handled in the same manner as the other members of the Board of Directors. Terms of office for the additional board members shall be for four years.

1.6.1.4 **Officers.** The Board of Directors shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve one-year terms.

1.6.1.5 **Meetings.** The Board of Directors will meet regularly, with special meetings at the call of the Chair or of any two members, with notice given to all members. All regular and special meetings will be open to individuals representing member schools, unless otherwise ordered by vote of the Board.

a. Minutes will be kept showing time, place, members present and absent, and substance of all matters discussed. Any action taken or any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote in open session, and the record will state how each member voted.

b. The Minutes of all meetings will be published on the Nebraska School Activities Association web page.

1.6.1.6 **Authority.** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to:

a. Interpret the Constitution and all legislation enacted by the Representative Assembly.

- b. Make all rules necessary for effective control and government of interschool activities consonant with the legislation enacted by the Representative Assembly and with this Constitution, subject to the following process and procedures:
 1. Such rules shall be set forth in the form of an Approved Ruling and Interpretation.
 2. An Approved Ruling and Interpretation may be adopted and made effective at such date and time as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
 3. An Approved Ruling and Interpretation is subject to review and comment by member schools at any time.
 4. A request for the amendment or elimination of an Approved Ruling and Interpretation may be introduced on or before October 1 each year for consideration at the first district meeting for such year, and shall be presented by a representative member school district located within that respective district. Such request shall be submitted to the NSAA electronically for review by the NSAA staff to allow for verification by the staff of the Approved Ruling and Interpretation being referenced. Upon verification of the Approved Ruling at issue, the Approved Ruling and Interpretation with the suggested amendments shown shall be posted on-line for all member schools to view. After October 1, the NSAA staff will email all suggested amendments of Approved Rulings and Interpretations to each member school within the district. An administrator's signature is not required for submission of a request for amendment or elimination of an Approved Ruling and Interpretation as access to the request form may only be obtained through the administrator's secured log-in on the NSAA website.
 5. Requests for amendment or elimination of an Approved Ruling and Interpretation shall be placed on the agenda for the first district meeting and shall be discussed and acted upon by the members of that district under the same process provided for legislative proposals set forth in Articles 1.5.1.4, 1.5.1.5, and 1.5.1.6.
 6. Requests for amendment or elimination of an Approved Ruling and Interpretation that receive a majority vote in at least one district at the first district meeting shall be placed on the agenda for the second district meeting in all six districts and shall be discussed and acted upon by the members of the district under the same process provided for legislative proposals set forth in Articles 1.5.1.4, 1.5.1.5, and 1.5.1.6.
 7. Those requests for amendment or elimination of an Approved Ruling and Interpretation from the agenda of the second district meeting shall be presented to the Board of Directors at its April regular meeting for review and action by the Board of Directors.
 8. The Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may (a) accept such request for amendment or elimination of an Approved Ruling and Interpretation, in whole or in part, (b) amend the Approved Ruling and Interpretation in another manner, or (c) determine to make no change in the Approved Ruling and Interpretation.
 - c. Adopt and promulgate rules of procedure in order to ensure that due process is followed in the disposition of alleged violations of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings and Interpretations of the Association.
 - d. Adjudicate all controversies between member schools which have been appealed.
 - e. For violations of provisions of this Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings and Interpretations thereof, impose such penalties as are authorized by the Bylaws.
 - f. Serve as members of the Legislative Commission.
 - g. Waive the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student.
 - h. Grant hardship waivers to schools when the circumstances warrant such a waiver.
- 1.6.2 **Executive Director.** The Board of Directors shall employ an Executive Director who shall exercise the prerogatives of a general administrator of all Association policies, practices and projects, and shall direct and supervise all statewide interschool events as the Board of Directors may assign.
- a. Employment shall be for a term not to exceed three years, and the Executive Director may serve one or more successive terms.
 - b. Compensation shall be set by the Board of Directors.
 - c. The Executive Director and other employees shall be bonded in an amount set by the Board of Directors. The premium for such bond shall be paid by the Association.
- 1.6.2.1 The Executive Director shall have the authority to make specific exceptions to the student eligibility rules provided such exceptions are based upon hardship conditions which are deemed to have contributed in a significant way to non-compliance with a specific rule(s).
- a. The procedure for requesting waivers on the basis of a hardship is given in the Due Process Procedure, Paragraph 1.10.3.
- 1.6.2.2 If charges are made in writing against a member school for an alleged violation of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings of the Association, the Executive Director shall investigate the alleged violation and render a decision pursuant to the Due Process Procedure of the Association.
- 1.6.2.3 The Executive Director may impose such penalties as are authorized by the Association's Bylaws. The

decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

- 1.6.3 **Fiscal Year.** The Association's fiscal year shall extend from August 1 to July 31. An audit of the financial records of the Association shall be made by a public accountant following the completion of the fiscal year. A report of the audit shall be distributed to each member school of the Association.

1.7 DISTRICT MANAGING COMMITTEE

- 1.7.1 The qualifications for membership on the Managing Committee shall be the same as those for membership on the Board of Directors.
- 1.7.2 A Managing Committee shall be elected in each district. It shall consist of three elected members and the member(s) of the Board of Directors. The term of office shall be three years and shall begin August 1.
One term shall expire each year. Alternates to the members of the Managing Committee shall be elected at the annual district meeting and for the same term of office that members of the Managing Committee are chosen.
- 1.7.3 Each Managing Committee shall choose its own officers yearly at the time of the annual district meeting, and such officers shall assume office on August 1 each year.
- 1.7.4 **Responsibilities.** The Managing Committee shall be charged with the following responsibilities:
- Assist in planning and managing contests, festivals and/or other interschool events sponsored by the Association in its respective districts as directed by the Board of Directors.
 - Study the needs of the schools in its respective district, and through its member of the Board of Directors, recommend measures of improvement.
 - Serve as a liaison committee between the Board of Directors and member schools in all matters pertaining to the service of the Association to the member schools.
 - Make necessary arrangements for the district meetings.
 - Chairperson shall serve as a member of the Legislative Commission.
- 1.7.5 In the event both the Board of Directors member and alternate of a particular district are unable to complete their terms of office, the District Managing Committee of that district shall appoint an individual to serve as the district's Board of Directors member.
- The appointee shall be a superintendent of schools, a high school principal, or a supervisor whose duties are primarily administrative and are of such nature to require an administrative and supervisory certificate.
 - The appointee shall serve until the next district meeting at which time a Board of Directors member and alternate shall be elected.

1.8 SANCTIONS

- 1.8.1 The Nebraska School Activities Association sanctions events as a means of guaranteeing programs adhere to the standards and regulations adopted by the membership.
- 1.8.1.1 The Executive Director has the authority to sanction all events and contests.
- 1.8.2 Events and contests conducted by member schools where participation is limited to teams or individuals representing member schools do not require a sanction.
- 1.8.3 Interschool competition in activities sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association and sponsored by an organization which is not a member of the NSAA is required to have a sanction.
- 1.8.4 Any contest or event sanctioned must be for students representing member high schools in interscholastic competition in activities sponsored by the Association. Unattached participation is not permitted.
- 1.8.5 **Interstate Competition.** The following provisions govern the sanctioning of interstate competition.
- Competition involving a school or schools from a state(s) other than Nebraska and sponsored by a non-member organization requires a sanction.
 - If interstate athletic competition involves four or more schools from two or more states or involves schools from three or more states and the states border the host state, a sanction is required from each state association.
 - Any interstate athletic competition involving more than eight (8) schools, or at least one (1) of which is from a state that does not border the host state OR five (5) or more states, at least one (1) of which does not border the host state shall be sanctioned through the National Federation office.
 - In interstate contests, each participating school is to follow the contest rules of the state association of which the school is a member or rules which have been approved by the state association for interstate competition.
 - In interstate non-athletic competition, a sanction is required from each state association that involves four or more schools from two or more states.
 - If the interstate competition involves a trip that exceeds 600 miles round trip, the school administrator must submit a written request at least twenty days prior to the scheduled date of the event on a form provided by the NSAA for a waiver. The Executive Director is granted

authority to waive the 600-mile limit provided the event is sanctioned and the school agrees to follow all NSAA rules governing competition in that activity.

1.9 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.9.1 The superintendent of schools or a properly designated member of the school faculty shall be the authorized representative of the member school in all interschool events. No interschool event shall be scheduled or conducted without his/her consent.
- 1.9.2 A member school shall engage in an interschool event only with the following:
 - a. Member school(s) within the state.
 - b. A school from another state that is a member of that state's athletic or activities association.
 - c. A school from another state that is not a member of that state's athletic or activities association provided the school would qualify for membership if permitted to join.
- 1.9.3 The Constitution, Bylaws, and Approved Rulings shall govern all activities recognized by the Nebraska School Activities Association.
 - a. No member school shall have the authority to waive any rule or regulation governing the conduct of any interschool contest in activities that are a part of the Association's program of activities.
 - b. Member schools shall not participate in any contest in which a school or schools are knowingly in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Ruling.
- 1.9.4 No interschool event of a competitive nature shall be held or conducted on Sunday.
- 1.9.5 The Nebraska School Activities Association Constitution, Bylaws, and Approved Rulings shall govern the following:
 - a. Students enrolled in grades 9-12 who compete as individuals or with a team while representing a member senior high school in interscholastic competition.
 - b. Students enrolled in grade 7 or 8 who, because of age, are promoted to a senior high school team.
- 1.9.6 Schools participating in non-sanctioned activities may be subject to penalties as prescribed in Section 2.11.

1.10 DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE

The following due process procedure shall govern all alleged violations by a Party of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings of the Nebraska School Activities Association as well as requests for hardship waivers of eligibility rules.

- 1.10.1 **Definitions.** As used herein, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - a. Party may mean any of the following or a combination thereof:
 1. Any public or non-public school of Nebraska that is a member of this Association on behalf of any student of such school;
 2. Any teacher, administrator, or coach of a public or non-public school of Nebraska that is a member of this Association;
 3. Any official, referee, or judge who is registered by this Association, and;
 4. Any official, referee, or judge who is serving at an activity or event, sponsored or authorized by this Association, in an official capacity.
 - b. **Notice.** When these rules require the giving of notice, the notice shall be in writing. Any method of delivery of notice may be used including but not limited to hand delivery, U.S. Mail service, parcel service, courier, or by electronic means.
 - c. Executive Director shall mean the duly appointed and serving Executive Director of this Association.
 - d. Executive staff shall mean the duly appointed directors of the association.
 - e. Hearing officer shall mean the person presiding at a hearing called pursuant to these rules. The Hearing Officer shall be selected by the Executive Director from a list of hearing officers compiled by the state department of education or any person who is not actively engaged in the investigation of the alleged violation. The hearing officer shall be charged with the duty of remaining impartial throughout the hearing process.
 - f. Board of Directors shall mean the Board of Directors of this Association.
 - g. Violation shall mean the breach of the rules and standards set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings of the Association.
 - h. Informal hearing shall mean a hearing where a party is afforded the opportunity to discuss the alleged violation and penalty assessed by the executive director and explain the party's position with regard to the alleged violation and penalty, to present information, and to ask questions of those appearing on behalf of the association.
 - i. Formal hearing shall mean a hearing where a party is afforded notice of the grounds for the alleged violation and penalty assessed by the executive director, the opportunity to examine any documents that will be presented at the hearing, the rights to be represented, and an

opportunity to cross-examine all witnesses and to examine all documents and to present evidence material to the issues, and shall include the rights set forth at paragraph 1.10.2.9.

1.10.2 Rules of Procedure for Alleged Violations.

- 1.10.2.1 Executive Director Investigation and Determination process: The Executive Director or executive staff shall investigate alleged violations.
- 1.10.2.1.1 Notice of investigation: The Executive Director or executive staff shall give notice to the party being investigated within a reasonable time after discovering the alleged violation or receiving a complaint.
- 1.10.2.1.2 Investigation: Shall contain a written report to include the following:
 - a. Findings of fact;
 - b. An opinion of whether a violation has been committed by the party;
 - c. The written report and opinion of violation, however, will not be binding on the Executive Director.
- 1.10.2.1.3 Executive Director's Determination: The Executive Director, after receiving the written report from the executive staff member or after completing the investigation personally, shall prepare a Determination that shall contain the following:
 - a. Statement of the alleged violation;
 - b. Proposed findings of fact;
 - c. A determination of whether a violation has been committed by the Party; and,
 - d. If it is determined that a violation has been committed by the Party, a proposed penalty to be imposed by the Executive Director.
- e. All penalties imposed apply during the due process procedure.
- 1.10.2.2 If the Executive Director determines a violation has occurred, notice of the preliminary determination shall be given to the Party charged with the violation. The notice shall be in writing and shall contain the following:
 - a. A copy of the preliminary determination;
 - b. A statement of the Party's right to a hearing pursuant to 1.10.2.3;
 - c. A copy of the hearing procedure; and,
 - d. A statement of the Party's right of appeal to the Board of Directors from the decision rendered after the hearing.
- 1.10.2.3 The party must request in writing either: (1) a formal due process hearing before a hearing officer pursuant to paragraph 1.10.2.8 through 1.10.2.13, or (2) waive the formal due process hearing before the hearing officer and request a hearing before the Board of Directors. The request must be postmarked or received by the Executive Director within 7 days after notice of the alleged violation is postmarked or personally delivered, whichever is later. The request for hearing must be addressed to the Executive Director.
- 1.10.2.4 If no request for hearing is received within the 7-day period, the Executive Director shall enter an order pursuant to the preliminary determination and the notice that was previously given to the Party. Notice of the final order shall be given to the Party within 7 days thereafter.
- 1.10.2.5 If a timely and valid request for a hearing is received, the Executive Director or his or her designate shall within a reasonable time give notice of a hearing to the Party. The notice of hearing shall contain the following:
 - a. Time for the hearing;
 - b. Place of the hearing;
 - c. Statement of the alleged violation; and
 - d. Identification of the hearing officer.
- 1.10.2.6 At the hearing before the hearing officer, the Party shall have the right to:
 - a. Be represented by counsel;
 - b. Confront and cross-examine witnesses; and
 - c. Submit documentary evidence and present witnesses.
- 1.10.2.7 The hearing shall be conducted by the hearing officer. A representative of the Association shall first present the evidence supporting the alleged violation. The Party shall then be allowed to respond to the allegations.
- 1.10.2.8 In conducting the hearing, the hearing officer shall not be bound by formal rules of evidence. Evidence may be in the form of affidavits, written reports, or electronic recordings if the contents of the affidavits, written reports, or electronic recordings are disclosed to all interested parties within a reasonable time period prior to the hearing. The proceedings shall be recorded and transcribed. The Party requesting the hearing shall bear the cost of the recording and transcription.
- 1.10.2.9 Within a reasonable time after the close of the hearing, the hearing officer shall render a decision. The decision shall be in written form and shall contain:
 - a. Findings of fact;
 - b. A determination of whether a violation has been committed; and

- c. The penalty to be imposed by the Board of Directors if a violation is found to have been committed by the Party.
- 1.10.2.10 Written notice of the Hearing Officer's decision shall be given to the Party within a reasonable time. The notice shall contain the following:
 - a. A copy of the decision;
 - b. A statement of the Party's right of appeal to the Board of Directors; and
 - c. A copy of the appeal procedure.
- 1.10.2.11 A written notice of appeal by a Party must be postmarked or received by the Executive Director within 7 days after notice of the Hearing Officer's decision is postmarked or personally delivered. The notice of appeal must be addressed to the Executive Director. If no timely notice of appeal is received, the decision rendered by the Hearing Officer shall stand and be a final decision of the Association.
- 1.10.2.12 After receiving a timely and valid notice of appeal, the Executive Director or his or her designate shall give written notice to the Party of the hearing on appeal. The hearing on appeal shall be before the Board of Directors at its meeting, or if circumstances require, an earlier meeting may be held pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association. The notice of hearing on appeal shall specify the time and place of hearing.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 1.10.2.15

Schools may request a special telephonic (Zoom) hearing in lieu of physically appearing at the site of the Board meeting.

- 1.10.2.13 An appeal from the decision of the hearing officer shall be heard by the Board of Directors De Novo on the certified record filed by the hearing officer. The certified record filed by the hearing officer shall be the sole basis upon which the Board of Directors shall make its decision, and no additional evidence shall be heard by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall give each party an opportunity for oral argument and briefing prior to making its decision. If an appeal is requested, no one shall contact or be contacted by the Board of Directors or individual Board of Directors members regarding the subject matter of the hearing in order to obtain or provide information to be considered in making the decision or in an attempt to persuade the Board of Directors regarding the decision to be made, except that the Board of Directors may receive advice and counsel from an attorney hired to represent the Board of Directors in making the decision. In making its decision, the Board of Directors shall give weight to the findings of fact of the hearing officer but shall not be bound by them.
- 1.10.2.13.1 A hearing on a direct appeal to the Board of Directors requested pursuant to 1.10.2.3 shall be an informal hearing and include the Executive Director or the executive staff and the party or representatives of the party. The Executive Director's determination shall be provided to the Board of Directors. The party may present information in the form of affidavits, written reports or statements or other pertinent information. The Executive Director and NSAA staff and the appealing party shall be provided up to a maximum of two hours each to present the matter to the Board of Directors. If the appealing party is to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing before the Board of Directors, the party shall provide notice of such representation in the request for appeal to the Board of Directors. If a timely and valid request for a hearing is received, the Board of Directors shall within a reasonable time give notice of a hearing to the party. The notice of hearing shall contain the time and place of the hearing; such hearings may be held via telephone or video conference by agreement of the Board of Directors and the appealing party.
- 1.10.2.14 Within a reasonable time after (1) the hearing on appeal from a decision of the hearing officer, or (2) the hearing on direct appeal to the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall render a written decision setting forth the following:
 - a. Findings of fact;
 - b. A determination of whether a violation has been committed by the Party; and
 - c. The penalty imposed if a violation is found to have occurred.
- 1.10.2.15 Notice of the decision shall be given to the Party within a reasonable time. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.
- 1.10.2.16 **Cost of Hearing.** Costs of the formal hearing shall be paid by the Party. Cost shall include, but not be limited to, Hearing Officer fees and reimbursable expenses, hearing transcription costs, and facility rental charges if any. The NSAA and the Party shall be responsible for their own legal fees, if any.
- 1.10.3 Rules of Procedure for Waiver of Eligibility Rules Based on Hardship.**
- 1.10.3.1 In accordance with the requirements of Article 1.6.2.1 of the Constitution, each member school and its superintendent or his or her designate shall be responsible for the initial investigation and determination of eligibility for its students.
- 1.10.3.2 The member school shall conduct the initial investigation and shall make the initial determination and declaration to the student of the student's ineligibility if it is so determined that the student is ineligible.
- 1.10.3.3 In making such determination, the school may request a written interpretation from the Executive Director of the applicable eligibility rules as set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Approved Rulings and Interpretations of the Association.
- 1.10.3.4 Any such determination of ineligibility by the member school may be appealed to the Executive Director

for a hardship waiver in accordance with the procedure as set forth in this Section 1.10.3.

- 1.10.3.5 In addition to the member school having the right to appeal for a hardship waiver, any member school shall sponsor an appeal on behalf of the student declared ineligible upon written request from such student delivered to the superintendent or his/her designate within 5 days after the initial determination by the member school of the student's ineligibility; provided, however the member school sponsoring such an appeal on behalf of the student has no obligation to advocate a position at any subsequent hearing on such appeal and may act merely as a neutral party in such proceedings.
- 1.10.3.6 If the decision of the Executive Director is unfavorable to the student, the member school shall continue to sponsor an appeal on behalf of the student to the Board of Directors in accordance with the procedure of appeal set forth in this Section 1.10.3.
- 1.10.3.7 Application for consideration of eligibility exceptions must be in writing on forms prepared by the Executive Director's Office and submitted by the superintendent or principal or the designated representative of the member school the student attends. Information submitted should include all facts pertinent to the case, including sufficient data to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation.
- 1.10.3.8 Such application should be filed with the Executive Director's office no later than 10 days prior to the first permitted contest of each sport season for which a waiver is sought.
- 1.10.3.9 The Executive Director will render a decision within a reasonable time after receiving the Application.
- 1.10.3.10 A hearing may be requested on behalf of the student by the school representative or the Executive Director. If a hearing is requested by the school representative, such request shall be submitted in writing simultaneously with the application. If so requested, the hearing shall be held within 5 days from the date the application and request for a hearing are received by the Executive Director. Within 5 days after the hearing, the Executive Director shall render a decision and notify the applicant in writing of such decision.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 1.10.3.10

Schools may request a special telephonic (Zoom) hearing in lieu of physically appearing at the site of the Board meeting.

- 1.10.3.11 The following shall be considered by the Executive Director or the Board of Directors in determining if a hardship waiver is to be granted:
 - a. There must be unique conditions existing that concern the student's educational, physical, or emotional status which were caused by circumstances beyond the control of the student and his/her parents or legal guardian.
 - b. The circumstances must be totally different from those that exist for the majority of students who are confronted with similar situations and choices. Usual maturation problems and family situations that do not cause physical harm do not constitute a hardship.
 - c. There must be no reason to believe that non-compliance with the rule requested to be waived was for activity participation purposes.
 - d. Academic deficiencies in a school's curriculum or deficiencies in the school's co-curricular activities do not constitute a hardship.
 - e. Loss of eligibility in itself is not to be considered a hardship. Only the circumstances causing the ineligibility will be a basis upon which a waiver is granted.
- 1.10.3.12 The decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the Board of Directors in accordance with the following procedure:
 - a. The appeal or request for waiver must be an appeal of a decision rendered by the Executive Director.
 - b. A written notice of appeal or request for waiver must be made by the superintendent, principal or their designated representative of the member school that the student attends and be postmarked or received by the Executive Director within 14 days after notice of the Executive Director's decision is postmarked or personally delivered, whichever is later. Notice of appeal or request for waiver must be addressed to the Executive Director.
 - c. After receiving a timely and valid notice of appeal or request for waiver, the Executive Director shall give written notice to the Party of the time and place of the hearing on appeal. The hearing on appeal shall be before the Board of Directors at the next meeting or by conference telephone call.
 - d. The Board of Directors may affirm the previous decision of the Executive Director or may modify or reject it in whole or in part. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final. The statement of findings of fact and the Board's decision shall be made in writing within 5 days after the date of the hearing and mailed to the school superintendent, principal or designated representative of the school sponsoring the appeal by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.

APPENDIX 1
PROCEDURE TO BE USED DURING HEARINGS BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors shall preside at all hearings.
 2. Authorized faculty member(s) of the school making the appeal must represent the appealing party. The individual, parent, legal counsel, or any combination thereof may also represent the appealing party.
 3. Appealing schools will be asked to provide the Executive Director, in advance of the hearing, all pertinent information including the student's transcripts, class schedule, specific hardship information, and any other information that will allow the Board of Directors to make an informed decision.
 4. If any new information is supplied after the Executive Director has made his/her ruling, the Executive Director has the prerogative to reconsider the matter. If the Executive Director's ruling does not change, the matter will be forwarded to a hearing before the Board of Directors.
 5. No new information will be permitted at the hearing level. The Board of Directors will only consider information at the hearing that was submitted to the Executive Director for his/her consideration.
 6. Hearings before the Board of Directors shall be open hearings unless the appealing party requests a closed hearing.
 7. Once the Chairperson of the Board of Directors opens the hearing, the Board of Directors and each member of the Association staff will introduce themselves. Following these introductions, the authorized school representatives will introduce themselves and the individuals in attendance.
 8. The Executive Director or designate shall provide information about the nature of the hearing, present evidence, and indicate the ruling that has been rendered.
 9. Following the Executive Director's presentation, the appealing party or parties, or their representative, shall then present and explain their evidence; again, the Board of Directors will not hear evidence not previously provided to the Executive Director.
 10. The Board of Directors will then have time for questioning the appealing party or parties and/or Executive Director or designate.
 11. Following the presentation of evidence and questioning, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors shall close the hearing.
 12. The Board of Directors may elect to vote or go into executive session to further discuss the testimony and evidence.
 13. The Board of Directors may affirm the previous decision, or may modify it, or may reject it in whole or in part. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.
- 1.10.4 The District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, shall have exclusive original jurisdiction of all legal proceedings related to the administration, enforcement, or fulfillment of the responsibilities, duties, or functions of the Nebraska School Activities Association. An aggrieved member or third party seeking review of an order or decision of the Nebraska School Activities Association, its Executive Director, Board of Directors, Representative Assembly, or officers or employees, shall file any appeal with the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska within thirty days after the date of such order or decision.

APPENDIX 2
NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
MEETINGS / INSPECTION OF RECORDS POLICY

Board of Directors

1. **Meetings.** The Board will hold regular and special meetings to conduct the business of the NSAA. Regular meetings generally will be scheduled monthly (except for July). Special meetings may be called by the Chair or at the request of at least two Board members.
2. **Methods of Meeting.** The Board generally will meet in person but may conduct meetings electronically when necessary or convenient for the Board members or affected individuals participating in the meeting, such as for a time-sensitive hearing or appeal.
3. **Meeting Notices.** Notice of meetings will be published on the NSAA website a reasonable time prior to the meeting. Notices will state the date, time, and location of the meeting.
4. **Agendas.** The Executive Director and Chair will prepare an agenda for meetings of the Board and will publish the agenda on the NSAA website a reasonable time prior to the meeting. The agenda will be updated on the website if items are added prior to the day of the meeting, unless extenuating circumstances or unavailability of NSAA staff do not permit an updated agenda to be posted. Agenda items of an emergency nature or items that require timely board action after the agenda is initially published may be added at the agenda if approved by the Chair or requested by any two Board members.
5. **Open and Closed Sessions.** The Board will take formal action in open session. The Board may enter closed session to discuss an agenda item upon affirmative vote of a majority of the members present. The Board may discuss multiple agenda items in a single closed session without opening and closing the meeting for each item.
6. **Board Action.** Formal action of the Board will be based on a motion, second, and roll call vote. Motions may be amended informally by the member making the motion, or as proposed by another member and accepted by the member making the initial motion. Motions may be rescinded by the member making the motion at any time prior to formal action. In addition to its Consent Agenda, the Board may act on multiple agenda items with one motion. The Board is not bound by formal rules or procedures other than those contained in this policy.
7. **Minutes.** The Board or a designee will keep minutes of each meeting consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws. The minutes will be posted on the NSAA website within a reasonable time after the minutes are finalized.
8. **Public Attendance and Participation.** Meetings of the Board are open to member school representatives and the public. The Board may, but is not required, to change the location of its meeting to accommodate the number of attendees. The Board will make reasonable efforts to permit attendees to hear discussion and results of Board votes. The Board will make other reasonable accommodations as required by law.
 - a. **Member School Comments.** Member school representatives will be permitted to address the Board during its Member Comment section or at any other time at the request of the Chair. Member comments will be limited to 5 minutes per member school, but additional time may be given to a member school at the discretion of the Chair. Member school representatives may comment on any matter within the jurisdiction and authority of the Board.
 - b. **Public Comments.** Members of the public will be permitted to address the Board only during its Public Comment section, but public comment may not be permitted at all meetings. Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker and a maximum of 30 minutes for all speakers. If more than 10 members of the public wish to address the Board, the 30 total minutes designated for public comment will be shared evenly by all speakers. Public comments are limited to items on the agenda for that meeting or items addressed in the Constitution, Bylaws, and other rules adopted by the Board, subject to the following:
 - i. Unless permitted by the Chair, public comment will not be allowed on a topic if another means to bring the item before the Board is or was available, such as attempting to use public comment in lieu of requesting a hearing or appeal before the Board.
 - ii. Comments that are profane, slanderous, threatening, hostile, or inappropriate for the professional setting of Board meetings will not be permitted.
 - iii. Comments about or directed at any employee of the NSAA are not permitted. All such concerns should be presented in writing to the Executive Director.
 - iv. Repetitive comments by multiple members of the public or comments repeated from one meeting to the next are not permitted.
 - v. Members of the public who do not adhere to these rules or other directives of the Chair will be required to leave the meeting premises.

Legislative Bodies

1. The NSAA is a membership organization which utilizes certain member-based legislative bodies to self-govern. Those include 6 Member Districts, a Legislative Commission, and a Representative Assembly (Legislative Bodies). The following rules apply to the Legislative Bodies but not other formal or informal committees, task forces, advisory bodies, or other groups that may advise or assist in conducting the business of the NSAA.
2. Legislative Bodies may meet in person or electronically as determined by the chair or lead of any meeting of the Legislative Body.
3. Notice of meetings of the Legislative Bodies will be published on the NSAA website a reasonable time prior to the meeting. The notice will include the date, time, and location of the meeting.
4. The chair or lead of meetings of the Legislative Bodies will prepare an agenda for each meeting or ensure an agenda is prepared, which will be posted on the NSAA website a reasonable time prior to each meeting.
5. Each Legislative Body will keep minutes of its meetings, which will be posted on the NSAA website a reasonable time after the minutes are finalized.
6. Members of the public are permitted to attend meetings of the Legislative Bodies, unless the meeting or any portion of the meeting is closed by the Legislative Body.
7. Each Legislative Body may designate its method for conducting business at its meeting consistent with all NSAA Constitution, Bylaw, or other duly-enacted provisions. In the absence of any rules enacted by the Legislative Body generally or as applicable to a specific meeting, Legislative Bodies will use the same rules as the NSAA Board for taking formal action and discussing agenda items.
8. Meetings of Member Districts and the Legislative Commission may include an opportunity for public comment at the discretion of the chair or lead of each such meeting. Members of the public may not address the Representative Assembly.

INSPECTION OF RECORDS POLICY

Member schools and members of the public may request records from the NSAA consistent with this policy. For purposes of this policy, records includes only existing paper or electronic documents and not all information or data in the possession of the NSAA. Individuals may request copies of meeting notices, agendas, and minutes; historical data that is disaggregated so as not to reveal confidential information; and other records that are not confidential records.

Confidential records includes, but is not limited to, those protected by law or NSAA rules; records relating to students, parents, employees, or board members of member schools or the NSAA; any employment-related records of current or past NSAA staff; internal communications of NSAA staff; drafts or incomplete records; communications to/from or between members of the Board of Directors, NSAA legislative bodies, committees, advisory groups, or other formal or informal working groups affiliated with the NSAA; records gathered or created as part of any eligibility determination, hearing, appeal, hardship waiver request, or individual or member school compliance determination, formal or informal; and any other records which in the opinion of the Executive Director should not be disclosed to best protect the NSAA and all of its operations, member schools, or participating students and their families.

Requested records will be processed in light of the following rules:

1. Requests will be fulfilled a reasonable time after they are received, considering the current staffing and operational needs of the NSAA. Priority will be given to requests made by member schools.
2. The NSAA is under no obligation to create new records, to seek records from any other entity, or to answer questions contained in a request, unless required by law.
3. Any requester seeking records already available to the public, such as on the NSAA website, will be directed to the location of such records and not provided additional copies.
4. The NSAA may charge a fee, to be paid in advance by the requester, for any staff time (after the first 15 minutes), copying costs, or other costs to the NSAA of fulfilling the request. The fee will be communicated from the Executive Director or the Executive Director's designee to the requester. The fee must be paid prior to fulfilling the request. Any fee or portion of any fee may be waived by the Executive Director.
5. At the discretion of the Executive Director, voluminous, repetitious, or bad faith requests may be denied. Repetitious or bad faith requests include those whose purpose is or appears to be interference with or frustration of NSAA operations.
6. Records may be transmitted to the requester in whatever format is most efficient for the NSAA. The requester must communicate any accessibility needs as part of the request, which will be addressed as required by law.

Bylaws for All Activities—Article 2

2.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1.1 **Student Eligibility.** Only those students meeting the eligibility requirements as established in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings are permitted to represent their member school in interscholastic competition in those activities which are under the jurisdiction of the Nebraska School Activities Association

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.1.1

The administrative staff of each high school is responsible for determining the eligibility of each of its students participating in activities.

- a. *Schools must check the following for each high school transfer student:*
 1. *If the student attended school the previous semester.*
 2. *If the student has been or will be in school for the first eleven days of the present semester.*
 3. *If the student's age meets eligibility requirements.*
 4. *If the student passed and received at least twenty credit hours the previous semester.*
 5. *If the number of semesters of high school membership is less than eight semesters.*
 6. *If the legal domicile of both of the student's natural parents is within the school district.*
 7. *If the student has attended another high school within your school district.*
 - b. *Schools must check the following for each student who is enrolling in high school and attended junior high the immediate preceding semester:*
 1. *If the student's age meets eligibility requirements.*
 2. *If the student has exceeded eight semesters of school membership or four seasons of participation.*
 3. *If the student has participated in non-school competition during the season of the sport.*
- 2.1.2 **Administrative Responsibility.** The superintendent or his/her designate of each member school shall be responsible for the activities program of the school and accountable to the Association for the conduct of such programs. It shall be the duty of this person to administer and enforce all eligibility rules. Included in these responsibilities are the following:
- a. To administer and enforce all eligibility rules.
 - b. Educate and guide the school's staff who are associated with activities and the students who participate in activities in the rules of eligibility which govern members of the Association.
 - c. For the failure to discharge such responsibilities, member schools shall be subject to penalties as set out in Paragraph 2.11 of the NSAA Bylaws.

APPROVED RULING AND INTERPRETATION 2.1.2

Medical Personnel at Regular Season Contests

Severe injuries, sudden illnesses and other critical incidents do not often occur during school activities, but it is important for every school to have an emergency action plan (EAP) for administrators, faculty, coaches and staff members to follow should emergencies occur. Due to lack of universal availability of medical coverage and other logistical reasons, NSAA does not require that schools have a physician, trainer or ambulance on-site at regular season activities; however, each school should have a plan in place should there be an emergency involving students, coaches, officials, or spectators requiring medical attention.

- 2.1.3 **Consent of Parent and Student.** 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 (once each year) certificate of consent, signed by the student and his/her parents or guardian, and 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.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS 2.1.3

It is recommended that both legal parents sign the consent form, in the case of a divorce or separation the custodial parent must sign the form. Students not living with his/her parents, must have his/her legal guardian sign the consent form.

- 2.1.3.1 Prior to permitting a student's participation in interscholastic competition, the superintendent or designate of each school, (once each year), shall file a report with the NSAA office, verifying that each Certificate of Consent has been properly signed and each student has been informed of NSAA rules.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS 2.1.3.1

Entering a student's name on the NSAA's online eligibility list and marking them as eligible shall constitute filing a report with the NSAA office.

- 2.1.4 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each

member school shall submit an online list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.1.4

- a. *A team may refuse to engage in the contest if the participation/eligibility entries have not been entered into the NSAA online database.*
- b. *A non-public school and public school, or two or more public schools or two or more non-public schools, cannot combine their members to make up one team to play scheduled contests, unless they have followed the rules of cooperative sponsorship.*
- c. *The participation list is required for ALL participants in the activity. Only those participants marked as being eligible at their member school may participate in varsity contests.*
- d. *All schools shall enter the student participation and eligibility lists online into the NSAA's secured database prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity.*
- e. *Students who are ineligible for varsity participation due to transfer or eligibility rule non-compliance may participate at the non-varsity level; however, such students would be ineligible to participate if their non-varsity team is competing against another school's varsity team.*

2.1.4.1 In case an addition is made to the list during the season of that activity, the school shall notify the NSAA office before using the added student in competition.

2.1.4.2 Schools shall certify that students who become ineligible for any contest because of failure to comply with any Association eligibility rule will not be allowed to participate.

90-school Day Ineligibility Interpretation

When counting 90-school days, a school day is defined as a student contracted regular school day, Monday-Friday, in which there is the opportunity for instruction. After the 90-school day ineligibility period has been completed, the student would be eligible on school day 91. When school is cancelled for reasons beyond the control of the student, i.e. inclement weather, facility malfunctions that prevent school from being held, those day(s) would be counted toward the 90-school days. Summer school is excluded in the count.

2.2 PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

2.2.1 **Participants.** Individuals who are bona fide students of a member high school and have not graduated from any high school or its equivalent, and students of a middle level school that is a part of a member high school's system who compete or practice with a member high school team may be permitted to participate in activities of the Nebraska School Activities Association. **2.5.1 To be eligible, the student must be continuously enrolled in at least twenty credit hours of instruction per semester at the school the student represents in interscholastic competition.** Exempt or home school students from authorized Rule 13 schools must be continuously enrolled in a minimum of ten credit hours of instruction per semester at the school the student represents in interscholastic competition.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.2.1

1. *To be a participant in any NSAA activity at either the varsity or non-varsity levels of competition, an individual must be a bona fide student of a member high school. Exempt-school or home-school students, unless enrolled in a minimum of twenty credit hours of schoolwork, at least ten of those credit hours in the member high school, are not eligible to represent a member school in NSAA activities, regardless of the level of participation or competition.*
2. *If a school's internal grade grouping, as reported to the State Department of Education, designates the ninth grade as a part of the high school, the students enrolled in the ninth grade shall abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Nebraska School Activities Association.*
 - a. *If a ninth grade student who is enrolled in a junior high school is promoted to participate on a senior high school team or competes against a team composed of senior high school students, this student(s) must abide by all NSAA regulations during the season of the sport, such as opening and closing dates of the NSAA sports seasons, being restricted from competing with or against seventh or eighth grade students, NSAA game/match and individual limitations, participation in non-school competition, and the organized practice rule.*
 - b. *A ninth grade student, whether part of the high school or junior high school, may compete on or against any team composed of ninth graders only, regardless of the school's organization.*
 - c. *Once a junior high school student becomes a member of a high school team, the student has established his/her eligibility at that high school.*
3. *If a student reaches age 15 prior to August 1 and is in the seventh or eighth grade, the student may move to the next level of competition offered in his/her school and will be ineligible for seventh/eighth grade competition.*
4. *If a student is carrying over fifty percent of his/her work in the eighth grade, the student is not to be considered as being a high school student, provided the local authorities did not carry the student on their high school attendance records. If the student is carrying fifty percent or more of his or her work in the ninth grade, the student should be considered a ninth grade student.*

5. *For any student to be eligible to participate in NSAA activities at any level, such student must meet the age, eight-semester, four-season and current semester (20-credit hours) requirement. The preceding semester and domicile requirements apply to varsity participation only.*

2.2.1.1 Once a student participates in an activity under the aforementioned arrangements, the student shall be governed by all rules of the NSAA.

2.2.2 **Semester Limitation.** A student shall become ineligible after eight semesters of school membership beginning with his/her initial enrollment in grade nine.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.2.2

1. *Students who have become ineligible because of excessive semesters of membership or because of excessive seasons of participation in a particular sport are ineligible for interscholastic contests including the non-varsity competition.*
2. *Membership by a student in a school not a member of the Association counts against the student when that school subsequently becomes a member or when the student transfers to a member school.*

2.2.2.1 Membership in any school or schools for thirty or more school days during a semester is considered a semester of school membership.

2.2.2.2 The records of the school or schools in which the student was a member shall be used to determine the total number of days of school membership.

2.2.2.3 Semesters are not charged consecutively. If a student is not enrolled in school, the student is not charged with a semester of membership. When he or she re-enrolls in school, however, it takes one semester, for which the student is charged, to regain eligibility.

2.2.3 **Season Limitations.** No student shall be permitted to participate in more than four seasons of any one activity at the high school level. After initial enrollment in grade ten, no student shall be permitted to participate in more than three seasons of any one activity. Competing in any part of an interscholastic contest shall count as a season of participation in that activity.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 2.2.3

Participation by a student in a high school interschool contest shall count as a semester of membership as well as a season of participation.

2.2.4 **High School Graduates.** A graduate from a four-year high school or its equivalent is no longer considered a student for interscholastic activity purposes even though the student enters another high school and is classed there as a fourth-year or even a third-year student and is a candidate for graduation.

- a. **Mid-Year Graduates.** At the end of the first semester, a student who becomes ineligible to play through graduation but who is eligible to play until the end of the semester, shall be eligible up to and including Saturday night of the week the semester is completed.

- b. **Graduation Prior to State Contest.** A student who is eligible to compete throughout the regular season in an activity, but who graduates or completes eight semesters of high school attendance before the state tournament in that activity shall be eligible to compete in such tournament or meet provided the tournament or meet is held before the next semester starts.

2.2.5 **Second Semester Eligibility.** A student who becomes eligible the second semester shall be eligible the first day of the second semester, provided his/her name has been included on an eligibility list sent to the NSAA office before the contests.

- a. Students who will become eligible the second semester may be included on an eligibility list sent during the first semester, provided a note indicates the date on which they will become eligible.

2.3 AGE

2.3.1 **Age Limitation.** No student shall be eligible for interschool competition who has attained the age of nineteen years except as follows: A student who becomes nineteen years of age on or after August 1 shall be eligible on the basis of age until the end of the current school year.

Exception: If the student is a bona fide student with a disability as defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the regulations promulgated there under, and the student's specific disability has contributed significantly to the student's inability to meet the requirements of this Bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Executive Director if, in the sole discretion of the Executive Director through the hardship application process, on a case-by-case the Executive Director determines that:

- a. The student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b. The student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or activity maturity over the other participants; and
- c. The student's participation does not affect the principles of competitive equity; and
- d. There is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indication of academic dishonesty. Students granted this exception will be limited to 4 years (8 semesters) of participation at the varsity level. Students granted this exception must adhere to all applicable NSAA Bylaws and Approved rulings.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.3.1

1. *Students who have become ineligible because of age are ineligible for all interscholastic contests including non-varsity team competition.*
 2. *The oldest age given on any annual report shall be accepted as the student's age unless a birth certificate certified by the Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Capitol, Lincoln, or the Bureau of Vital Statistics of any other state, can be produced to the contrary.*
 3. *The Age Limitation Bylaw 2.3.1 is an objective standard; a student must meet the age limitation set forth in Bylaw 2.3.1 to be eligible for participation and competition. The only consideration for a waiver of the age eligibility rule shall be to determine if a discrepancy exists in the student's reported Date of Birth that, upon further examination and evidence, would result in the establishment of the correct Date of Birth. [See, Pottgen v. MSHSAA, 40 F. 3d. 926 (8th Cir. 1994).]*
 4. *In light of NDE Title 92. Chapter 51 (003.49) (hereinafter "Rule 51") that states, "School age programs shall mean special education programs and related services designed to serve children with verified disabilities from age 5 through the school year in which the student reaches age twenty-one," an age rule exception is extended for Unified Sports activities and events to student who are identified under Rule 51 competing as students with intellectual disabilities. Unified Sport athletes who become twenty-one years of age on or after August 1 shall be eligible on the basis of age in non-contact Unified Sports until the end of the current school year.*
- 2.3.2 A student in grade seven or eight who reaches age 15 prior to August 1 may participate on a senior high school team.

2.4 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

- 2.4.1 A student must have enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh school day of the semester in which the contest takes place to be eligible for varsity interscholastic competition.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.4.1

If a student enrolls in one school any time within the first two weeks after that school has opened and subsequently transfers to another school during that semester, the latter school may accept the student's original enrollment as meeting the enrollment requirements.

- 2.4.2 After initial enrollment at a school, a student must be regular in attendance in accordance with the officially adopted attendance policy of that school.
- 2.4.3 The above requirements may be waived if a student is prevented from enrolling or being regular in attendance because of personal illness or quarantine and satisfactory cause of such late registration is presented to the Executive Director.

2.5 SCHOLASTIC REQUIREMENTS

- 2.5.1 **Current Semester.** To be eligible, the student must be continuously enrolled in at least twenty credit hours of instruction per semester at the school the student represents in interscholastic competition. Exempt or home school students from authorized Rule 13 schools must be continuously enrolled in a minimum of ten credit hours *(Due to the amendment of Nebraska State Statute 79-2,136, please refer to page 1 for updated home school information)* of instruction per semester at the school the student represents in interscholastic competition. Students enrolled in college classes at an accredited institution should be allowed to use those classes in meeting the twenty-credit hour eligibility requirements. No student should be allowed to use more than two classes from an accredited institution in one semester. Proof of enrollment and payment of fees should be provided to the Activities Director to verify they are registered and enrolled for the class (es).

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.5.1

Each individual school may determine its own current semester scholastic requirement for eligibility to compete in interschool activities. The requirements may be more stringent than the State Associations, but in no case shall the requirements be less restrictive.

- 2.5.2 **Preceding Semester.** To be eligible, a student shall have credit on the school records for twenty credit hours of school work for the immediate preceding semester.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.5.2

The twenty credit hours shall be such as will ordinarily be considered as advancing the student towards graduation.

- 2.5.2.1 The term "preceding semester" means the semester immediately preceding the semester in which the student wishes to participate in activities.
- 2.5.2.2 The preceding semester rule is not to apply to students who are entering high school for the first time and have not competed or practiced with a high school team.
- 2.5.3 **Opportunity to Fulfill Scholastic Deficiency.** A student who does not earn twenty credit hours during the spring semester may make up not to exceed ten credit hours during the summer in an accredited program. Such work must be completed and the grades recorded on the school records prior to September 1 or the opening day of school, whichever comes first, in order for that student to be eligible

- for varsity interscholastic participation the fall semester.
- 2.5.3.1 If incomplete grades are the determining factor in whether a student has the required number of credit hours the preceding semester, the student remains ineligible until the incomplete is replaced by passing grades and the incomplete grades are on the records of the school.
- 2.5.4 **Year Around School.** Eligibility requirements may be adjusted for a one-year period by the Board of Directors in order to permit students to participate in activities in schools that are experimenting with the twelve-month school year.

2.6 DOMICILE ELIGIBILITY

The procedure for requesting waivers on the basis of a hardship can be found under Due Process Procedure, paragraph 1.10.3

- 2.6.1 **Domicile.** Domicile shall be defined as the place where the parents have established their home. This means that the family regularly eats and sleeps in a specific place of lodging. It is the place where the student and his/her parents are habitually present and to which, when departing, they intend to return.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.6.1

The eligibility of a student is based on the domicile of the legal parent. A student, if eligible in all other respects, shall be eligible in the district where the legal parent has his or her bona fide domicile.

- 2.6.1.1 It shall not be considered a change of domicile if the parents have moved to a new home but do not intend to make it their permanent home, have not given up their former home, or have not sold their personal property or moved it to a new domicile, unless complete information is presented at a hearing before the Executive Director and a ruling has been given that a bona fide change of domicile has been made.

Q: A family will be moving to a home in a district other than the one they currently reside and do not plan to sell their legal domicile in the district from which they are transferring. Is the student eligible immediately?

A: No, this would not be considered a legal domicile change and the student would be ineligible for 90 school days for varsity competition unless a hearing before the Board of Directors determines a bona fide change of domicile has been made.

- 2.6.1.2 **Boundaries of Non-Public Schools.** For the purposes of determining domicile, the boundaries of a non-public school shall be the same as those of the public school district in which the non-public school is located.

- 2.6.2 **Parents.** The term parents shall mean the student's natural parents or adoptive parents, or foster parents if student(s) is placed in a foster home after becoming a ward of the state, courts or welfare agency, or legal guardian if parental rights of custody of both parents have been terminated by death, incompetency or unsuitability.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.6.2

If divorced or legally separated parents, or parents who have never been married, share joint custody of a child, the parent with whom the child lives immediately following the divorce or legal separation shall be defined as the legal parent for eligibility purposes. If the parents live in two different school districts and the child transfers to live with the other parent, the student shall be ineligible for ninety school days in the new school. In such situations, each transfer back and forth to different schools shall constitute a new ninety-school-day ineligibility period.

- 2.6.2.1 In order for a guardian to be recognized as a legal parent, there must be properly certified documentation from a court of competent jurisdiction indicating the date of appointment, powers conferred and whether the guardian was appointed due to death, incompetency, or unsuitability of the natural parents.
- 2.6.2.2 If the parents are divorced or legally separated, the parent who has been awarded custody of the child as documented by certified copy of an order by a court of competent jurisdiction, is the legal parent. If joint custody was awarded, the parent the child chooses to live with immediately following the divorce shall be defined as the legal parent.
- 2.6.2.3 If the parents are required to live apart because of circumstances beyond the control of the parents, but the marriage has not been dissolved and a separation decree has not been entered, the Board of Directors, upon application, may grant a hardship waiver and determine that the domicile of the student will be that of the parent with whom the student is living. Once a student makes a choice of the parent with whom he/she wishes to reside, the parent chosen shall be interpreted as the legal parent.

- 2.6.3 **Selection of School for Activity Eligibility.** When a student enters a high school for the first time after promotion from grade eight of a two-year junior high school, or a sixth, seventh, and eighth grade middle school, or from grade nine of a seventh, eighth, and ninth grade junior high school, he/she may enter the high school of his/her choice and be eligible immediately if eligible in all other respects. Any subsequent transfer to another high school, unless there has been a change in domicile by his/her legal parents, or

the student meets the requirements of **the May 1 Transfer List (2.7.8.1)**, shall render the student ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days.

2.6.3.1 The term “home school district” shall mean the school district in which the student’s legal parent’s domicile is located.

2.6.3.2 Once a student selects and attends a high school, that school is where the student’s eligibility shall be established.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.6.3

1. *After a student completes junior high school and there is more than one high school located in the school district where his/her parents have their domicile, the student is eligible for varsity competition at one of the high schools located within the school district. Once the student selects the high school, that school is where the student’s eligibility shall be credited.*
2. *A student who is ineligible because of his/her parents’ failing to meet the domicile requirement shall become eligible after attending the high school he/she wishes to represent in varsity competition after ninety school days.*

Q: When is a student officially considered a 9th grade student?

A: The student officially is considered a 9th grade student when he/she attends the high school as per Bylaw 2.6.3.2.

2.6.4 **Student Promoted to Play on High School Team.** If a student in grades seven, eight or nine participates in interschool competition on a high school team at any level of competition, he/she has established his/her eligibility at the high school he/she has represented in such competition. Any subsequent transfer to another high school, unless there has been a change in domicile by his/her legal parents, shall render the student ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days.

2.6.4.1 A student in grade seven or eight who participates at a high school in music only is not considered to have established his/her eligibility for future participation at a high school.

2.6.5 **School Consolidating or Redistricting.** If a student’s parent(s) have a domicile located in a school district that does not have a high school and the student has attended high school for one year or more when the school district in which the parent(s) live is consolidated with a high school district other than the one in which the student has been in attendance, such student shall select one of the two high schools and be immediately eligible for interscholastic competition.

2.6.6 **Dual Enrollment.** A student enrolled in two member high schools at the same time is eligible only at the high school located in the school district where his/her domicile is located.

2.6.6.1 If both member high schools are located in his/her home school district, the student is eligible at the member high school where he/she is continuously enrolled in twenty credit hours.

2.6.6.2 If continuously enrolled in twenty credit hours in each member high school and both member high schools are located in his/her home district, the student must select one of the high schools as his/her home school and confine participation in interscholastic activities to that school.

2.6.6.3 If a resident school district draws up either a letter of agreement or contracts with the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired, this school may be considered the home school district for the purpose of interscholastic competition.

2.6.7 **Learning Centers.** The following applies to any student who is enrolled in a learning center and desires to participate in interschool activities:

2.6.7.1 The learning center must be located within the school district served and must be a part of the school district’s system.

2.6.7.2 The member high school that the student previously attended, elected to attend, or was assigned to attend is the school the student must represent in interschool competition, for it shall be considered the student’s designated home school.

2.6.7.3 Any change of a student’s designated high school shall be governed by the domicile and transfer rule.

2.6.7.4 The student must meet all NSAA eligibility requirements.

2.6.7.5 The name of the student and the member high school he/she is to represent must be sent to the NSAA office.

2.6.8 **Students with Learning Disabilities-Contracted.** When a school is unable to offer classes for a student with learning disabilities and must contract with a neighboring school district or service unit for such educational programs, the student may be eligible for interscholastic competition in his/her home school or in the neighboring school district in which instruction is being received.

2.6.8.1 Once the student makes a choice of schools, he/she has established his/her eligibility at that school.

2.6.9 **Parents Change Domicile to Different School District.** Any student whose parents reside in a school district that has a high school, shall become ineligible to represent that high school for varsity interscholastic competition for ninety school days upon the change of domicile by the parent(s) from that school to another school district that has a high school except:

2.6.9.1 If this domicile is changed during the school year, the student is eligible for the remainder of that school year in the school district from which the parents moved.

2.6.9.2 If this domicile is changed during the summer months that immediately precede the school year and the

student is in grade twelve and has attended the high school for two or more years, the student may be eligible for that school year in the school district from which the parents moved.

- 2.6.9.3 If a student elects to remain at the high school where he/she initially enrolled after being promoted from grade eight of a middle or junior high school, or grade nine of a junior high school, he/she is eligible at that school, or is eligible at a high school located within the school district in which the parents established their domicile.

Q: A family with three students: a junior, a freshman, and an 8th grader moved from one Nebraska community to another Nebraska community during the summer but wants the children to attend public school in a third larger Nebraska community where the father works. They purchased a home in the community they moved to because housing was more affordable there than in the larger community.

A: The student who is a junior will be ineligible for 90 school days from varsity competition due to the family moving from their established home and wishing to attend school which is outside the district of the family's legal domicile. If the student had filed an Option Enrollment application from the first public school to the larger school which was signed and approved prior to May 1 of that year, he/she would have been eligible to participate in NSAA activities programs immediately. Bylaw 2.1.1, Approved Ruling 2.1.1, a.6); Bylaw 2.6.1 and Approved Rulings. The student who is a freshman will be eligible immediately due to this being the initial high school year and that will establish the student's place of eligibility. Bylaw 2.6.1, 2.6.3, 2.6.3.2 and Approved Rulings. The 8th grader will not establish their place of eligibility until the start of the ninth grade year.

- 2.6.10 **Parents Change Domicile Within a School District.** If a student's parents change domiciles within a school district that has more than one high school, the student has the following choices:
- 2.6.10.1 The student may remain at the school being attended at the time of the parents' domicile change and remain eligible. If a student remains at the original school and attends this school at the start of the next school year, the student is considered to have tied his/her eligibility to the original school. Any subsequent transfer without the accompanying change of domicile by his/her parents would result in a loss of eligibility for varsity competition for a period of ninety school days.
- 2.6.10.2 The student may transfer to another school in the district and be eligible immediately from a domicile standpoint. This transfer may occur at any time between the dates of the parent's change of domicile in the school district until the start of the next school year. Once the student transfers to another school within the district, he/she is considered to have domicile eligibility for varsity competition.
- 2.6.10.3 A school system with more than one high school may have its own domicile requirements and attendance areas. These may be more stringent than the NSAA's, but in no case shall they be less restrictive.
- 2.6.11 **Change of Domicile Due to a Student Becoming a Ward of State, Courts or Welfare Agency.** A student who is required to change domicile because of placement by the state, courts or welfare agency in a home, special school or institution is eligible immediately if eligible in all other respects.
- 2.6.12 **McKinney-Vento Homeless Act.** In order for any student who has been deemed homeless under the McKinney-Vento homeless act to meet the domicile eligibility requirement, a hardship waiver must be submitted to the NSAA Executive Director. In addition to submitting the hardship waiver, the NSAA member school must present documentation indicating the student meets the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act.

2.7 TRANSFER ELIGIBILITY

The procedure for requesting waivers on the basis of a hardship can be found under Due Process Procedure, Paragraph 1.10.3

- 2.7.1 **Change of School for Academic Advantage.** A change of school for academic advantages does not create eligibility, even though the school may be non-accredited and the school to which the student transfers is accredited.
- 2.7.2 **Member School Closes and/or a New School is Formed.** The following applies:
- 2.7.2.1 Any student who transfers from a closing school prior to the completion of the school year without a change in his/her parents' domicile will lose eligibility at the school to which he/she transferred for a period of ninety school days.
- 2.7.2.2 Students who are enrolled at a closing school throughout the school year shall have immediate eligibility for interscholastic participation representing the new school. This applies to domicile requirements only and does not waive the scholastic requirement, eight-semester rule, or any Association eligibility requirement.
- 2.7.2.3 Students enrolled at a closing school throughout the school year who elect to attend a high school other than the new school at the commencement of the new school year would be ineligible at any other high school located within the school district where his/her parents' domicile is located.
- 2.7.2.4 The student's parents and the school he/she wishes to attend must submit a request to the NSAA Executive Director for a waiver of the domicile rule when a student who has been attending non-public

school that is closing elects not to attend the new school and the school district where his/her parents have their domicile does not have a high school sponsored by the same faith and the student wishes to continue to attend a non-public high school that is located in another district.

2.7.2.5 A student who is enrolled in any high school other than the closing school during the school year and who transfers to the new school the next year shall, without a change of domicile by his/her parents, be ineligible for varsity interscholastic competition for ninety school days.

2.7.2.6 After a student makes his/her choice and attendance commences at the beginning of the school year, the student becomes ineligible for a period of ninety school days in any other school to which he/she may transfer.

2.7.3 **Transfer by Student to a Member High School in Another School District.** Any student who transfers shall be ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days. An exception to this ineligibility would be if the student transferred from one school in a cooperative agreement to another school in that same cooperative agreement. The domicile eligibility would be waived for such a transfer student to participate in the designated activity covered by that cooperative agreement.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7.3

If a student who has attended private or parochial school for two or more consecutive years wishes to continue his or her education in a private or parochial high school and there is no private or parochial high school located in the school district where his or her parents have their domicile, the student may attend a private or parochial high school in another school district and be eligible for interscholastic competition. Once a student enrolls and attends the private or parochial school, that school shall be where his/her eligibility is established. Any subsequent transfer shall render the student ineligible for ninety school days.

2.7.4 **Transfer by Student to a Different High School in Multi-High School District.** If a student living within a school district in which two or more member high schools are located, transfers from one high school to another within the same district without an accompanying change of domicile by his/her parents, the student shall become ineligible for interscholastic varsity competition for a period of ninety school days.

2.7.4.1 If such student returns to his/her original high school before a ninety school day period of enrollment at the high school to which he/she transferred, the student shall be ineligible at the original high school.

2.7.4.2 If the student remains in the school to which he/she transferred for a period of ninety school days or more, and returns to his/her original school, the student is ineligible for varsity competition for a period of ninety school days.

2.7.5 **International Transfer Student.** Any high school student who transfers to a member high school of the Nebraska School Activities Association from outside the United States is considered to be an International Transfer Student.

2.7.5.1 Schools with international transfer students who intend to participate and represent a member school in interscholastic competition must complete and submit the online NSAA International Transfer Student application prior to student participation at any level.

2.7.5.2 **International Transfer Eligibility.** International transfer students who are participants of a CSIET-listed J-1 or F-1 non-immigrant visa program and are determined to be eligible under NSAA regulations shall be eligible immediately for varsity participation for a maximum period of 180 consecutive school days regardless of a subsequent change in visa, residency, or guardianship. The 180 consecutive school day period begins with enrollment in any NSAA high school.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7.5.2

Regardless of grade placement, CSIET-listed J-1 or F-1 non-immigrant visa program participants are only eligible in the school district in which the student's host family lives unless permission is granted by the NSAA Executive Director through a hardship waiver.

2.7.5.3 International transfer students not meeting the requirements of 2.7.5.2 will be ineligible for varsity participation for 180 consecutive school days.

2.7.5.4 International transfer students whose place of residence changes to a different school district during their varsity eligibility period must have the new school file a hardship waiver with the NSAA executive director to remain eligible for varsity participation through the end of the original 180 consecutive school day period.

2.7.6 **Home School Transfers.** The following shall apply in determining the eligibility for a student who has previously attended a home school and transfers to become a bona fide student at a member high school for the first time.

2.7.6.1 The home school, which the student previously attended, must have received acknowledgement from the Nebraska State Department of Education that the school conformed to the required statutes.

2.7.6.2 The student must be accepted by the member high school and placed in a grade level that will classify the individual as a high school student (grades nine, ten, eleven or twelve). The exempt or home school transfer student must be continuously enrolled in a minimum of ten credit hours of instruction per

semester *(Due to the amendment of Nebraska State Statute 79-2, 136, please refer to page 1 for updated home school information)* at the school the student represents in interscholastic competition.

- 2.7.6.3 If a student has been promoted from the eighth grade at a home school and is attending a member high school for the first time as a ninth grade student, he/she may select his/her high school and be eligible.
- 2.7.6.4 If the student is transferring from a home school and is accepted at a member high school as a tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade student, he/she is considered a transfer student and shall be ineligible for varsity competition for ninety school days unless the home school is located in the same school district as the high school to which the student is transferring.
- 2.7.6.5 If the student enters a member school as a tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade student, he/she shall have received, or be granted, twenty credit hours for the immediate preceding semester. The twenty credit hours must be accepted and entered on the records of the student as partial fulfillment of the school's graduation requirements. The member school shall determine whether the home school credits will be accepted to fulfill preceding semester scholastic requirements. Further, such home-school students who are enrolled in subsequent semesters in the member high school must have evidence of having successfully completed twenty credit hours of school work the immediate preceding semester, of which at least ten of those credit hours having been earned in the member-school setting.
- 2.7.6.6 Students who enrolled in grades nine, ten, eleven, or twelve at a home school and who transfer to a member high school, shall be credited with the number of semesters of high school membership in which they were a member of the home school. These students shall not exceed eight semesters of school membership beginning with the initial enrollment in grade nine or the equivalent of grade nine.
- 2.7.6.7 Students transferring from a home school to a member high school must meet the requirements of Section 2.2.
- 2.7.7 **Transfers.** An exception to NSAA Bylaws may be considered for transfer students who have transferred to a member Nebraska high school that is located in a school district other than the Nebraska district where the student's legal parents' domicile is located.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7

If a student fails to meet any of the transfer requirements, he/she shall be eligible after attending the school he/she wishes to represent in varsity competition for ninety school days.

- 2.7.8 **School to School Transfers.** Eligibility will be considered for Nebraska transfer students who have transferred from one Nebraska member high school to another Nebraska member high school when there is not a change of domicile by the legal parents. This would apply to Nebraska students who transfer: (1) from public school to private school; (2) from private school to public school; (3) from private school to private school; (4) from public school to public school; and (5) transfers from Nebraska school to Nebraska school within a multi-school district.
- 2.7.8.1 The NSAA member school into which the Nebraska student transfers MUST notify the NSAA of the transfer by entering the student's name in the NSAA online database no later than May 1. Once the NSAA has been notified, the Nebraska student could complete that year of eligibility in the Nebraska school the student was leaving. The Nebraska student would, however, become ineligible for ninety (90) school days the next fall if the Nebraska student were to change his/her mind and decided not to transfer. Only Nebraska students transferring from one NSAA member school to another NSAA member school are eligible to take advantage of the May 1 transfer and have their name submitted into the online database.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7.8.1

Nebraska students who complete transfer requirements and/or enrollment paperwork on or before May 1 and whose names are submitted to the NSAA by May 1 as Nebraska transfer students shall be immediately eligible in the fall at the school to which they transfer. If the Nebraska student were to later change his/her mind and not transfer, that Nebraska student would be ineligible for 90 school days at the Nebraska school in which he/she attends. If such Nebraska student were to transfer to the new Nebraska school, but later decides to return to his/her former district before 90 school days have elapsed, such Nebraska student will be ineligible in the former district for 90 school days, with the ineligibility period commencing at the start of the fall semester. Or, in the case of the Nebraska student who transfers and attends the new Nebraska school before the start of the semester but whose name is submitted on the May 1 transfer list, and the student returns to the resident district, such Nebraska student would be ineligible for 90 school days commencing at the same time the Nebraska student began attending the transfer school.

- 2.7.8.2 Those Nebraska students whose transfer has not been reported to the NSAA by May 1, shall be ineligible for 90 school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7.8.2

Students who did not meet the May 1 transfer deadline, but are enrolled at the school they transferred to and begin attending on the first day of the first semester, would be immediately eligible after the first semester or after the last day of the moratorium, whichever occurs first.

- 2.7.8.3 Such Nebraska transfer students may transfer under this rule one time during their high school years, unless there is a change of domicile by the legal parent. Such Nebraska students who transfer a subsequent time without a change of domicile by the legal parent shall be ineligible for varsity competition for 90 school days.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.7.8.3

Unless there is a bona fide change of domicile by the legal parent, a Nebraska student may transfer only one time to a different school under the May 1 transfer deadline. A Nebraska student's name may only be entered on one Nebraska school's May 1 transfer list. A Nebraska student who transfers under the May 1 transfer provisions and who later decides to return to his/her former district before 90 school days have elapsed shall continue to be ineligible in the former district for 90 school days, with the ineligibility period commencing at the start of the fall semester. The ineligibility shall continue, regardless of the parent's domicile change within the resident district.

If a Nebraska student has a legal domicile change to a different resident school district after May 1, and submits an Enrollment Option application and it is accepted by the Enrollment Option school district in accordance with Enrollment Option statutes (79-237 subsection 2), the Nebraska student would be eligible immediately at the Enrollment Option school provided he/she is eligible in all other respects. (Sept. 2013)

Who should be on the list:

1. Any incoming Nebraska sophomore, junior, or senior, who has an intent to compete on the varsity level without penalty.
2. All Nebraska learning community transfers.
3. A student who is attending a Nebraska school on or before May 1.

Who should not be on the list:

1. Incoming freshman
2. Nebraska students that have (option or school to school) previously transferred within their 9th-12th grades
3. Students who have had a legal change of domicile
4. International transfer students enrolled in recognized CSIET programs
5. Students transferring for Athletic/Activity purposes

Q: *What does it mean to be placed on the NSAA May 1 Transfer List?*

A: *Students who wish to transfer from one Nebraska school to another Nebraska school must have the school to which the student is transferring enter the student's name in the NSAA online database no later than May 1.*

Q: *Should incoming 9th grade students be placed on the May 1 Transfer List?*

A: *No, NSAA Bylaw 2.6.3 allows 9th grade students to enter the high school of their choice and be eligible immediately for varsity competition if eligible in all other respects.*

Q: *If a student's name is placed on the May 1 Transfer List can the student return to their home school district within the first 90-days and be eligible immediately?*

A: *No, NSAA Bylaw 2.7.8.1 does not allow the student a subsequent transfer without sitting out 90 school days unless there is a change of domicile.*

Q: *How many times can a student have their name on a May 1 Transfer List?*

A: *Per NSAA Bylaw 2.7.8.3, students can have their name on the May 1 Transfer List once during their high school years.*

Q: *How does a school know whether an incoming 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student's name has been previously entered on a May 1 Transfer List?*

A: *Ask the student and his/her legal parent(s), and then follow up with the school from which the student is transferring. Member schools will have access to the May 1 Transfer List via the NSAA website on the Tuesday following Memorial Day.*

Q: *Where can I locate a student's NDE number?*

A: *On the student's official transcript.*

- 2.7.9 **Transfer to Home School District.** Any student entering high school for the first time after promotion from grade eight who did not initially enroll in the high school located in the school district where their student's parents have their domicile, or a student who transfers back to a high school located in the

school district where his/her legal parent(s) have established their domicile shall be ineligible for ninety school days.

2.8 UNDUE INFLUENCE

- 2.8.1 The use of any of the following inducements may constitute undue influence, resulting in ineligibility of the student for all high school participation as stipulated in current NSAA Bylaw 2.7:
- a. Participant living with a coach, principal, teacher, or school official without legal guardianship
 - b. Any inducement to get parents or students to change residence or schools for athletic/non-athletic purposes.
 - c. Offer or acceptance of money
 - d. Reduction or remission of regular tuition (other than need-based financial aid available to all applicants)
 - e. Offer or acceptance of board, room, or clothing
 - f. Offer or acceptance of money for work in excess of amount regularly paid
 - g. Transportation to school by any school official
 - h. Offer or acceptance of school privileges not normally granted to other students
 - i. Free or reduced rent for parents
 - j. Offer for payment of moving expenses for parents
 - k. Offer or acceptance of employment for the parents in order to entice the family to move to a certain community so as to gain the services of a child in the school's activity program.
 - l. Any attempt by a representative of a school or any individual or group outside the school to recruit a student(s) in order to gain his/her services in the school's activity program via personal, social media, electronic, US Mail, or 3rd party contact prior to a student's enrollment.

2.9 EXCEPTION TO ELIGIBILITY RULES

- 2.9.1 Refer to Paragraph 1.10.3 for procedure to follow when requesting a waiver of any eligibility rule.

2.10 CONDUCT

- 2.10.1 **Conduct During Interscholastic Competition.** Students, participants, and staff members representing member schools in interscholastic competition are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
- 2.10.1.1 Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include physical or verbal assault upon any participant, game official, or spectator, or any acts that may endanger the personal safety of individuals involved, or acts that hinder the normal progress of a contest or lead to the restriction or discontinuance of a contest.
- 2.10.1.2 If a student, participant, and/or staff member representing a member school in interschool competition acts in a manner constituting unsportsmanlike behavior during such competition, the member school and/or individuals shall be subject to penalties as set out in Section 2.11.
- 2.10.1.3 If any participant or staff member while representing a member school in an Association-sponsored district tournament, playoff, or state contest acts in a manner constituting unsportsmanlike conduct, the individual is subject to penalties as set out in Section 2.11.

2.11 PENALTIES

- 2.11.1 **School Violations.** For violation by a member school of any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or rules adopted by the Representative Assembly or approved by the member schools or the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors or Executive Director may impose, but not be limited to, one or more of the following penalties:
- 2.11.1.2 Issue a private or public reprimand to the school.
- 2.11.1.3 Recommend that the responsible school official receive a private or public reprimand.
- 2.11.1.4 Enforce the forfeiture of one or more contests in team or individual sports. If an athlete is ejected in the final game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the following season of the same sport.
- 2.11.1.5 Enforce the forfeiture of points scored by students in individual competition.
- 2.11.1.6 A student or staff member may be reprimanded, placed on probation, or suspended from participation for one or more contests.
- 2.11.1.7 Recommend that the school declare the guilty student ineligible for up to ninety school days or the remainder of the school year.
- 2.11.1.8 Place the school on probation for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
- 2.11.1.9 Suspend a school for part or all of the season of an activity.
- 2.11.1.10 Expel the school from Association membership for a period not to exceed one calendar year.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS for 2.11

In addition to the above penalties, other penalties may be enforced which are listed in the Bylaws and/or Approved Rulings accompanying activities elsewhere in this Yearbook.

Penalty/Violation	Fine
Late submission of online eligibility lists per activity , plus other penalties as the Board of Directors shall assess.	\$50 per activity
Late submission of registration forms and payments , plus other penalties as the Board of Directors shall assess.	\$50
Late submission of online contest schedules , plus other penalties as the Board of Directors shall assess.	\$50
Exceeding individual and team contest limitations , plus other penalties as the Board of Directors shall assess.	\$500
Registering for speech or play production and not opting out of post season participation.	\$400
Lack of administrative oversight	\$500 and written action plan
Violation of the organized practice rule.	\$200
December Moratorium violations	\$200
Omitting a student from the May 1 Transfer List (option paperwork & consent form signed on or before May 1)	\$250
Student's name not appearing on the school's eligibility list	\$150
International student participating prior to approval	\$150
Coach having incomplete certification	\$100

Probation.

If a school is placed on probation and the terms of the probation are not otherwise specified, and the affected Member is determined to have violated any NSAA bylaw during the term of the probation relating to the probation activity, that school will forfeit its right to participate in postseason competition at the sub-district, district and state level. If a violation is discovered after the season of the affected activity is completed, or if the violation of the rule is not adjudicated until after completion of the season relating to the affected activity, the NSAA may at its option:

1. *Rule that the affected team is ineligible for participation in sub-district, district and state level competition in a subsequent year (even if the penalty would take effect after the term of the probation referred to above has been completed); and/or*
 - a. *Rule that any trophy won by the affected team in sub-district, district and/or state competition must be returned to the NSAA and that the records of the NSAA will be adjusted accordingly.*
 - b. *The Executive Director may reduce the consequences for the violation of probation from those stated herein if he/she determines in his/her discretion that the violation of a bylaw is de minimis and if the violation is self-reported by the affected Member.*
 2. *This resolution shall apply to any probation imposed on, prior to, or after the date on which this resolution is adopted.*
- 2.11.2 3. **Student Violations.** If a student violates any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings during the course of an Association-sponsored district contest, playoff, or state contest, the Board of Directors or Executive Director may suspend the student from further competition for any portion or all of the remainder of the sub-district, district, playoff, or state contests.
- 2.11.3 **Participant Ejections from Athletic Contests.** Any participant ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to the other penalties the NSAA or the school may assess.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS For 2.11.3

Any participant ejected a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess. Any participant ejected a third time shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess. When schools have students or coaches with multiple ejections, the school shall submit to the NSAA a written management plan on how they plan to remediate the problem.

- 2.11.4 **Coach Ejections from Athletic Contests.** Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible to coach the next athletic contest at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to the other penalties the NSAA or the school

may assess.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.11.3 and 2.11.4

1. *Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” for ejections from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct is a responsibility of the member school. Failure to properly enforce this rule could result in other sanctions by the NSAA.*
2. *Administrators will be expected to promptly file a report with the NSAA whenever a participant or coach from their school has been ejected from any high school contest. Such filing must be done online under the AD login section of the NSAA website.*
3. *A participant or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim.*
4. *Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” is expected to begin immediately, regardless whether it is regular season or tournament play.*
5. *Any participant ejected a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.*
6. *Any participant ejected a third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.*
7. *During the time of their “sit-out” suspension, athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate, but it is the school’s discretion whether such athlete is able to travel with the team or sit on the team bench.*
8. *Coaches who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not coach in any contest or be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. Coaches who are ejected will also be required to successfully complete an NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior online course before being able to coach the following season or year.*
9. *Coaches who are ejected a second time in a season will be required to sit-out the next two contests at that level, plus all other contests at other levels during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. Any coach ejected a second time will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior online course (or the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course if second ejection) before being able to coach the following season or year.*
10. *If the ejection takes place in the final game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the following season of the same sport.*
11. *When schools have students or coaches with multiple ejections, the school shall submit to the NSAA a written management plan on how they plan to remediate the problem.*
12. *Officials will be expected to file with the NSAA an ejection report for any ejection of a player or coach from a contest online. Any unusual situation that occurs prior to, during, or after a contest should also be reported.*
13. *Prompt reporting to the NSAA office by the official is necessary. Officials are asked to submit their electronic report or call the NSAA office by the day following the ejection.*
14. *Officials are asked to be specific in listing the reason(s) for an ejection.*
15. *Affiliated officials (officials registered from contiguous states) will also be required to perform this reporting function.*
16. *There is no appeal process for ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.*
17. *The Executive Director shall reserve the right to consider the length of suspensions when some levels of competition are scheduled on an irregular basis (e.g. three weeks between regularly scheduled non-varsity contests).*

- 2.11.5 **Investigation.** Prior to the assessment of any penalty, the Executive Director will gather data in order to establish intent, fault, and the effect an ineligible participant had on any interschool contest. These factors shall be weighed in determining the severity of the penalty assessed. The Executive Director’s decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

- 2.11.6 **Institutional Control.** If the said violation is brought to the attention of the Board of Directors as a result of self-policing by the offending school, the Board of Directors shall issue the highest of commendations to the administration of the school for its efforts in enforcing the Constitution.

2.12 COACHES AND SPONSORS

- 2.12.1 **School's Responsibility.** The entire management of a school's activity program must be under the control of school authorities, and any team competing in interschool competition must be under the direction of a member of the school's faculty.
- 2.12.1.1 When a team or individuals from a school compete in interschool competition, the team or individuals must be accompanied by the head coach, or assistant coach as defined by the rules, or a school administrator, or certificated faculty member.
- 2.12.2 **Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Sponsor.** In order to serve as a head or assistant coach or sponsor of any activity sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association, the individual must possess a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate or Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate and have a written contract of employment as a coach or sponsor with the school in which he/she is to perform these duties.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12.2

A Nebraska Teaching Certificate shall be defined as any certificate or permit issued by the Nebraska Department of Education that allows an individual to teach.

<https://www.education.ne.gov/tcert/teaching-certificates/>

- 2.12.2.1 Individuals who possess a Provisional Trades Certificate and/or Special Services Certificate endorsed in coaching may be employed by a school district as a head or assistant coach in NSAA sponsored activities.
- 2.12.2.2 The head coach/sponsor, assistant coach/sponsor, or certificated faculty member has the following responsibilities:
1. Supervise the individuals or team representing the school in the competition.
 2. Serve as the school's spokesperson in all administrative matters, controversial situations, obtaining medical assistance, talking with representatives of the media and any discussion with contest officials or judges.
 3. In basketball, the only individual who is permitted to use the coach's box or approach the scorer's table for a correctable error situation.
 4. Be seated on the team bench or within the team area during basketball, volleyball, baseball, football, soccer, and softball contests.
 5. Accept awards presented to the school and/or coach.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12

Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Education

All coaches, activity sponsors, and volunteers are required to complete the NFHS Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training courses at least once every three years. These courses should be taken prior to any pre-season or regular season physical workouts that the respective coach would be present for or involved in administering. Any course taken after May 1 would be considered valid for the following school year. All first year coaches are required to complete all three courses prior to the start of the activity season which they are to coach.

Obtaining Special Services Certificate for Coaching:

1. Complete (2) online NFHS courses at www.nfhslearn.com/courses.
 - Fundamentals of Coaching
 - First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches
2. Fingerprint cards are required if you have not continuously lived in Nebraska for the past five (5) years.
3. Complete the Nebraska Department of Education Special Services Certificate application at www.education.ne.gov/TCERT.
4. Submit original certificates to the Nebraska Department of Education indicating completion of the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching & NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches.
5. The Nebraska Department of Education will send the Special Services Certificate electronically to the individual's email address included on the application.
6. The certificate will be valid for five (5) years and can be renewed.

All head coaches are required to attend an NSAA Rules Meeting or complete an NSAA Rules Meeting online annually. Failure to do so will result in possible late fees and suspension penalties. Online rules meetings are initially offered at no cost to coaches or officials, followed by a period with a \$50 "Delinquent" Fee. The following sanctions and fees are applicable to those coaches who fail to

complete the rules meeting by the expiration of the "Delinquent" Fee period. Absence from the required rules meeting OR FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE RULES MEETING will result in the following sanctions:

First Offense in Three-Year Period

The head coach will be suspended from coaching in any competition in that activity until

The head coach COMPLETES THE NSAA'S ONLINE RULES MEETING OFFERED AT THE LATE FEE of \$100; and

- (1) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials/judges of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.
- (2) During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.

Second and Subsequent Offenses in Three-Year Period

The head coach will be suspended from coaching in all NSAA end-of-season play (sub-districts, districts, playoffs, and state competition).

The head coach COMPLETES THE NSAA'S ONLINE RULES MEETING OFFERED AT THE LATE FEE of \$200; and

- (1) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials/judges of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.
- (2) During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.

- 2.12.3 **Coaches' Aides.** Schools may contract non-certificated personnel to assist with their activities programs, but such personnel shall be coaches' aides.
- 2.12.3.1 The individuals must have a job description.
- 2.12.3.2 The individual shall not initiate nor change instruction given by the head coach and must carry out specific directions given by the head coach.
- 2.12.3.3 The individual may assist in starting, executing, and completing the specific plan of the learning experience as defined and directed by the head coach.
- 2.12.3.4 The aide should be specifically prepared for duties assigned, to include the handling of emergency situations that arise in the course of his/her work.
- 2.12.3.5 Coaches' aides are not to be given the sole responsibility of directing or supervising students during practice. The head coach should be in the immediate practice area.
- 2.12.3.6 When traveling to and from and participating in interschool competition, the team or individuals are to be accompanied by the head coach/sponsor, assistant coach/sponsor, or in case of an emergency, a certificated faculty member.

2.13 CLASSIFICATION

- 2.13.1 **Authority.** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to divide the members into classes, determine the number of classes and place the member schools into these classes for competition in each activity sponsored by this Association.
- 2.13.1.1 The Board of Directors may adjust the classification of schools in unusual situations (such as consolidation, formation of a new school, gain or loss of a school district), provided such information is made known before the first allowable date for fall sports competition each year.
- 2.13.2 **Basis for Classification.** A school's classification shall be based on its total enrollment for all activities with the exception of football, boys tennis, boys basketball, wrestling, boys golf, boys soccer and baseball that will be classified on boy enrollment only, and volleyball, softball, girls basketball, girls golf, girls tennis and girls soccer that will be classified on girl enrollment only.
- 2.13.2.1 A school's total enrollment shall be the total boy and girl enrollment in grades nine, ten, and eleven according to the enrollment figures submitted to the State Department of Education on October 1 of the preceding school year except for football, boys tennis, boys basketball, wrestling, boys golf, boys soccer and baseball that will be classified on boy enrollment only, and volleyball, softball, girls basketball, girls golf, girls tennis and girls soccer that will be classified on girl enrollment only.
- 2.13.2.2 If, in a particular activity, the schools are classified for a two-year period, the total enrollment shall be the figures from the State Department of Education on October 1 of the year which immediately precedes the two-year classification period.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.13.2

1. In all athletics, with the exception of football, Class A will be classified based on a total enrollment of 850 or above. The total enrollment figures shall be doubled for unisex schools.
2. **Tiebreaker**
If schools are tied in enrollment for the last position or positions of a class, the following tie-breaker will be applied:

- a. *The first tiebreaker will be a three-year average of enrollment which includes the year on which the current year's classification is based and the two previous years. The higher three-year average will be in the larger class.*
 - b. *If the tie still exists, then the school with the higher immediate previous year's enrollment will be placed in the larger class.*
 - c. *If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.*
 3. **Opting Up in Classification.** *A school may opt up one classification in any NSAA activity. Request to opt up must be submitted to the NSAA within one week of the classification for that activity being released.*
 4. **Opting Down in Classification.** *Due to safety consideration and small participation numbers, schools may elect to opt down one classification in football. Such decision must be made prior to statewide scheduling, and such schools would be ineligible for playoff consideration.*
- 2.13.2.3 In schools that have grades ten, eleven and twelve only and have multi-junior high schools within the system, the ninth grade enrollment shall be determined by taking the average of the grades ten and eleven enrollment. This average is then added to the grades ten and eleven enrollment to give the total enrollment in grades nine, ten and eleven.
- 2.13.2.4 The total enrollment figures shall be doubled for unisex schools for those activities which are athletic. Numbers will not be doubled in those non-athletic activities where competition is co-ed, i.e., mixed. This would include such activities as debate, speech, play production, journalism, and music.
- 2.13.3 **Classification Period.** In all activities the classification period shall not exceed one year except in football, the classification period shall not exceed two years.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.13.3

In all athletics, the classification period for Class A shall be for two years.

- 2.13.4 With the approval of the Board of Directors, students from member high schools may be combined for interscholastic activity competition and field a common participating group.
- 2.13.4.1 When forming a cooperative sponsorship, no more than four member schools shall be permitted to combine and compete.
- 2.13.4.2 The classification for competition shall be based on the combined enrollment of grades nine, ten, and eleven of the schools involved.
- 2.13.4.3 If the enrollment, when combined, places the cooperative program in a classification higher than that of any of the combined schools, the cooperative program will be placed in the higher class, but the classification of other schools will remain the same.
- 2.13.4.4 The guidelines, as published in the Approved Rulings of this Section, shall be used by the Board of Directors in determining if a request for a Cooperative Sponsorship will be approved.
- 2.13.4.5 Applications for new Cooperative Sponsorship must be made jointly by the Boards of Education of the involved schools.
- 2.13.4.6 Requests for the renewal of programs that have been approved previously may be submitted by the Superintendent or his/her designate.
- 2.13.4.7 The requests for new programs or renewals shall be submitted by the following dates:
1. July 1 for Cooperative Programs which will be implemented during the following Fall Sports Season.
 2. October 1 for Cooperative Programs which will be implemented during the following Winter Sports Season.
 3. January 1 for Cooperative Programs which will be implemented during the following Spring Sports Season.
 4. November 1 for football cooperative programs in years that NSAA scheduling occurs.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS For 2.13.4

Purpose: *The philosophy of the Nebraska School Activities Association is to provide an opportunity for high school students to participate in a variety of activities. Through cooperative sponsorship, the opportunity for student participation will be maintained, or increased, by permitting students who do not have a program available in their school to go to another school for activity participation. The problem of declining enrollment, the inherent financial ramifications of supporting the cost of the program, the lack of facilities and equipment, and the problem of providing a quality coaching staff when the number of teaching positions are reduced, make cooperative sponsorship desirable. Schools will not be permitted to use cooperative sponsorship to gain an advantage over other member schools.*

Guidelines:

1. *No more than four member schools shall be permitted to combine and compete.*
2. *The schools must be in the same geographical area, and the school districts must be contiguous or located in the same school district.*
3. *If a school contacts all contiguous school districts and has been turned down by all, the school can then contact the schools which border the contiguous school districts who have turned down*

the school searching for an agreement to co-op. This process shall continue until a school is able to obtain a school that will enter into a cooperative agreement.

4. *The cooperative sponsorship agreement must be for a minimum of two years. The cooperative agreement may be voided at any time by mutual agreement of both schools and approval by the Board of Directors. No other cooperative agreement in the same activity may be made with another school until the original two-year period elapses.*
5. *The cooperative agreement will be for each activity. A school may have a cooperative agreement with one school in a particular activity and with another school in another activity.*
6. *Where there is an absence of an effective program in one school, a cooperative program may be established, provided a need is shown to the Board of Directors. Examples which may constitute need are: (a) insufficient numbers; (b) lack of staff; and (c) lack of facilities.*
7. *In multi-school districts, the central administration must designate the schools that may request permission to cooperatively sponsor activities in a particular activity.*
8. *If a school in one district wishes to join with a school in a multi-school district in a cooperatively sponsored activity, the school must join with the nearest high school in the multi-school district that offers the activity.*
9. *If a school previously has offered a program in an activity and there has been no significant decrease in high school enrollment, the school would not be permitted to participate in a cooperative program.*
10. *Each school is required to pay a registration fee for each activity in which the school participates. The amount of such fees will be set by the Board of Directors.*

2.14 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION

- 2.14.1 In accordance with Federal and State Laws and the interpretation of these laws, the Association through its membership shall support equal opportunities for all students regardless of race, religion, gender, national origin, or disability.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.14.1

Emerging/Adding A Sanctioned Activity

Emerging sport means there is statewide interest for the activity to become sanctioned under the NSAA. The membership shall consider the following criteria when recommending a new or emerging activity for NSAA sanction:

1. *Results from a formal survey submitted by the requesting parties that provides data regarding number of schools participating, student participation numbers, coaches availability (salary cost estimate), funding (equipment, uniforms, etc.), site availability, season of sport preferred, etc. The school administrator(s) submitting the proposal to add an emerging sport or activity should submit the separate disaggregated survey results of athletic/activities directors AND school superintendents. In addition to the information requested above, such survey to member schools should determine whether the respective schools would participate in the activity, if implemented. The name of each school participating in the survey should be attached to such survey results in order that it might help determine whether there is a sufficient number of schools within a geographical area to warrant implementation.*
2. *Data regarding the positive/negative impact of the addition to the proportionality ranges and sport offerings to the membership and the NSAA. Title IX compliance needs to be a factor in considering whether to implement an activity. Implementation of a single-gender activity generally should not adversely impact participation proportionality or Title IX compliance, if implemented.*
3. *Adequate number of schools in geographical area to complete a schedule (Statewide programs or Metro centered).*
4. *Travel.*
5. *Practice and competition site availability. If the proposed sport or activity requires a practice or competition facility not currently offered by most schools, details should be provided to specify how such facility consideration would be handled.*
6. *Cost estimates per school for start and maintenance for the activity.*
7. *Officials' availability, training/certification, fees.*
8. *Cost estimates for NSAA Championships (awards, officials, site rental, administration, etc.). Generally, post-season competition would not be considered for the three years as an emerging sport or activity; rather, post-season competition would generally be reserved until after the three-year emerging sport or activity status.*
9. *Safety and liability issues with the new activity.*
10. *Emerging sport or activity proposals, including the surveys and other required information, must be submitted by an authorized school administrator(s) of a member school or schools to the NSAA executive director by October 1 in the year immediately preceding the desired year of*

- implementation. The Board shall study and act on the proposal in a timely manner.*
11. *The NSAA Board of Directors reserves the right to designate a different starting date and season of the activity proposed for the emerging sport or activity.*
 12. *The proposal to add an emerging sport or activity should list the pros and cons of such implementation. Emerging sport or activity implementation determinations would be made by the NSAA Board of Directors. The NSAA Board of Directors may approve emerging sport status for up to three years as a non-sanctioned school-sponsored activity.*

APPENDIX 3

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. In order to determine if the NSAA can authorize such an accommodation, the school administration should contact the NSAA to request an accommodation hearing and fill out the NSAA Request for Accommodation form.

APPENDIX 4

Gender Participation Policy

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) has developed this policy to address the eligibility and participation of students in NSAA-sponsored athletics based upon gender.

A. Purpose: The NSAA has as one of its central purposes the fostering and maintenance of a level playing field for the students competing in the activity programs of member high schools. The NSAA's rules-making process involves educators who are specialists in the field of fostering, promoting and caring for the safety and best interests of students, and assuring that students participating in school activities are provided a fair chance to participate in a manner that enhances their education. The principle of competitive equity and the maintenance of a level playing field, and the safety and preservation of the personal privacy interests¹ of student athletes are basic values of schools, and our society as a whole, and is clearly a "substantial interest" of activity associations. To such end, this Gender Participation Policy seeks to balance the important goals of:

- **Equal Opportunity:** Providing equal opportunities in all aspects of school programming for all students is a core value in education.
- **Physical Safety of Student:** Protecting the health and safety of all students by assuring that female students are protected from physical injury as a result of participation in activities with biological males or androgen-supplemented biological females² who are generally stronger and faster than biological females; and,
- **Competitive Equity:** Maintaining a "level playing field" is an inherent expectation at all levels of sport competition and a key value of the schools that are members of the NSAA. Maintaining such competitive equity in NSAA-sponsored activities is indispensable in:
 - Preserving Title IX protections for female activities³; and,
 - Preserving protections of female athletic activities through the contact sport exclusion to Title IX.⁴
- **Personal Privacy:** Protecting the personal privacy of all student athletes participating in NSAA activities.⁵

B. Definitions: The following definitions apply to this policy:

1. "Gender" means the state of being male or female.
2. "Transgender" means having a gender identity or gender expression that differs from societal expectations based on gender assigned at birth.
 - a. Female-to-Male (FTM) transgender person means one who was born with a female body but who identifies as a boy or man.
 - b. Male-to-Female (MTF) transgender person means one who was born with a male body but who identifies as a girl or woman.
3. "Gender identity" means an innate sense of one's own gender.
4. "Gender expression" means external appearance, characteristics or behaviors typically associated with a specific gender.

C. Gender Based Participation:

1. **Gender Eligibility:** A student's gender for purposes of eligibility for NSAA-sponsored athletic activities shall be determined by the sex noted on the student's birth certificate.⁶
2. **Cross-Gender Participation:** Girls may participate on boys' teams when there is no girls sport or comparable sport or team offered in that sport by the member school. Boys are not allowed to play girls sports or on girls teams even when there is no corresponding boys sport.⁷

¹ See *Clark v. Arizona Interscholastic Assn.*, 695 F.2d 1126, 1131 (9th Cir. Ariz. 1982); citing *Petrie*, 75 Ill.App.3d at 989, 394 N.E.2d at 862 (Redressing past discrimination against women in athletics is a legitimate and important government interest); Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,104; Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. §1232g; *Johnston v. University of Pittsburgh*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41823, (U.S. Dist. Court, Western District of Penn.), March 31, 2015.

² See *Clark v. Arizona Interscholastic Assn.*, *Supra* at 1131; *Kahn v. Shevin*, 416 U.S. at 355, 94 S. Ct. at 1737, 40 L. Ed. 2d at 193; *Michael M. v. Sonoma County Superior Court*, 450 U.S. at 469, 101 S. Ct. at 1204, 67 L. Ed. 2d at 442; *Orr v. Orr*, 440 U.S. 268, 280-82, 99 S. Ct. 1102, 1112-13, 59 L. Ed. 2d 306, 319-21 (1979)(The court has recognized average real differences between the sexes).

³ ARTICLE: The Title IX Athletic Regulations and the Ideal of a Gender-free Society, 11 U. Denv. Sports & Ent. Law J. 3, 36. citing *O'Connor v. Board of Education*, 645 F.2d 578 (7th Cir. Ill. 1981).

⁴ *Springs Exempted Village School Dist. Bd. of Education v. Ohio High School Athletic Assn.*, 647 F.2d 651 (6th Cir. Ohio 1981).

⁵ See *Johnston v. University of Pittsburgh*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41823, (U.S. Dist. Court, Western District of Penn.), March 31, 2015; and, *Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 124905 U.S. Dist. Court, Eastern District of Virginia), September 17, 2015.

⁶ Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-604.01 (2005). "Upon receipt of a notarized affidavit from the physician that performed sex reassignment surgery on an individual born in this state and a certified copy of an order of a court of competent jurisdiction changing the name of such person, the Department of Health and Human Services Finance and Support shall prepare a new certificate of birth in the new name and sex of such person in substantially the same form as that used for other live births. The evidence from which the new certificate is prepared and the original certificate of birth shall be available for inspection only upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction." Note: World Professional Association for Transgender Health, "Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming People", 2012 Edition, Chapter VI. *Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents With Gender Dysphoria*, page 21, *Irreversible Interventions* – "Genital surgery should not be carried out until (i) patients reach the age of majority to give consent for medical procedures in a given country, and (ii) patients have lived continuously for at least 12 month in the gender role that is congruent with their gender identity. The age threshold should be seen as a minimum criterion and not an indication in and of itself for active intervention."

⁷ *Saint v. Nebraska School Activities Association*, 684 F. Supp. 626 (1988), holding that the NSAA was restrained from refusing to permit female student from wrestling on boys' wrestling team.

D. Transgender Student Participation: The NSAA Gender Participation Policy only addresses bona fide transgender students and does not alter the foregoing cross-gender participation rule.

1. **Privacy Statement:** As stated under the “Purpose” section of this policy, it is a fundamental tenant of the NSAA to protect the personal privacy of all student athletes participating in NSAA activities. Pursuant to such Purpose, protecting the privacy of transgender student athletes must be a priority for all athletic departments and affiliated school personnel. Information regarding a student’s transgender status, legal name, or gender assignment at birth may constitute medical information. All medical information shall be kept confidential in accordance with applicable state, local and federal privacy laws. All discussions and documentation at each level of the process by the member school, Gender Identity Eligibility Committee and the NSAA shall be kept confidential unless the student and family make a specific request otherwise.
2. **Procedures:** The following procedures shall apply to participation by a transgender student in NSAA activities:
 - a. **Notice to the School:** The student and parent shall contact the member school administrator or athletic director, in writing, indicating that the student is a transgender individual, having a consistent gender identity different than the sex on the student’s birth certificate, and list the NSAA sport(s) in which the student would like to participate.
 - b. **Member School Determination:** The member school shall determine if the student meets the activity eligibility standards for participation established by the NSAA and whether the student meets the requirements of participation established by the member school.
 - c. **Application for Participation to the NSAA:** Upon receipt of notice from the transgender student and/or parent of a transgender student wishing to participate in interscholastic sports in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity, the member school, if the member school determines that the student meets the requirements for initial eligibility under standards of participation established by the member school, shall file an application for participation in NSAA activities by the transgender student (Transgender Student Application) on a form provided by the NSAA, providing the information required by this policy. The costs related to the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee shall be an NSAA expense.
 - d. **Review and Required Approval by NSAA Gender Identity Eligibility Committee:** Upon receipt of such notice the NSAA shall take the following actions:
 1. **Gender Identity Eligibility Committee:** The NSAA shall convene the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee (Committee) specifically trained to respond to gender identity eligibility inquiries to review the Transgender Student Application. The Committee shall make written findings and determinations approving or disapproving the Transgender Student Application to be set forth in writing and delivered confidentially to the member school and the Executive Director of the NSAA. The eligibility of the student to participate in NSAA activities must be approved unanimously by the Committee considering the Transgender Student Application. This Committee will be comprised of the following persons:
 - i. Physician with experience in transgender health care.
 - ii. Psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed mental health professional.
 - iii. School administrator from a non-appealing school.
 - iv. NSAA staff member.
 2. **Information to be provided to the Committee:** The following information shall be provided by the member school to the Committee with regard to the Transgender Student Application:
 - i. Current school registration information;
 - ii. A written statement from the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) affirming the consistent gender identity and expression to which the student self-relates;
 - iii. Documentation from individuals such as, but not limited to, parents, friends and/or teachers, affirming the actions, attitudes, dress and manner and demonstrate the student’s consistent gender identification and expression;
 - iv. Written verification from an appropriate health-care professional (physician, psychologist) of the student’s consistent gender identification and expression;
 - v. Medical documentation of hormonal therapy, sexual re-assignment surgery, physiological testing, counseling, and other medical or psychological interventions on behalf of the student.
 - vi. Any other relevant documentation or information provided by the member school or the student or the student’s parents or guardians.
 3. **Review Criteria:** The following review criteria should be used by the Committee to review and determine whether to approve or disapprove the Transgender Student Application:

- i. For the committee to approve the Transgender Student Application the information presented must establish to the members of the Committee that the transgender student has met each of the following criteria:
 - a. That the transgender student affirms and exhibits the consistent gender identity and expression to which the student self-relates;
 - b. That there has been submitted credible documentation from individuals such as, but not limited to, parents, friends and/or teachers, affirming the actions, attitudes, dress and manner and demonstrate the student's consistent gender identification and expression;
 - c. That there has been submitted credible written verification from an appropriate health-care professional (physician, psychologist) of the student's consistent gender identification and expression; and,
 - d. For a transgender female (or Male-to-Female) (MTF) student only, that there has been submitted credible medical documentation of hormonal therapy, sexual re-assignment surgery and physiological testing; such documentation must establish that the transgender female has either completed a minimum of one year of hormone treatment related to gender transition⁸ or undergone medically confirmed gender reassignment procedure, and, demonstrated to the Committee through a medical examination and testing and physiological testing that the transgender female student athlete does not possess physical (bone structure, muscle mass, and/or testosterone hormonal levels, etc.) or physiological advantages over genetic females of the same age group.
4. Further Policies:
 - i. Hormone supplementation/suppression therapy under supervision of a licensed physician when taken as prescribed does not violate the NSAA Performance Enhancing Supplement policy.
 - ii. In any case where a transgender student athlete is taking hormone treatment related to gender transition, that treatment must be monitored by a physician, and the NSAA must receive regular reports about the athlete's eligibility according to these guidelines.
 - iii. Once a student is approved as a transgender student athlete in an NSAA sport(s), the student may not return to his/her gender identified on the birth certificate for athletics participation purposes unless another evaluation is undertaken by the NSAA Gender Identity Eligibility Committee because of a change in circumstances. A transgender female (Male-to-Female or MTF) student may participate on a boys' team pursuant to paragraph C.2. above [e.g. when there is no girls sport or comparable sport (e.g., softball and baseball) or team offered in that sport by the member school]. A transgender male (Female-to-Male or FTM) student who has been approved for participation on male teams under this policy shall not be eligible for participation on female teams pursuant to paragraph C.2. above.
 - iv. If the student is denied participation as a transgender student athlete in an NSAA sport(s), the student's eligibility remains with the school's teams as determined by the individual's birth certificate.
 - v. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to encourage parents and guardians of students or the students themselves to undergo sex reassignment surgery, hormone treatment or other medical treatment resulting in change to the student's gender, as such treatments have obvious physical, psychological and social implications.
5. Appeal Process: If the initial Committee review results in a disapproval by the Committee of the Transgender Student Application, the member school on behalf of the student may seek review of the student's Transgender Student Application for eligibility for participation by an Appeals Committee through the following appeals procedure. The costs related to the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee on appeal shall be an NSAA expense.
 - i. The student will be scheduled for an appeal hearing before a second NSAA Gender Identity Eligibility Committee (Appeals Committee) specifically trained to hear gender identity appeals. The NSAA shall schedule a hearing as expeditiously as possible, but in no case later than five (5) school business days prior to the first full interscholastic contest that is the subject of the petition, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergency, including, but not limited to, any unforeseeable late student enrollment.

⁸ See, World Professional Association for Transgender Health, "Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender Non-Conforming People", 2012 Edition, pages 36-38.

- ii. The Appeals Committee will be comprised of the individuals identified in subparagraph D.2.d.(1), provided, at least two of the individuals chosen must not have been on the Committee that initially considered the student's Transgender Student Application.
- iii. The Appeals Committee shall be provided all information provided to the initial Committee along with the determination of the initial Committee, and such additional information that the member school or the student through the member school wishes to provide the Appeals Committee.
- iv. The Appeals Committee shall apply the same review criteria as utilized by the initial Committee, and shall make written findings and determinations approving or disapproving the Transgender Student Application to be set forth in writing and delivered confidentially to the member school and the Executive Director of the NSAA. The eligibility of the student to participate must be approved unanimously by the Appeals Committee considering the Transgender Student Application for participation. The student/student's family and the school on whose sports team the student would be participating will be notified of the Appeals Committee's decision in writing within forty-eight (48) hours once that decision has been reached.
- v. Upon completion of the appeal to and through the Appeals Committee, the student will have exhausted all administrative remedies available to him/her. No further appeals with or through the NSAA exist at that point. However, due to the nature of these issues, the same student may have her/his case revisited by the NSAA as the facts and circumstances of the student evolve or change. The NSAA would not anticipate revisiting a case without a sufficient lapse of time such that the circumstances of the case have changed significantly.

E. Use of restrooms and locker rooms at NSAA athletic contests and activities based upon student gender: It is the purpose of this policy to allow all students to participate fairly and equally in high school athletics and activities, while also upholding the basic principles of privacy and personal dignity held by each student.⁹ While accommodations may be necessary to meet the unique needs of individual students, it is the goal that all students will be able to comfortably participate while respecting the privacy rights of others. The NSAA acknowledges that many member schools' facilities have been outfitted with changing areas and locker rooms, including restrooms and showers, separated by gender. It has been widely¹⁰ recognized that restrooms and locker rooms are places where students have an expectation of privacy. Maintaining separate restroom and shower facilities for each gender is a cost effective way to retain the reasonable expectation of privacy that students have while using the restroom and changing and showering before and after physical activity.¹¹

A transgender student who has been granted permission by the NSAA to participate in activities of the gender with which the student identifies, but has not undergone sex reassignment surgery, shall at NSAA-sponsored contests be permitted to use the restrooms and locker rooms associated with their birth sex or shall be assigned private toilet, locker and shower room facilities appropriate for the student's gender identity, as appropriate and available.¹²

Coaches are encouraged to use spaces outside the locker room for team meetings or other events where important information is shared with the team. When a member school is traveling, school representatives should identify safe spaces to accommodate a transgender student's need for restrooms and locker rooms and privacy.

⁹ *Iowa Civil Rights Commission v. Burlington Area Community YMCA*, (Administrative Decision) Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals; *Goins v. West Group*, 635 N.W. 2d 717 (Minn. 2001).

¹⁰ *See Koepfel v. Speirs*, 808 N.W. 2d 177, 181 (Iowa 2011), *Stuart v. Metropolitan Government of Nashville*, 679 F. Supp. 2d 851, 859-60.

¹¹ *See State v. Dennison*, 2012 WL 1580610 (Ohio App. 2012).

¹² *Johnston v. University of Pittsburgh*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 41823, (U.S. Dist. Court, Western District of Penn.), March 31, 2015 ("UPJ's policy of segregating its bathroom and locker room facilities on the basis of birth sex is "substantially related to a sufficiently important government interest." *Glenn v. Brumby*, 663 F. 3d 1312, 1316 (11th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Ctr., Inc.*, 473 U.S. 432, 446-47, 105 S. Ct. 3249, 87 L. Ed. 2d 313 (1985)). Specifically, UPJ explained that its policy is based on the need to ensure the privacy of its students to disrobe and shower outside of the presence of members of the opposite sex. This justification has been repeatedly upheld by courts. *See, e.g., Etsitty v. Utah Transit Auth.*, 502 F. 3d 1215, 1224 (10th Cir. 2007) (the use of women's public restrooms by a biological, transgender male could result in liability for employer, and such a motivation constitutes a legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason); *Casey v. Ford Motor Co.*, 516 F. 2d 416 (5th Cir. 1975)." *Id.* at 26; and, *Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 124905 U.S. Dist. Court, Eastern District of Virginia, September 17, 2015 ("Department of Education regulations stipulate: A recipient may provide separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities on the basis of sex, but such facilities provided for students of one sex shall be comparable to such facilities provided for students of the other sex. 34 C.F.R. § 106.33. This regulation (hereinafter, "Section 106.33") expressly allows schools to provide separate bathroom facilities based upon sex, so long as the bathrooms are comparable. When Congress delegates authority to any agency to "elucidate a specific provision of the statute by regulation, any ensuing regulation is binding on the courts unless procedurally defective, arbitrary or capricious in substance, or manifestly contrary to the statute." *United States v. Mead Corp.*, 533 U.S. 218, 227, 121 S. Ct. 2164, 150 L. Ed. 2d 292 (2001). The Department of Education's regulation is not "arbitrary, capricious, or manifestly contrary to the statute." Rather Section 106.33 seems to effectuate Title IX's provision allowing separate living facilities based on sex. Therefore, Section 106.33 is given controlling weight").

2.15 AWARDS TO STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

- 2.15.1 **School's Responsibility.** The school shall have the control and supervision of the giving and receiving of awards to students.
- 2.15.2 **Awards to Students.**
- 2.15.2.1 For each activity season sponsored by the NSAA in which a student participates, he/she may accept a symbolic or merchandise award which does not exceed the full retail value as set by the Board of Directors.
- 2.15.2.2 Awards to individuals for activity participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any negotiable instrument are not allowed.
- 2.15.3 **Awards to Schools.** No school shall accept a cash or merchandise award for participation in any interscholastic contest in activities sponsored by the NSAA except that organizations sponsoring such contest may underwrite the cost of the participants not to exceed their total expenses, and provided that all contesting schools are subsidized on an equal basis.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS For 2.15.1-2.15.3

- 2.15.2.1 *The current full retail value of the symbolic or merchandise awards as set by the Board of Directors is \$50.*
- 2.15.2 *Individual sports are activities in which one person may participate and have the possibility of winning the contest.*
- 2.15.2.2 *Designation of a school's letter winner as a recipient of a discount in the price of athletic equipment shall not be allowed.*
- 2.15.2.2 *Students may participate for remuneration in the non-athletic activities.*
- 2.15.2.2 *Combination sports are activities in which there is a recognized individual champion and a recognized team champion made up of a specified number of people. The combination sports are boys and girls golf, and boys and girls cross country.*
- 2.15.3 *Team sports are activities in which there is no provision for an individual championship, and it is mandatory that a certain number of people be associated together before they are allowed to participate for the purpose of winning the contest.*

Q: Does the awards to schools and students apply to summer activities?

A: No, except cash awards for participation may impact amateur status.

Athletic Bylaws—Article 3

3.1 SPORTS SEASONS

3.1.1 Interscholastic sports sponsored by the Association shall be divided into three seasons: Fall, Winter, and Spring.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.1.1

1. A season begins on the first day of allowable practices for that sport, as designated in 3.1.1.2. The season officially ends with the conclusion of the State Championship in that sport. Students may not participate in outside group instruction or competition once the season officially begins, and outside group instruction or competition may not commence until the school varsity team has been completely eliminated from further participation in that sport.

2. All scheduled and postponed regular season varsity contests must be played prior to the start of sub-district, district or state competition. Once sub-district, district or state competition begins, no regular season varsity contests shall be permitted.

3. Students who are not listed on the NSAA District entry form may participate in outside group instruction or competition of the same sport before the varsity school team has been completely eliminated from post-season competition. Those students who have participated in outside group instruction or competition following their regular season schedule would not be eligible to be placed on the district or state entry form of the same sport and would not be allowed to practice with the varsity team.

3.1.1.1 A season begins the day of opening practice as permitted by the NSAA rules rather than the first day of interscholastic competition.

3.1.1.2 The division of sports seasons shall be as follows: No school shall register more than one varsity team per sport and no student shall participate simultaneously in more than one sport per season.

Note: Week designations are for the standardized calendar. The standardized calendar usually begins with the first full week in July.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Date of 1st Practice</u>	<u>Date of 1st Contest</u>	<u>Close of Season</u>
FALL			
Girls Golf	Monday, Week 6	Thursday, Week 7	State Championship
Girls Softball	Monday, Week 6	Thursday, Week 7	State Championship
Boys Tennis	Monday, Week 6	Thursday, Week 8	State Championship
Football	Monday, Week 6	Thursday, Week 8	State Finals
Boys/Girls Cross Country	Monday, Week 6	Thursday, Week 8	State Championship
Girls Volleyball	Monday, Week 6	Thursday, Week 8	State Championship
Unified Sports, Bowling	Monday, Week 16	Monday, Week 17	State Championship
WINTER			
Boys/Girls Basketball	Monday, Week 20	Thursday, Week 22	State Championship
Boys/Girls Bowling	Monday, Week 20	Thursday, Week 22	State Championship
Wrestling	Monday, Week 20	Thursday, Week 22	State Championship
Boys/Girls Swimming	Monday, Week 20	Thursday, Week 22	State Championship
SPRING			
Boys Golf	Monday, Week 35	Thursday, Week 37	State Championship
Boys/Girls Track & Field	Monday, Week 35	Thursday, Week 37	State Championship
Unified Sports, Track & Field	Monday, Week 35	Thursday, Week 37	State Championship
Girls Tennis	Monday, Week 35	Thursday, Week 37	State Championship
Baseball	Monday, Week 35	Thursday, Week 37	State Championship
Boys/Girls Soccer	Monday, Week 35	Thursday, Week 37	State Championship

Refer to the Nebraska School Activities Association calendar or the Manual for the specific sport for the date of the beginning of the season, first date of permitted competition, and date of state contest for the current year.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS For 3.1.1.2

1. If a student is participating in one sport during a sports season and decides to quit that sport and participate in another sport during the same season, the student shall be required to sit-out from competition at all levels for seven days. During this seven day sit-out period, students are permitted to practice. No student who has practiced or competed in one sport will be allowed to switch to another sport if the district or state meet in the student's former sport is in progress or has been completed or a season has ended.
2. If a student participates in two sports simultaneously during a sports season, that student shall become ineligible to participate in the district and/or state contest during that sports season.

- Q: *Can a student who initially went out for cross country or tennis change his mind and come out for football after the first day of permitted football practice?*
- A: *Yes. The student shall be restricted from competing for seven school days and will also be required follow heat acclimatization requirements.*

- 3.1.2 **December Moratorium.** 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 three years in advance.

(Refer to calendar for these dates.) [The moratorium is to include December 24 and 25 and the 5-days must be consecutive for each activity. Modifications of set dates requires NSAA Board of Directors approval.]

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.1.2

The intent of the December Moratorium is to provide coaches, athletes, and other school personnel a five-day break from the activity season. This rule is to be interpreted as a five-day dead period without organized practices, structured conditioning sessions, or meetings of any type. It is the member school's responsibility to monitor and enforce this rule.

School-owned facilities shall be closed to all grades 9-12 workout activities during the moratorium (team or athletic meetings, practice, competition, weight-training, conditioning, open gym, or other physical activities).

The term "no practice and no interschool competition by individuals or teams" shall be interpreted to mean that a grades 9-12 student who is a participant in an NSAA activity shall not be permitted:

1. *To practice or compete in that activity in-season during the moratorium in a school-owned facility that is used by the school for such activity, whether or not a coach, sponsor, or other adult associated with the program is present.*
2. *To participate in practice, team meeting, or activity for the sport in season, directly or indirectly organized by the coach; the school coach, sponsor, or other adult associated with the school activity program may not supervise, direct, plan, or encourage any workout, practice, or competition during the moratorium by students participating in activities; and*
3. *To participate in a student-organized practice, team meeting, or activity for the sport in season. Students may:*
 - a. *Continue to work out/condition on their own in facilities not owned by the school, including workouts or activities with family members;*
 - b. *Receive individualized instruction from an individual who is not the school coach, sponsor, or other adult associated with the school activity program; and*
 - c. *Receive physical therapy or rehabilitation services at facilities not owned by the school.*
4. *Waivers of the December Moratorium may be considered by the NSAA Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis; however, if competition or travel infringes on the designated December Moratorium dates, the Moratorium for such teams shall be readjusted to include five consecutive days to include December 24 and 25. Schools must submit a timely waiver request to the executive director, and the waiver request will be placed on a subsequent NSAA Board meeting agenda.*

- Q: *Can a student who initially went out for cross country or tennis change his mind and come out for football after the first day of permitted football practice?*
- A: *Yes. The student shall be restricted from practice and competing for seven school days and will also be required follow heat acclimatization requirements.*
- Q: *My school is participating in a tournament contest the day before the December Moratorium and plans to stay overnight before returning home the following day. Is this permissible during the December Moratorium?*
- A: *No. Travel time is not allowed during the five-day period of the December Moratorium.*

3.2 SCHOOL-YEAR, OUT-OF-SEASON PROGRAMS

- 3.2 A member school shall not provide support, hold an organized practice or enter students in any non-high school competition in NSAA sponsored sports during the "School-year, Out-of-Season" time period. A member school may provide support during the "Summertime" period per the district's Board of Education policy.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2

Faculty vs. student, alumni vs. student, or parent vs. student contests are not permissible during the

season of the sport involved. If such contests are held out-of-season, the organized practice rule must be followed.

- 3.2.1 **“School-Year, Out-of-Season” Definition.** “School-year, out-of-season” is defined as that period of time during the school year in which no organized practice can be conducted. The “school-year, out-of-season” period begins on the first day of fall practice and runs until the first allowable date of practice in that sport, and the period after a team or individual has been eliminated from further competition during the championship series of district and state tournaments/meets through Memorial Day or the end of the school year, whichever is later.

For non-varsity competition, “school year, out-of-season” begins the day following the last date of interscholastic competition or the last date of the varsity season, whichever is later.

- 3.2.2 **“School-Year, Out-of-Season” Participation.** Except during the season of the sport involved, a student may be a member of a non-high school team and compete unattached in non-high school competition. Students are prohibited from wearing high school uniforms during non-high school sponsored competition.

- 3.2.3 **Organized Practice.** No organized practice in any sport shall be held during the “school-year, out-of-season” period.

An organized practice shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Football and Soccer.** An organized practice in 11-man football and soccer shall mean more than seven students under direct supervision of a sponsor. An organized practice in 8-man football shall mean more than five students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. An organized practice in 6-man football shall mean more than four students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice. The only pieces of general equipment shall be footballs, shoes, helmets, kicking tees, and hand held dummies and there shall be no contact with mechanical training devices or blocking sleds or with another player.
- b. **Basketball, Baseball, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball, Tennis and Wrestling.** An organized practice shall mean more than four students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice. In baseball and softball, beginning four weeks prior to the official start of softball and baseball practice, sponsors may work with up to eight (8) players using only balls, gloves and protective catcher’s equipment. No other equipment, including bats may be used by players or coaches. An organized practice shall mean more than eight (8) students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice. During the four weeks prior to the official start of practice, sponsors will have the option of working with four (4) student athletes or eight (8) student athletes using the prescribe allowable equipment.
- c. **Track & Field, Golf and Cross Country.** An organized practice shall mean more than three students under direct supervision of a sponsor. If more than one such group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice.
- d. **Swimming & Diving.** An organized practice shall mean more than three students under direct supervision of a sponsor. Two or more groups may practice at the same time providing no more than three students are under the direct supervision of a coach or sponsor.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.3

Any individual who served as a school’s head coach, assistant coach, coach’s aide, or volunteer coach shall not coach athletes from that member school in non-high school competition if the number of athletes from the school which the individual served exceeds the number permitted for an organized practice in the sport involved.

- 3.2.4 **Conditioning Program.** A member school may organize and supervise a “school year, out-of-season” conditioning program to include weight lifting, running, and exercising for its members in accordance with the following provision:

- a. Such a conditioning program shall be general in nature and may include only exercises designed to promote physical fitness.
- b. Sport-specific drills are not allowed, and sport-specific equipment may not be used.
- c. The conditioning session shall be no longer than 60 minutes in length, and no student shall participate in more than one such session per day.
- d. Conditioning programs shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend conditioning sessions as a prerequisite for membership or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.4

Conditioning sessions organized and run by members of the school’s coaching staff are subject the 60-minute limitation. Students, for example, who work out on their own at the school facility in weight lifting,

general calisthenics, running, or agility-type exercises shall not be considered to be involved in an organized conditioning program.

- 3.2.5 **Open Gym.** It is permissible for students to be involved in NSAA activities of a school's open gymnasium program during the "school year, out-of-season" period under the following conditions:
- The gym is open for all individuals and all activities.
 - Schools may not designate sport specific times.
 - Coaching or instruction is not provided.
 - School employees who are present shall restrict their duties to supervision of the facility.
 - Open gym shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend open gym as a condition for membership or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

3.2.6 **CAMPS AND CLINICS DEFINITIONS**

Camp Definition: Camps include planned physical participation that is of a competitive nature where actual games are played or simulated by camp attendees. Participation shall mean physically taking part in the sport activity in which instruction is offered in the camp or school.

Clinic Definition: A clinic includes planned activities of instruction or demonstration directly related to the teaching of individual skills. There shall be no competition between athletes who are in attendance.

- 3.2.6.1 **"School-Year, Out-of-Season".** Athletes and coaches may attend professional or commercial sports camps/clinics sponsored by non-member high schools. During the "school-year, out-of-season" period, the organized practice rule for the sport in which instruction is being given shall apply. No more than the limit permitted for organized practice may attend and receive instruction. Attendance to "school-year, out-of-season" clinics shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend a clinic as a condition for membership on the high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.6 and 3.2.6.1

The purpose of specialized sports camps/clinics is to give individual athletes an opportunity to improve his/her skills in a particular activity. The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses, or support for individuals participating in clinics. Team fundraisers may be used to finance summer league and camp/clinic activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for summer league or camp/clinic activities. Any athlete receiving money for summer league, camps/clinics must participate in the fundraising activity. The school may provide transportation for individuals participating in camps/clinics with prior approval from the district's Board of Education.

Q: *Can a coach (head, assistant or volunteer) attend a school year out-of-season camp or clinic?*

A: *Only if the organized practice rule for that particular sport is followed. If the number of athletes from the team exceeds the organized practice limit, the coach cannot be in attendance. Organized Practice numbers are defined in Bylaw 3.2.3*

- 3.2.7 **Summertime Participation.** "Summertime" shall be defined as the Tuesday following Memorial Day to July 31. During the "summertime" there shall be no restrictions on the amount of contact between students and high school coaches. Attendance shall be voluntary, and coaches/school representative may not directly or by implication require a student to attend "summertime" activities as a condition for membership on a high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.7

The school year out-of-season period begins on the date of the official start of fall practices. Summer activities are regulated between the Tuesday following Memorial Day and July 31. Between the end of the summer activities period and the start of the school year, out-of-season period (August 1 through the official start of fall practices), the following shall apply:

- The organized practice rule shall be in effect;*
- Conditioning programs may be held;*
- Attendance at commercial camps and clinics is permissible, but the organized practice rules shall be in effect for such camps and clinics; and*
- No school-sponsored clinics or camps may be held.*
- Due to safety concerns, schools may permit the use of football helmets and softball and baseball protective equipment for summer leagues, camps, clinics, and other summer activities.*

- 3.2.7.1 NSAA Catastrophic Insurance does not cover coaches/students/schools during the summertime period.

- Q: Can schools provide school vans for coaches to drive to a summer camp?*
- A: Yes, NSAA Bylaw 3.2.8(d) allows school transportation for individuals participating in team sports camps/clinics with prior approval from the district's Board of Education. However, the NSAA Catastrophic insurance would not cover this transportation.*
- Q: Can a student voluntarily attend the summertime school-sponsored, 75-minute conditioning program, and then return to that school that evening to lift weights?*
- A: Yes, NSAA Approved Ruling 3.2.7.3 states that students may work-out on their own at the school facility and it shall not be considered to be involved in an organized conditioning program.*
- Q: Could a coach conduct voluntary practices during the summertime activity period?*
- A: Yes, NSAA Bylaw 3.2.7.5 allows a coach to have unlimited contact with students during the summer activities period. The organized practice rule is not in effect during the summer activities period.*
- Q: Can schools allow students participating in summertime activities to wear school-issued game uniforms?*
- A: No, NSAA Bylaws do not allow the use of school-issued game uniforms in summertime activities.*
- Q: Can a high school coach conduct a summertime commercial camp/clinic at their high school?*
- A: Yes, NSAA Bylaw 3.2.7.7 allows high school coaches to use school facilities in accordance with the district's Board of Education policy.*
- Q: As a reward, can a coach excuse a student from the first day of high school practice because of the student's participation in summertime activities?*
- A: No, NSAA Bylaw 3.2.7 states that attendance at summertime activities shall be voluntary.*

3.2.7.2 Summertime School-Sponsored Camps/Clinics: A school may organize a camp or clinic in any sport from the Tuesday following Memorial Day through July 31. The camp shall be limited to no more than ten days starting with the first date of the camp/clinic.

- a. Summertime school-sponsored camps/clinics include planned physical activities that are instructional and competitive in nature where actual games can be played or simulated by camp attendees.
- b. Summertime school-sponsored camps/clinics shall be voluntary and open to all interested students from grades 9-12.
- c. The use of school facilities and equipment is permitted in accordance with the district's Board of Education policy.
- d. Football summertime school-sponsored camps/clinics must adhere to the following contact limitation progression:
 - (1) On day one and day two unlimited "air" and "bag" contact is allowed with the use of handheld dummies only. Contact with blocking sleds and other mechanical devices, as well as with other players is prohibited. The no-contact rule does not preclude incidental or inadvertent contact, or the touching of a ball carrier with the hand(s). The only pieces of general football equipment shall be footballs, shoes, helmets, kicking tees and hand-held blocking dummies.
 - (2) On day three through ten, contact with blocking sleds and other mechanical devices is permitted. Unlimited "air," "bag," and "control" contact is permitted. A maximum of 30 minutes per day and no more than two consecutive days of "thud" contact is permitted. In addition to general football equipment, shoulder pads are permitted, but full protective equipment may not be worn.
 - (3) If a football camp/clinic is not held over ten consecutive days, the camp/clinic must restart with day one of the progression.

3.2.7.3 Summertime Conditioning Program. A member school may organize and supervise a summer conditioning program to include weightlifting, running, and exercising. Conditioning sessions shall be no longer than 75 minutes in length per day or no more than 5 hours per week, and no student shall participate in more than one such session per day.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.7.3

Conditioning sessions organized and run by members of the school's coaching staff are subject the 75-minute limitation. Students, for example, who work out on their own at the school facility in weightlifting, general calisthenics, running, or agility-type exercises shall not be considered to be involved in an organized conditioning program.

- 3.2.7.4 **Summertime Open Gym/Facilities.** It is permissible for students to be involved in NSAA activities of a school's open training program during the summertime. Permitting the participation by non-high school students (graduates, adults, or individuals not a member of the school) shall be determined by the district's Board of Education policy.
- 3.2.7.5 **Summertime Regulations for Athletes and Coaches.** From the Tuesday following Memorial Day or final day of school (whichever is later) until July 31, there shall be no restrictions on the contact between students and high school coaches.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.7.5

1. *The organized practice rule shall be in effect during the school year until Memorial Day, except in the case of organized teams (e.g., Legion baseball, USA softball, etc.). If a high school coach or other adult associated with the school program is also the coach of an organized non-school team, practice and competition involving the coach and athletes of that non-school team may begin at the conclusion of the state tournament of that activity or during Week 46 of the standardized calendar, whichever date is later.*
 2. *If a high school coach or other adult associated with the school baseball program is also the coach of an organized non-school Junior or Senior Legion baseball teams that will practice and compete after July 31st in preparation for a qualifying state, regional or national Legion baseball tournament, that school must seek a waiver for the school-year, out-of-season Bylaw 3.2.2 (Organized Practice) from the NSAA Executive Director to continue their practice and competition through the completion of these tournaments.*
- 3.2.7.6 **Summertime Leagues/Competitions.** High school coaches are permitted to coach students from their school in summer league competition and games, provided there is no direct support from the school.
- a. All league fees and costs are to be paid by the athlete and/or his/her parents. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses or support for individuals participating in such leagues.
 - b. Team fundraisers may be used to finance summer league and camp activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for summer league or camp activities. Any athlete receiving money for summer league/camps must participate in the fundraising activity.
 - c. The use of school-issued game uniforms is prohibited.
- 3.2.7.7 **Summertime Use of School Facilities.** Member schools may permit the use of their facilities in accordance with the district's Board of Education board policy.
- 3.2.7.8 **Summertime Use of School Equipment.** Member schools may permit the use of school equipment, other than school-issued game uniforms in accordance with the district's Board of Education policy.
- 3.2.8 **Summertime College/Professional/Commercial Team Sport Camps/Clinics.** High school coaches are permitted to accompany students from their school to college, professional, or commercial sports specialized team camps/clinics during the summer.
- a. The purpose of a specialized sports camp/clinic/school is to give team members an opportunity to improve their skills in a particular activity.
 - b. The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses or support for individuals participating in camps, schools, and non-school competition.
 - c. Team fundraisers may be used to finance team commercial camp/clinic activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for camp activities. Any athlete receiving money for summer team camps/clinics must participate in the fundraising activity.
 - d. The school shall not provide school-issued uniforms but may provide transportation for individuals participating in such camps/clinics, or schools with prior approval from the district's Board of Education.
- 3.2.9 **Summertime Individual Commercial Camps/Clinics.** During the summer, students may attend any individual skill/technique camps or clinics.
- a. The purpose of an individual camp/clinic/school is to give a student an opportunity to improve his/her skills in a particular activity.
 - b. The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses or support for individuals participating in camps.
 - c. Team fundraisers may be used to finance individual commercial camp/clinic activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for summer individual camp/clinic activities. Any athlete receiving money for camps/clinics must participate in the fundraising activity.
 - d. The school shall not provide school-issued uniforms.

3.3 GENERAL REGULATIONS GOVERNING COMPETITION

- 3.3.1 **Scheduled Contests.** In determining whether or not a contest is a regularly scheduled contest where participation in same shall count as competition between member high schools, one or all of the following shall be shown as evidence:
- Contracts signed by representatives from all schools involved.
 - Advertising of contest.
 - Admission charge.
 - Officials contracted.
 - Score is kept.
- 3.3.1.1 In sports where the Nebraska School Activities Association, or a committee representing the Association, or individuals appointed by the Association schedules games, the school involved shall honor the scheduled games and write contracts for such games.
- 3.3.1.2 If a school fails to honor the assigned games, that school shall be excluded from participation in the state qualifying contest and/or the state contest for that particular sport.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.3.1.2

- At the discretion of the Board of Directors, more stringent penalties may be assessed if a school fails to honor the assigned contests. The Board of Directors may impose, but not be limited to, one or more of the penalties outlined in Bylaws 2.11.1 through 2.11.10.*
- When a school's varsity team is unable to complete the season, those remaining teams on that school's regular season schedule may either:*
 - Receive forfeit wins for those scheduled contests and shall be awarded wild card points for those forfeit wins. Wild card points will be determined by the forfeiting team's record at the time of seeding for postseason competition.*

OR

- If more than seven days remain before any level of postseason seeding is to take place in that sport, a school may replace the forfeited contest on their schedule with another opponent/contest. Replacements that may be added to the schedule are limited to either teams similarly affected by the forfeiting team, or, teams that have an unfilled, allowable contest opening on their schedule. Replacement contests must be scheduled a minimum of seven days in advance of any postseason seeding and will count towards postseason/wild card seeding.*
- Any school that forfeits a regular season football contest will be ineligible for the postseason.*
 - Any school that forfeits a regular season or postseason football contest will be fined \$1000 with the money going to the opponent if the game was to be the opponent's home game. The fine will be waived if the NSAA is able to replace the opponent's home game.*
 - Any school that forfeits a regular season or postseason football contest will be responsible for paying the officials.*

Q: *If a school is unable to field a team because of injury or illness for the remainder of the regular season, can the remaining opponent's remove the game from their wildcard schedule?*

A: *No. Scheduled contests will not be removed from a team's schedule after the start of the season. Remaining opponents on that school's regular season schedule may either receive forfeit wins for scheduled contests (including tournament contests) and shall be awarded wild card points for those forfeit wins **OR if more than seven days remain before any level of postseason seeding is to take place in that sport, a school may replace the forfeited contest(s).***

- 3.3.2 **Scrimmage.** The characteristics of a scrimmage are as follows:
- No charge for admission.
 - No spectators other than those who regularly attend practice.
 - No paid officials.
 - No advertising.
 - No publicity regarding the scrimmage.
 - No scoreboard, no official score.
 - No time shall be kept.
 - Coaches are permitted to stop the scrimmage to instruct players and may terminate the scrimmage at any time.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.3.2

Intra-squad scrimmages are permissible during the season of the sport involved and are not restricted by the scrimmage characteristics listed in Bylaw 3.3.2.

- 3.3.3 **Contracts.** Contracts should be written for all interscholastic contests and should stipulate the following:
- Date, site, and starting time of contest.
 - Financial arrangements, if any.
 - Level of competition, varsity, junior varsity, etc.
 - Any other agreements pertaining to contest.
- 3.3.3.1 Contracts shall not be cancelled except by mutual consent.
- 3.3.4 **Playing Rules.** Any athletic contest supervised by the Nebraska School Activities Association shall be governed by rules published by the National Federation or rules approved by the Board of Directors. Playing time may be changed only by the use of the procedures established by these rules.
- 3.3.5 **Disputes.** In case of a dispute between schools which cannot be settled by a conference between the administrative officials of the school, the proper method of procedure is to set forth clearly all facts to the Board of Directors by communicating these facts to the Executive Director.
- 3.3.6 **District Assignments.** There shall be a written explanation by class of the method used to make district assignments in each sport. The explanation will be printed in each sport's manual.
- 3.3.7 **State Contests.** The Board of Directors shall have charge of all state interscholastic contests in activities sponsored by the Association. The Executive Director shall be the director of all such contests. He/she may delegate the details to someone else and have such other help as he/she deems necessary.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.3.7

Eligibility for Sub-District/District/State Competition

- In all athletic activities, teams wishing to enter a sub-district, district, or state contest shall have participated in a minimum of five interschool varsity contests prior to the sub-district, district, or state contest.*
 - Exceptions to the requirements for a team that has not participated in at least five interschool varsity contests would be considered if the team was unable to participate if weather conditions forced a cancellation of scheduled contests. Other extenuating circumstances would be considered by the Executive Director on a case-by-case basis.*
- In order to participate in a sub-district, district or state tournament, a student is required to have been a member of the school's team for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the sub-district, district, or state tournament.*
 - Exceptions to the requirements for a student who is not a member of the school team for twenty school days would be considered if an individual was unable to participate because of illness, injury, or transfer from another high school. School, team, or game suspensions, regardless of the underlying cause, shall not be considered as exceptions to this participation rule.*
- To be eligible to participate in a sub-district, district and/or state contest, a student shall have been a member of a school's team and shall have been "available to participate" in at least thirty percent (30%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests.*
 - Exceptions to the requirements for a student who has not been available to participate in at least (30%) of the school's varsity interschool contests would be considered if an individual was unable to participate because of illness, injury, transfer from another high school, or if weather conditions forced a cancellation of scheduled contests.*
 - When determining whether a student has been available for (30%) of the school's varsity interschool contests, one would divide the number of varsity interschool contests for which the student was available by the school's total number of varsity interschool contests; all decimals .1 or above would be rounded up to the next higher whole number.*
 - The term "available to participate" means that the student was a bona fide member of the team eligible to participate for the school at some level of competition in the sport and is not suspended from participation in activities by virtue of NSAA rules.*
- For situations pertaining to eligibility to participate in district or state contests that are not specifically addressed by these guidelines, the Executive Director shall have the authority to waive membership and participation requirements on a case-by-case basis.*
- If a school takes its team off the playing field prior to the completion of a contest or prior to the suspension or termination of a game by the game officials, and the contest is forfeited because of the refusal of the school's team to continue play, the school shall be subject to a penalty set by the Board of Directors. The penalty may be the exclusion from participation in sub-district, district, playoffs, or state contests.*
- Broadcasting, recording, photographing, videotaping or televising of NSAA sponsored events (district, state, playoff, etc.) shall not be permitted for commercial purposes or for other than personal use except with the expressed permission of the Nebraska School Activities Association.*
- If an individual or team qualifies for state competition through competing in a district meet, that*

individual or team is expected to compete in the state contest in which he/she or the team qualifies. Unless excused by the Executive Director for just cause, failure to compete in a state contest shall result in the school being penalized.

8. *During sub-district, district, or state competition in activities sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association, the use of smokeless tobacco by any participant is prohibited. If a participant or substitute is detected using smokeless tobacco during competition, that individual shall be disqualified from participation in further competition in that contest.*
9. **Cheerleading, Dance and Drill Team:** *Due to potential liability in case of injury, stunts and pyramids by cheerleaders and lifts by dance teams and drill teams during the sub-district, district, and state tournaments are prohibited unless the supervising coach/sponsor has successfully completed the AACCA Safety Course, a cheer risk management and safety course. If the coach/sponsor has successfully completed the AACCA Safety Course, stunts and lifts shall be allowed in accordance with NFHS Spirit Rules. The following restrictions shall be in effect at NSAA sub-district, district and state tournaments and events: stunts/lifts shall be limited to shoulder height or below; all vertical shoulder level stunts/lifts must have an additional spotter; all vertical shoulder level stunts/lifts must remain on two feet except during the mount or dismount of the stunt/lift; twisting mounts and dismounts are limited to ½ twist; and all cradle dismounts, tosses, and inversions are prohibited.*

3.3.7.1 The Board of Directors shall be empowered, whenever the receipts justify, to pay the transportation and such other expenses of the team as it deems necessary, wholly or in part, to and from the place where the contest is held. The team or teams of the city in which the meet is held shall not receive any share of its expenses. All expense money shall be paid only to the superintendent, principal or the authorized faculty representative.

3.3.7.2 The Executive Director is granted the authority to require schools to alter travel plans to arrive the day prior to the scheduled state contest if weather conditions so warrant. If a school chooses not to travel to the contest site the day prior to the scheduled contest, the school shall understand that the games will go on as scheduled and if they are unable to arrive prior to the scheduled game time, a forfeit will be issued.

3.3.8 **Out-of-State Contests**

- 3.3.8.1
- a. Students participating in interscholastic contests, whether held in or out of the state, must qualify for participation under the rules and regulations of his/her respective state association.
 - b. Members of the NSAA may compete with schools outside the state, provided the out-of-state school is a member in good standing in its own state association.
 - c. Refer to Section 1.8.5 for procedure to follow when competing in interstate competition.

3.3.9 **Sunday Contest.** No high school that is a member of the NSAA shall be permitted to engage in any interschool contest on Sunday. When weather conditions and facilities cause a change in a state tournament schedule, Sundays may be used for competition after 12:00 noon local time as determined by the Executive Director.

Q: *My school has a conference tournament starting on Monday. Can we schedule an organized practice(s) on Sunday?*

A: *Scheduling practices on Sundays is a local school district decision. NSAA Bylaw 3.3.9 covers Sunday contests.*

- 3.3.10 **Supervision.** The superintendent, principal, or an authorized representative of the faculty shall accompany and supervise the team or individuals to all contests.
- 3.3.10.1 Neither a team nor individual shall be permitted to compete in a sub-district or district tournament, playoff contest nor state contest unless the team or individual(s) is accompanied by the head coach, school administrator, or certificated faculty member.
- 3.3.11 **Conduct and Sportsmanship.** Member schools shall maintain proper crowd control and enforce the principles of good sportsmanship and ethics during all interscholastic contests. Failure to fulfill this obligation shall subject the school to penalties as provided in Article 2, Section 2.11, NSAA Bylaws Governing All Activities.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.3.11

In the realm of good sportsmanship, it is the expectation that all student spectators wear shirts for all sub-district, district, and state events. Each individual school shall be responsible for assuring that student spectators are appropriately attired.

- 3.3.11.1 **Conduct of Coaches and Athletes.** Coaches and athletes shall conduct themselves in accordance with the playing rules of the sport contest and refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct during interscholastic competition. Failure to fulfill this obligation will subject the individual(s) to the penalties as provided in Article 2, Section 2.11, NSAA Bylaws Governing All Activities.
- 3.3.11.2 **Definition of Unsportsmanlike Conduct.** Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include the following: fighting, verbal abuse or dissent directed toward an official or opponent, racial or ethnic slurs, inappropriate comments or actions that may be construed as sexual harassment, profanity, obscene gestures, flagrant and violent fouls, taunting, trash talk, baiting, cheating, throwing or abusing equipment, inappropriate posters, physical intimidation or abuse of an official or opponent, and unauthorized leaving of a team bench area.
- 3.3.12 **Non-Varsity Competition.** If there is only one team representing a school in any sport, the school must declare if the team will play a varsity or non-varsity schedule. A school playing a non-varsity schedule shall not be eligible for any sub-district, district, playoff, or state tournament.
- 3.3.12.1 In all interschool non-varsity contests, the twenty-hours-preceding-semester rule, the eleven-day enrollment requirement for the current semester, and the resident and transfer rule shall be waived. All other rules governing eligibility to participate in varsity interscholastic athletics shall apply to non-varsity interscholastic athletic competition.
- 3.3.13 **Seventh and Eighth Grade Competition.** A senior high school team shall not compete against any team which is composed of seventh and/or eighth grade students or allow seventh and/or eighth grade students to participate on a senior high school team (Exception: If a student in grade seven or eight reaches age 15 prior to August 1, that student may participate on a senior high school team.)
- 3.3.13.1 If a student in grade seven or eight reaches age 15 prior to August 1, the student shall not be eligible for interschool competition in grades seven or eight. The student may participate on a high school team.
- 3.3.14 **Prohibited Activities.** The following activities are prohibited.
 - a. Interscholastic boxing.
 - b. The javelin throw.

APPENDIX 5

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONE) POLICY

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person at any NSAA post-season tournament venues. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard this device. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and includes a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the NSAA event, including the spectator areas and parking areas. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, Tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV. An exception to this policy, in writing, may be made in specific cases for NSAA broadcast partners, provided the Management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the NSAA.

3.4 PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

- 3.4.1 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.
- 3.4.1.1 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 which can be legally performed by the field of practice to which the individual belongs.
- 3.4.1.2 The requirement that a student must have a physical examination once each year has been interpreted to mean the examination must be given within the United States 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.

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

3.5 PARTICIPATION ON NON-HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS AND IN NON-HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

- 3.5.1 Any student who participates in any athletic contest other than as a representative of his/her high school during the season of the sport involved becomes ineligible to represent his/her school in that sport for one or more contests or the remainder of the season.

- 3.5.1.1 **Swimming and Diving Outside Participation.** During the school sport season of swimming and diving, a student may, after fulfilling all requirements, practices and competitions of the school swimming and diving team, practice and/or compete as a member of a non-school team or as an individual participant in an organized non-school swimming and diving practice or competition under the conditions listed below.

- a. Priority shall be given to all school team practices and competition. Should a non-school practice/competition be in direct conflict with the school scheduled practice/competition, the school practice/competition shall take priority. Prior approval by the school administrator may grant an exception to a student to participate in the non-school swimming and diving program if in direct conflict with the school program.
- b. No school time shall be missed to compete, practice or travel to the site of such non-school swimming and diving competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.
- c. A school shall not replace its swimming or diving program with any non-school swimming or diving program.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.1

1. *To be eligible to participate in a district and/or state contest, a student shall have been a member of the school's team and shall have been available to participate in at least eighty percent (80%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests because of participating in non-high school competition.*
 - a. *The term "available to participate" means that the student was a bona fide member of the team, eligible to participate for the school at some level of competition in the sport, and not involved in outside participation activities (exception: Olympic Development Program or national team activities as approved by the NSAA.)*
 - b. *The term, "school's scheduled interschool contests," is defined as those contests which appear on the school's varsity schedule at the beginning of the season. An exception to this requirement will be considered if a student was unable to participate because of injury, illness, or had transferred from another high school.*
2. *During the season of a particular sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend and physically take part in college camps and clinics.*
3. *At no time during the high school sport season can a student who is a member of the school squad in that sport compete in non-school organized competition in any skill of the sport.*
4. *A person may be considered to be a participant without being an official entry in the competition.*
5. *The phrase "compete in non-school organized competition in any skill of the sport" is interpreted to mean to take part in any skill of the sport of season. For example, a student out for cross country or track would become ineligible to represent the high school if he/she participates in a road race or a marathon. A student on the high school basketball team would become ineligible if he/she participates in a free throw contest, 1-on-1, 2-on-2, 3-on-3, 4-on-4 basketball contest, or other similar contest. A student out for high school football will become ineligible if he competes in a punt, pass and kick contest. A wrestler shall not participate in a non-school takedown tournament during the wrestling season. An exception to this rule may be granted by the Executive Director for special circumstances.*
6. *Schools must contact the Executive Director in advance of the event to determine whether an activity would qualify under this exception.*
7. *If prizes or awards are provided for such participation, such awards need to be in compliance with NSAA guidelines. Awards to individuals for activity participation in the form of cash, merchandise certificates, or any negotiable instrument are not allowed.*
8. *Halftime free-throw or three-point contests or other such halftime skill contests used as fundraisers by a school-related group shall no longer impact the eligibility of students out for the sport, providing the award is not in the form of cash, merchandise certificates or any negotiable instruments, and providing that the full retail value of the symbolic or merchandise award does not exceed the value*

- set by the Board of Directors (currently \$50).
9. A student may participate as an individual, without loss of interscholastic eligibility under the following conditions:
 - a. As a member of a national team (and the actuals direct tryouts) which is defined as one selected by the National Governing Body of the sport on a national qualification basis, either through a defined selective process or an actual tryout for the purpose of international competition which requires entries to officially represent their respective nations.
 - b. In an Olympic Developmental Program, which is defined as a training program or competition.
 1. Conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), or
 2. Directly funded and conducted by the USOC member national governing body on a national level (e.g. NGB national championship and direct qualification therefore); or
 3. Specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by some qualifying procedure by the national governing body as having potential for future participation in regional, national, or international competition in the sport involved.
 4. Coaches from schools involved with an Olympic Development Program must adhere to the organized practice rule.
 - c. While representing the National Federation as a member of its United States national entry in an International School Sport Federation event.
 - d. In an athletic contest sponsored by a non-high school organization, provided the individual has qualified prior to the sports season through actual competition in a meet or series of meets which were designated in advance by the sponsoring organization as qualifying meets. Times, distances, placement, or performance in high school competition shall not be considered as qualifying criteria.
 - e. Provided in a, b, c, and d, such participation has been approved by the high school principal and the Nebraska School Activities Association.
 10. The high school principal and the coach of the sport involved must approve the request for a waiver of Section 3.5. The school then may request a waiver from the Nebraska School Activities Association, including documentation on how prequalification was met, with a maximum of one (1) non-school event per season for an individual student.
 11. If the student(s) has not qualified for the competition through actual competition in a meet or series of meets which were designated in advance by the sponsoring organization as qualifying meets, or the competition is not a part of the United States Olympic Development Program, a waiver may be granted provided the student(s) does not represent his/her school in competition of the sport involved for the same number of days in which he/she participated in the non-school competition.
 12. Request for the certification of distances or times attained in state meet competition shall be submitted by the individual along with information on how these marks are to be used. In order to be considered, the use of such marks must meet established minimum qualifying standards and competition must be open to any athlete meeting such standards. Certification of times or distances will not be given if qualification is based upon placement in a contest sponsored by the membership of the Nebraska School Activities Association.
 13. NSAA Bylaw 3.1.1.2 specifies that no student shall participate in more than one sport per season. An exception would be that such dual participation would be approved for students participating in Unified Sports®. Students in NSAA member schools that participate in Unified Sports® may also participate on an interscholastic athletic team during the Unified Sports season. This does NOT apply to other NSAA sports.
 14. Outside participation is approved for students participating in Unified Sports®. As an example, students in NSAA member schools that participate in Unified Sports® may also participate on their "club" bowling team during the NSAA Unified Sports®, Bowling season. (exception to Bylaw 3.5.1) This does NOT apply to other NSAA sports.

Q: My daughter wants to run in a fun run in support of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure while she is out for Cross County, can she do this?

A: Not without the approval of the Executive Director.

- 3.5.2 **Individual Instruction.** During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take individual instruction from a person other than the high school coach at times other than scheduled high school practice sessions, but such instructions shall not interfere with, nor be substituted for the high school coaching, practice sessions, or contest.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.2

During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take individual instruction from a person other than the high school coach. Group instruction, practices with outside teams, and tryouts for outside teams other than as part of a college or university recruiting visit, however, are not permitted.

3.6 ALL-STAR COMPETITION

- 3.6.1 No member school shall permit its students to compete in any all-star contest nor be a member of any all-star team. No athletic team from any member school shall compete against any all-star team. A student violating this rule shall be declared ineligible for all interscholastic competition for a period of one year from the date of last offense.
- 3.6.2 A member school, a conference of member schools, or a league of member schools shall not conduct or promote all-star contests during the school year. A member school may petition the Executive Director for a waiver of the all-star rule for individuals provided the school season for the sport has been completed and the student has completed his/her eligibility in that sport.
- 3.6.3 A member school, a conference of member schools, or a league of member schools may sponsor all-star competition that involves graduated seniors. Member schools may permit the use of their facilities, equipment, and provide uniforms for such competition.
- 3.6.4 The term "all-star" is defined as a player or players chosen on the basis of their individual accomplishments or reputation gained while competing in interschool competition. YMCA, YWCA, AAU, USVBA, etc., teams that are organized between sports seasons by individuals or clubs, or individuals selected through a designated try-out session shall not be considered as all-star competition.

3.7 AMATEUR RULE

- 3.7.1 A student shall be an amateur in all sports sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association. A student may be declared ineligible if he/she:
- Accepts merchandise, compensation of any nature, or illegal awards for competing in Association-sponsored activities.
 - Enters into any agreement or contract to compete in professional sports.
 - Permits, with or without actual endorsement, the use of name, picture, and/or personal appearance as an athlete in the promotion of a commercial or profit-making event, item, plan, or service (this does not prevent a student's picture or name from being included in programs); or,

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.7.1.c

Under Bylaw 3.7.1.c, the term "with or without actual endorsement" requires that the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) have knowledge that the student's name, picture, and/or personal appearance are being used by another person or entity.

Under Bylaw 3.7.1.c, the term "commercial or profit-making event, item, plan, or service" means any situation in which the person or entity will receive or hopes to receive anything of value, monetary or non-monetary, but does not include student participation in fundraising activities for non-profit organizations. This also does not prohibit a student from participating in any such event, item, plan, or services sponsored by or benefiting the student's NSAA member school or its activities.

Under Bylaw 3.7.1.c, the term "as an athlete" shall not include use of the name, image, or likeness (NIL) of a student of a NSAA member school participating in NSAA-sponsored activities, unless otherwise explicitly permitted or prohibited by state or federal law or the NSAA member school's policies or rules, within the following limitations:

1. *Students may engage in NIL activities subject to the following:*
 - The student's NIL activities may NOT include an image or likeness of the student in a uniform or other clothing or gear provided by the NSAA member school the student is attending or has attended.*
 - The student shall not use any NSAA member school's facilities and/or equipment for the purpose of any NIL activities.*
 - The student shall not use any NSAA member school's practice and/or game film for the purpose of NIL activities.*
 - The student shall not promote any person or entity, or their services and/or products, during the NSAA member school's scheduled school day or during any activity team activities.*
 - The student may not wear any person's or entity's logo, mark, or insignia, or in any other way represent the person or entity with which the student has agreed to an NIL activity, when otherwise required to follow the NSAA or NSAA member school's*

- uniform or dress requirements.*
- f. *The student shall not promote activities, services, or products, directly or in any way associated with, but not limited to:*
 - i. *Alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, or vaping.*
 - ii. *Controlled substances, including illegal drugs such as cannabis or any paraphernalia.*
 - iii. *Any item, activity, or conduct which is prohibited or unlawful for any school-aged student under state or federal law or the policies of the NSAA or the NSAA member school.*
 - iv. *Gambling of any kind, including sports betting, lottery, or other, even if the entity for whom the student has agreed to engage in NIL activities has the appropriate permits or licenses as required by law.*
 - v. *No compensation (or prospective compensation) for the NIL activity may be provided by the NSAA member school; an agent of the member school (e.g., school booster club, foundation, employee, etc.); or anyone affiliated with the member school in any way attempting to induce the student to attend or participate in any activity of a NSAA member school.*
2. *Violation of Bylaw 3.7.1 may result in a determination by the member school and the NSAA of the student's ineligibility for activity participation. Compliance with these rules does not guarantee the student's NIL activity or activities comply with other laws or rules which may affect the student, such as rules established by the NCAA, NAIA, or NJCAA. Students and their parents or guardians are strongly encouraged to contact any such organization which may have separate rules and to consult with their own legal counsel regarding any compliance questions or concerns, including review of any contracts or agreements related to NIL activities of any kind. The NSAA and its staff will consult with NSAA member schools, parents/guardians, and/or students who have questions about the NSAA-specific NIL rules but will not offer advisory opinions that are binding on the NSAA, its staff, or its Board of Directors, and will not review contracts or agreements relating to NIL activities.*

The NSAA Board of Directors will continue to review the NIL Approved Ruling and adjust as necessary.

- d. *Receives merchandise or compensation of any nature for coaching any NSAA approved sport during the season of the sport in his/her school.*
- 3.7.2 When a student participates in other than NSAA competition at any time during the calendar year, the student is governed by the rules of the amateur governing body of that sport.
- 3.7.2.1 If the student violates the amateur standing rule of the amateur governing body for that NSAA-approved sport, the student is ineligible for NSAA competition.
- 3.7.3 Should a student lose his/her amateur standing, he/she may be reinstated by the Board of Directors after the lapse of one complete year, provided he/she has not persisted in breaking the amateur rule.

3.8 COLLEGIATE PARTICIPATION

- 3.8.1 A student who has been a member of a college team or participated in intercollegiate competition shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.8.1

As part of a college or university recruiting visit, a student may participate in a try-out if such try-outs are permitted by the body which governs the college's or university's athletic program.

3.9 ASSUMED NAME

- 3.9.1 No person shall enter or participate in interscholastic competition under an assumed name.
- 3.9.1.1 The penalty for a student participating under an assumed name shall be ineligibility to represent his/her school in interscholastic competition for a period of time, not to exceed one calendar year, as set by the Board of Directors.

3.10 ANNUAL PARTICIPATION REPORT

- 3.10.1 It shall be the duty of the superintendent or principal of every school belonging to the Nebraska School Activities Association to submit the seasonal online eligibility reports complete for each student who participates in an NSAA activity, regardless of the level of competition. From these online eligibility lists, the NSAA Executive Director or the Board of Directors shall by June 1 of each year, compile an annual participation report complete with the name, date of birth and number of semesters of attendance, beginning with the ninth grade, of each individual who has engaged in interscholastic athletics.
- 3.10.1.1 The oldest age given on the annual report shall be accepted as the student's age, unless a birth certificate certified by the Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Capitol, Lincoln, or the Bureau of Vital Statistics of any other state can be produced to the contrary.

3.11 SPORTS SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION

3.11.1 BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL

3.11.1.1 Basketball shall be conducted during the winter sports season. The season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state tournament.

3.11.1.2 Member schools may participate in any approved basketball tournament during the regular basketball season set by the NSAA.

3.11.1.3 No team representing a member school may participate in more than eighteen basketball games and two tournaments in addition to the state-sponsored series of tournaments from the date of the first permitted contest to the close of the State Basketball Tournament.

Note: If a team participates in an additional tournament other than the two allowed tournaments, each game played shall count towards the eighteen game limit. Schools may also play nineteen games plus one tournament or twenty games and no tournaments.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.1.3

All games in a three-team or a four-team basketball tournament must be played within a seven-consecutive-day period of time with no other games played within the interim, except weather postponements. The only exception to the seven-consecutive-day period shall be when weather forces postponement of one or more contests in that four-team tournament.

3.11.1.4 No varsity team representing a member school may participate in more than one basketball game per day in either tournament or regularly scheduled play. A non-varsity team may play two games per day provided:

1. the length of quarters is six minutes or less;
2. there is at least one hour rest between games.

3.11.1.4.1 If the weather conditions require a change in state basketball tournament format, the schedule may be changed to permit a school to play multiple state tournament games per day.

3.11.1.5 No student shall participate in more than two basketball games per day.

1. If a student participates in varsity and non-varsity basketball games, the student shall be limited to **seven quarters** of participation per day.
2. If a student participates in two non-varsity basketball games, the student shall be limited to eight quarters of participation provided the length of a quarter in any game does not exceed six minutes and there is at least one hour of rest between games.
3. Any participation during a quarter shall count as a quarter of participation under this rule. Participation in any overtime period or periods is considered as participation during the fourth quarter of the game.
4. Penalty for exceeding the limitations in the above rule shall be a technical foul and the player shall be removed from the game.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.1.5

If a student participates in two non-varsity games on the same day, and if the length of the quarters of at least one of those non-varsity games exceeds six minutes, the students shall be limited to six quarters of participation per day.

3.11.1.6 No contest shall be held with any team not belonging to the NSAA or to its own State High School Association. No game or scrimmage may be held with any team prior to the first date permitted for winter sports contests.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.1.6

Prior to the first contest date for the winter sports season, only intra-squad games or intra-squad scrimmages are permitted. However, each school is permitted to participate in one scheduled "Jamboree game" to be held the beginning of Week 21 to Tuesday of Week 22 of the NSAA calendar. Proceeds from the Jamboree game are designated toward the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame, with the guidelines and financial report to be determined by the NSAA Executive Staff, as directed by the Board of Directors.

3.11.1.6.1 Each interschool scrimmage played on or after the first date permitted for winter sports contests after the opening game of the season shall count as a game played (one of the eighteen games allowed).

3.11.1.6.2 The penalty for participation in an illegal scrimmage or game may be suspension from the NSAA for one season in that sport.

3.11.1.7 During the basketball season, a school shall not permit a student who is not a member of the high school team, an adult, a college student, or alumni to participate in any practice session, drill, scrimmage, game, or contest in which a school team or an individual who is a member of a school team is involved.

3.11.2 BASEBALL

3.11.2.1 Baseball shall be conducted during the spring sports season. The season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state championship.

3.11.2.2 No team representing a member school may participate in more than twenty-four dates in addition to the state sponsored series of tournaments from the date of the first permitted contest to the close of the State Baseball

Tournament. Participation in any baseball tournament shall count as one date of the twenty-four dates permitted in which the team participates. A team may not participate in more than four tournaments, which includes the conference tournament.

3.11.3 CROSS COUNTRY

- 3.11.3.1 Cross Country shall be conducted during the fall sports season. The season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state championship.
- 3.11.3.2 Participation in interschool cross country competition by any student shall be limited to two meets per calendar week (Monday through Saturday).
- 3.11.3.3 All districts in which three or more full teams are entered will qualify three teams to state competition. If fewer than three full teams are entered, the full teams entered will automatically qualify.

3.11.4 FOOTBALL

- 3.11.4.1 Football shall be conducted during the fall sports season. The season for football shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state playoff finals.
- 3.11.4.2 No team representing a member school may participate in more than eight (Classes D1, D2 and D6) or nine (Classes A, B, C1 & C2) regularly scheduled football games in addition to the State-sponsored series of playoff games from the date of the first permitted contests to the last contest date.
- 3.11.4.3 An individual player may take part in no more than eight quarters of football per calendar week, except during the state playoff competition. (This limitation does not apply to a contest which has been postponed.)
- 3.11.4.4 No football "bowl" games shall be played.
- 3.11.4.5 No member school shall establish or attend an early season football camp.
- 3.11.4.6 At the beginning of football practice each year, every member school shall be required to have two days of no-contact rules. A school shall not permit an individual athlete to participate in a drill involving contact unless the athlete has had at least two days of practice with no-contact rules. The no-contact rule shall include contact with a mechanical or training device, blocking sleds, as well as with another player without hand held dummies.
 - 3.11.4.6.1 The only pieces of player equipment to be worn by the individuals during the period of no-contact drills are shoes and helmets.
 - 3.11.4.6.2 The only pieces of general football equipment to be used during the first two days of football practice are footballs, kicking tees, and blocking dummies.
- 3.11.4.7 No game or scrimmage may be held in football with any team not belonging to the NSAA or to its own State High School Association.
 - 3.11.4.7.1 No game or scrimmage in football may be held with any team other than an intra-squad scrimmage or game before the opening game of the season.
 - 3.11.4.7.2 An alumni scrimmage is illegal in football.
 - 3.11.4.7.3 The penalty for participating in an illegal scrimmage or game may be suspension from the NSAA for one season in that sport.
- 3.11.4.8 A state football playoff shall be held with regulations established by the Board of Directors.

3.11.5 GOLF

- 3.11.5.1 Girls golf shall be conducted during the fall sports season.
- 3.11.5.2 Boys golf shall be conducted during the spring sports season.
- 3.11.5.3 The season for golf shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by the NSAA rules and shall end with the state championship.
- 3.11.5.4 Participation in interschool golf competition by any school student shall be limited to 12 meets. No more than 9 of the 12 meets allowed can involve more than four teams. This would not include district or state competition.

3.11.6 SOCCER

- 3.11.6.1 Boys and girls soccer shall be conducted during the spring sports season.
- 3.11.6.2 The soccer season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state tournament.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.6.2

No team representing a member school may participate in more than thirteen soccer games, excluding the district and state championships, during the season. Note: If a school is involved in a conference tournament, the conference tournament is to be counted as one of the thirteen-game limit. Participation in any soccer tournament shall count as one of the thirteen permitted games.

3.11.7 SOFTBALL

- 3.11.7.1 Girls softball shall be conducted during the fall sports season.
- 3.11.7.2 The softball season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state tournament.

- 3.11.7.3 No team representing a member school may participate in more than eighteen dates in addition to the state-sponsored series of tournaments from the date of the first permitted contest to the close of the State Softball Tournament. Participation in any softball tournament shall count as one date of the eighteen dates permitted in which the team participates. A team may not participate in more than five tournaments, which includes the conference tournament.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.7.3

1. A tournament is defined as a contest involving four or more teams in which the winner continues to advance and compete until a single winner is determined. The NSAA shall permit a triangular softball engagement and shall count it as only one date. This can include three or four schools playing two contests or two of the other schools in one session.
2. Prior to the first contest date for the fall sports season, only intra-squad games or intra-squad scrimmages are permitted. However, each school is permitted to participate in one scheduled Jamboree event to be held Monday through Saturday of Week 6 and Monday and Tuesday of Week 7 of the NSAA Calendar. If a monetary gate is held for the event, proceeds from the jamboree event are designated toward the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame, with the guidelines and financial report to be determined by the NSAA Executive Staff, as directed by the Board of Directors.

3.11.8 **SWIMMING**

3.11.8.1 Boys and girls swimming shall be conducted during the winter sports season.

3.11.8.2 The swimming season shall begin the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state championship.

3.11.9 **TENNIS**

3.11.9.1 Boys tennis shall be conducted during the fall sports season.

3.11.9.2 Girls tennis shall be conducted during the spring sports season.

3.11.9.3 The tennis season shall begin the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state championship.

3.11.10 **TRACK**

3.11.10.1 Boys and girls track shall be conducted during the spring sports season.

3.11.10.2 The track season shall begin the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state championship.

3.11.10.3 National Federation track and field rules shall govern the track and field athletics of this Association except that the order and number of events shall be determined by the Executive Director.

3.11.10.4 Participation in interschool track and field competition by any school student shall be limited to twelve meets. This would not include district or state championships.

3.11.11 **VOLLEYBALL**

3.11.11.1 Volleyball shall be conducted during the fall sports season.

3.11.11.2 The volleyball season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state tournament.

3.11.11.3 No team representing a member school may participate in more than five tournaments that have a competition point value of 3 or more, which includes the conference tournament.

No team may exceed thirty competition points prior to the district and state tournaments. Competition points are assigned according to the following chart.

- (1) Dual match – 1 point
- (2) Triangular match – 2 points
- (3) Double Triangular – 2 points
- (4) Three-Team Dual/Triangular match - 1 or 2 points
- (5) Four-team one-day tournament, 2 set maximum – 2 points
- (6) Four-team round robin tournaments – 3 points
- (7) One-day tournaments of more than four teams – 3 points
- (8) Two or three-day tournaments – 4 points

The following school and student limitations apply:

- (1) In other than tournament competition, three schools playing two contests or playing two other schools in one session (night), counts as only one match.
- (2) No student shall take part in more than four volleyball matches per day in tournament competition. When a Nebraska team plays in an out-of-state tournament, the Nebraska school may play five matches in one day if that is the rule of the governing body of that state.
 - a. In other than tournament competition, no student may participate in more than two matches per day.
 - b. No student shall take part in more than six volleyball matches per week, except in tournament competition. The matches-per-week limitation does not apply to postpone contests.
 - c. Any participation during a set on any match counts as participation in that match.

- (3) A school that violates the team match limitation may be disqualified from district and state tournament competition. When a Nebraska team plays in an out-of-state tournament, the Nebraska school may play five matches per day if that is the rule that governs play in that state.
- (4) A school that violates the player limitations shall be assessed a point or loss of rally and the player shall be removed from the match. The match shall then continue.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.11.3

1. *The NSAA shall permit a double-triangular in which there are 4-teams present and each team would play two of the other three teams present in a triangular format. The double-triangular must take place in one evening/session. The schedule shall be pre-determined as to which of the four teams will comprise each triangular. The double-triangular format in which each of the schools participates in two pre-determined matches shall count as one match.*
2. *When a Nebraska team plays in an out-of-state tournament, the Nebraska team will be allowed to play a third set to 15 points and if it is a contiguous state, the team receive wild card points.*
3. *Prior to the first contest date for the fall sports season, only intra-squad games or intra-squad scrimmages are permitted. However, each school is permitted to participate in in one scheduled "jamboree event" to be held Monday through Saturday of Week 7 and Monday and Tuesday of Week 8 of the NSAA Calendar. Proceeds from the jamboree event are designated toward the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame, with the guidelines and financial report to be determined by the NSAA Executive Staff, as directed by the Board of Directors.*

3.11.12 **BOYS AND GIRLS WRESTLING**

- 3.11.12.1 Wrestling shall be conducted during the winter sports season.
- 3.11.12.2 The wrestling season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state tournament.
- 3.11.12.3 Team Match Limitation.
 - a. No (BOYS) team representing a member school may participate in more than ten tournament dates and eight duals in addition to the district and state tournaments.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.12.3

No girls team representing a member school may participate in more than 18 events.

Definition of Events:

- (1) Dual meets=1 Dual
- (2) Triangular meets =2 Duals
- (3) Double Dual = (4 teams and each team has two duals) = 2 duals
- (3) Quadrangular meets (three duals each team) =3 Duals
- (4) Dual events that include 5 or more teams are considered dual tournaments and count towards the tournament dates.
- (5) One-day tournaments =1 tournament date
- (6) Two-tournaments=2 tournament dates
- (7) Three-day tournaments=3 tournament dates

- 3.11.12.4 Student Match Limitation.
 - a. No individual (BOY) wrestler may participate in more than ten tournament dates and eight duals in addition to the district and state tournaments.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.12.4

No individual girl wrestler may participate in more than 18 events.

- b. Competition events are charged against an individual wrestler in varsity and non-varsity competition.
- 3.11.12.5 Schools are required to file their varsity boys wrestling schedule with the NSAA each November, indicating the type and point value for each meet, and the total points for their schedule.
- 3.11.12.6 A tournament shall be defined as a contest involving four or more teams in which an individual wrestler in each weight class or an individual team continues to advance or through round robin competition and compete until a single winner is chosen.

3.11.13 **BOWLING**

- 3.11.13.1 Boys and girls bowling shall be conducted during the winter sports season.
- 3.11.13.2 The bowling season shall begin the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and end with the state championship.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.1-3.11.13

During a sports season, a school shall not permit a student who is not a member of the high school's team, an adult, a college student, or alumni to participate in any practice session, drill, scrimmage, or game in which a school team is involved (e.g., boys' soccer team member cannot participate with girls' soccer team members, etc.). This does not prevent a coach from being involved for the primary purpose of teaching or demonstrating a skill, method, or technique.

3.11.14 **UNIFIED SPORTS.**

Special Olympics Unified sports® is an inclusive activities program that combines an approximately equal number of special Olympics individuals with intellectual disabilities and individuals without intellectual disabilities on teams for competition and inclusive activities fostering an environment of social inclusion.

- 3.11.14.1 Students must be bona fide members of an NSAA member school.
- 3.11.14.2 Students must have a recognized disability defined within 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA).
- 3.11.14.3 Students must have the appropriate adapted pre-participation forms completed and on file at the member school of which they are to participate.
- 3.11.14.4 Students will follow the guidelines as set forth in their individual education plans and/or local school eligibility requirements.
- 3.11.14.5 Unified programs will be placed in one class.
- 3.11.14.6 Schools from member high schools may be combined for Unified programs to field a common participating group with an agreement made jointly by the boards of education of the involved member schools.

APPROVED RULING AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.11.14

1. *Unified Sports is an inclusive program that focuses on students with intellectual disabilities partnering with students without intellectual disabilities. The only recognized disability for Unified Sports athletes is intellectual disabilities. All students without intellectual disabilities, even though they may have other disabilities, may participate as partners with the students with intellectual disabilities.*
2. *An age rule exception is extended for non-contact Unified Sports for a student identified under NDE Rule 51 as an individual with intellectual disabilities (See Approved Ruling 2.3.1). Unified Sport athletes who become twenty-one years of age on or after August 1 shall be eligible on the basis of age in non-contact Unified Sports until the end of the current school year. The eight-semester rule shall be waived for such students; however, such students shall not be permitted to participate in more than four seasons of any one activity at the high school level (Bylaw 2.2.3).*

3.12 OFFICIALS

- 3.12.1 **Approved Athletic Officials.** The Executive Director shall prepare a list of registered officials who shall be available for officiating games between the member high schools of the Association.
- 3.12.1.1 The registered officials are to be issued identification cards which may be revoked for cause.
- 3.12.2 **Officials for Varsity Contests.** Only those officials who are registered with the Association may be used by member high schools to officiate varsity competition in football, baseball, basketball, wrestling, soccer, softball and volleyball competition, and start track & field meets.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.12.2

Schools are expected to utilize track starters that are registered with the Association for all varsity level meets.

- 3.12.3 **Competing Schools' Approval of Officials.** Officials for competitive contests shall not be chosen from cities and towns whose schools are represented without mutual consent. A list of officials agreed by consenting teams should be furnished to the visiting team(s) at least five days in advance of the scheduled contests.
- 3.12.3.1 Before the host school contracts officials for varsity contests, the visiting school must be given the opportunity to approve or disapprove the officials. If the visiting team disapproves the officials, they should not be contracted.
- 3.12.3.2 No penalty will be assessed against a school if it refuses to play a contest because it did not have the opportunity to approve the officials.
- 3.12.3.3 If the officials have been approved and accepted the contract, the contract cannot be voided unless there is an emergency or there is a mutual agreement between the officials and the contracting school.
- 3.12.4 **Protests.**
- 3.12.4.1 Protests based upon the eligibility of players will be considered by the Executive Director and Board of Directors.
- 3.12.4.2 Protests based upon play situations and situations which involve judgment on the part of game officials will not be considered.

APPENDIX 6

NSAA POLICY ON COMMENTS AND NEGATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST OFFICIALS AND JUDGES

The National Federation of State High School Associations has devised Code of Ethics guidelines for high school coaches. The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The coach or sponsor shall respect and support contest officials and judges. The coach or sponsor shall not indulge in conduct that would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials, judges or players is unethical.

The Nebraska School Activities Association has embraced that Coaches Code of Ethics and has established policies and standards that will cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship, professionalism and conduct. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals directly associated with the interscholastic program conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and professional manner.

The high school coach or director is a representative of the school at interscholastic activity events. It is the responsibility of all coaches and directors to serve as role models for students and the public.

It is the expectation that all coaches, directors, administrators and student participants shall refrain from negative criticism of NSAA member institutions, officials, adjudicators, judges, etc. in public statements before, during or after interscholastic events. The appropriate public response to media questions at all venues regarding officiating/judging is "per NSAA policy, I am unable to comment." Any other response is a violation of this board policy and is subject to penalty.

It would be considered a violation of this NSAA policy to include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Making degrading and/or critical remarks about officials or adjudicators or the officiating or judging before, during or after an event either on or off-site, via social media, or through any public means.
- b. Detaining the officials/adjudicators/judges during or following the event to request a ruling or explanation of actions or evaluation by the official(s)/adjudicator(s)/judges.
- c. Entering the officials dressing area following the contest.

Negative actions by an individual directly associated with the program shall be reported to the NSAA office by the school and/or by the head contest official, adjudicator, judge, or manager. The school shall document the results of their investigation and actions taken, where necessary and appropriate. The NSAA Executive Director shall determine the appropriate penalties for violation of this board policy.

Debate Bylaws—Article 4

4.1 PURPOSE

- 4.1.1 The objective of this activity shall be the promotion of the science of argumentation and the art of debate among the students of the secondary schools of Nebraska.

4.2 DEFINITION

- 4.2.1 Debate activities shall be defined to include all interscholastic competition.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 4.2.1

Debates shall be conducted in English. Using other languages or foreign terms may be used to prove a point or provide emphasis, explanation or definition.

4.3 ELIGIBILITY

- 4.3.1 **Student Eligibility.** In order for students to participate in varsity competition, they must meet the eligibility requirements established for all activities. (Article 2)
- 4.3.1.1 Certificate of Eligibility. Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit an on-line list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.
- 4.3.1.2 In order to participate in a sub-district, district or state contest in a particular activity, a student is required to have been a member of a school's team or group in that particular activity for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the sub-district, district or state competition. An exception to this requirement would be if a student was unable to be a member of a school's team or group due to injury, illness or transfers from another school.
- 4.3.2 Participation Limited to School Team. During the debate season, a student shall not participate in any debate competition other than as a representative of his/her school. An exception is made for students participating in National Speech Tournaments and approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.
- 4.3.2.1 To determine if a school is in violation of permitting students to participate in unauthorized debate competition, the following factors will be considered:
- Did the coach or sponsor of the debate team or organization enter the individuals in the competition?
 - Were school funds used to pay entry fees or any expenses for the individual students?
 - Were school-purchased equipment or materials used by the student?
 - Were the individual students under the supervision of the school while traveling to and from the site of such competition and/or during the competition?
 - Did the individual student actually debate, speak or in any way perform in the debate competition?
 - Was the school name or a name which might be interpreted as a school name used?
- 4.3.2.2 A school in violation shall be subject to a penalty as set forth in Article 2.11 NSAA Bylaws.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 4.3.2

During the designated NSAA debate season, a student may not compete in non-high school competition. Exceptions are made for students participating in the national debate tournament, or in national debate tournament qualifying competition, or in competition sponsored by governmental agencies or organizations such as civic and service clubs.

- 4.3.3 Supervision. The sponsor, coach, or an authorized faculty member must accompany the team or individual(s) in all interschool competition.

4.4 SANCTIONING OF DEBATE COMPETITION

- 4.4.1 **Intrastate Competition.** Debate tournaments involving only Nebraska high schools do not require a sanction.
- 4.4.2 **Interstate Competition.** Members of the NSAA may participate in debate tournaments at an out-of-state school provided the host school has complied with the rules and regulations of its own State Association and the accreditation regulations of the North Central Association. Sanctions must be granted by the Activities Association of the host state or the National Association of Secondary School Principals. (Refer to Article 1.8, NSAA Constitution for sanctioning procedure.)

4.5 SEASON AND PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS

- 4.5.1 **Length of Season.** The debate season is defined as the period of time from Friday immediately preceding the first Saturday in November until the last day of March.
- 4.5.2 **First Date of Competition.** No school may participate in any interscholastic debate tournament held prior to the Friday immediately preceding the first Saturday in November.
- 4.5.3 **End of Season.** The debate season shall end no later than the last week in March.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 4.5.3

Debate teams sponsored by NSAA high schools may not participate in debate competition as a school-sponsored team before the official start of the NSAA debate season nor after the designated end of the NSAA debate season, with the exception of national debate tournaments.

The school shall not provide support for students participating in debate activities outside the designated NSAA debate season, with the exception of the national debate tournament. Such school support might include, but not limited to, school funding or sponsoring individuals/teams. If the school provides any financial support or provision to sponsor or conduct the activity, then it shall be considered school support.

4.5.4 **One Contest Per Week.** Participation in interscholastic debate competition by any high school student shall be limited to one meet per calendar week (Monday through Saturday), with a maximum of twelve (12) meets from the date of the first permitted contest to the last day in March.

4.5.5 **Days Competition Permitted.** Schools shall compete in debate tournaments on Friday and Saturday only.

There shall be no interscholastic debate competition on Sunday.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 4.5.5

Once the NSAA debate season is concluded, there are no restrictions on which days of the week a student may participate in outside debate competition, including national debate tournaments. The limitations do not preclude participation by a school or its students in National Debate tournaments sanctioned and approved by the national Association of Secondary School Principals as permitted by NSAA Bylaws.

4.5.6 **December Moratorium.** Each school year there will be five consecutive days in December where there shall be no practice or interschool competition by individuals or teams in any debate activity. The specific dates of each five-day period will be set by the Board of Directors three years in advance. (Refer to NSAA Calendar for these dates.) [The moratorium is to include December 24 and 25 and the 5-days must be consecutive for each activity]

Play Production Bylaws—Article 5

5.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this activity is to create an understanding and appreciation by the students of good dramatic literature and production and to instruct students in acting and play production.

5.2 ELIGIBILITY

- 5.2.1 **Student Eligibility.** In order for students to participate in varsity competition, they must meet the eligibility requirements established for all activities. (Article 2) Exception: Participation for remuneration in non-school competition does not cause ineligibility.
- 5.2.1.1 The term “participates” means that a student’s performance, through his/her physical talents, plays an integral role in the production. This would include cast members and live accompanist. Technical crew personnel, which would include individuals responsible for sound effects, lighting, costumes and makeup, are exempt from this ruling.
- 5.2.1.2 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit an on-line list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.
- 5.2.1.3 In order to participate in a sub-district, district or state contest in a particular activity, a student is required to have been a member of a school’s team or group in that particular activity for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the sub-district, district or state competition. An exception to this requirement would be if a student was unable to be a member of a school’s team or group due to injury, illness or transfers from another school.
- 5.2.2 **Participation Limited to School Group.** During play production season, a student shall not participate in any play production competition other than as a representative of his/her school.
Exception. A school and its students may participate in the National Speech Tournament as permitted by the NSAA Bylaws or individual students may participate in play production competition sponsored by governmental agencies or organizations such as civic or service clubs.
- 5.2.2.1 In determining if a school is in violation of permitting students to participate in unauthorized play production competition, the following factors will be considered:
- Did the coach or sponsor of the play production team or organization enter the individuals in the competition?
 - Were school funds used to pay entry fees or any expenses for the individual students?
 - Were school-purchased equipment or materials used by the student?
 - Were the individual students under the supervision of the school while traveling to and from the site of such competition and/or during the competition?
 - Did the individual student actually perform in the play production contest?
 - If a school is not involved, the school name cannot be used nor a name which might be interpreted as a school.
 - A school in violation of the approved ruling shall be subject to a penalty as set forth in Article 2.11 NSAA Bylaws.
- 5.2.3 **Supervision.** The sponsor, coach, or an authorized faculty member must accompany the group and be present during interschool competition.

5.3 SANCTIONING OF PLAY PRODUCTION COMPETITION

- 5.3.1 **Intrastate Competition.** Play production competition involving only Nebraska high schools does not require a sanction.
- 5.3.2 **Interstate Competition.** Members of the NSAA may participate in play production contests at an out-of-state school provided the host school has complied with the rules and regulations of its own State Association and the accreditation regulations of the North Central Association. Sanctions must be granted by the Activities Association of the host state or the National Association of Secondary School Principals. (Refer to Article 1.8, NSAA Constitution, for sanctioning procedures.)

5.4 SEASON AND PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS

- 5.4.1 **Length of Season.** The play production season is defined as the period of time from Thursday of Week 9 of the Standardized Calendar to and including Saturday of Week 23 of the Standardized Calendar.
- 5.4.2 **First Date of Competition.** No school may participate in any interscholastic play production competition held prior to Thursday of Week 9 of the Standardized Calendar.
- 5.4.3 **Contests Per Week.** Participation in interscholastic play production by any high school student is limited to two contests per calendar week (Monday through Saturday). There shall be no interscholastic play production competition on Sunday.

5.5 RULES OF COMPETITION

- 5.5.1 **Play Selection.** Schools may select any one-act play or cuttings from full-length plays of theatrical value, provided that it contains no fewer than three characters.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 5.5.1

Each coach is reminded to select literature that will not offend the moral standards of the community or be in bad taste. It is advisable to eliminate all cursing, profane references to the Deity, and immorally suggestive statements.

- 5.5.2 **Time Limit.** The play shall be performed within a fifteen (15) to thirty (30) minute time period.
- 5.5.3 **Royalty.** Any required royalty shall be paid by the school presenting the play.
- 5.5.4 **Stage Setting.** Only drapes and ordinary stage lighting shall be supplied by the host school. If a set, extra lighting or unusual stage properties are desired, they shall be furnished by the school presenting the play. The responsibility for the properties, sound effects, costume and make-up shall also be that of the school presenting the play.
 - 5.5.4.1 In advance, the host school shall send each participating school the dimensions of the stage, a description of drapes and the lighting equipment available for use in the performance area.
 - 5.5.4.2 The participating schools shall send the host school a diagram of the stage setting, a lighting plot, and program copy including the title of the play, the playwright, and a list of the cast and crew.
 - 5.5.4.3 At the time of the contest, the host school shall provide rooms for dressing and make-up for each cast. The host school shall provide a stage crew to assist the director and cast in preparing the setting and stage for the production.
- 5.5.5 **Judging Standards.** Plays shall be judged on the merits of the acting, script, staging, and total effect of the production, including such points as the following:
 - a. The script shall be judged on the theatrical value of the play and its suitability to the cast.
 - b. The acting of the individual actors shall be judged for such elements as characterization, stage movement and business. The acting of the group shall be judged for grouping, interaction of characters, tempo and climaxes.
 - c. The staging shall be judged for such items as blocking, stage movement, set, lights, sound effects, properties, costuming and make-up, with primary consideration being given to those items which are within the ability of the participating school to control.
 - d. The total effect shall be judged in terms of dramatic unity resulting from the combination of the acting, the script, and the staging as an integrated performance.
 - e. The judge shall also designate those individuals whose performances are deserving of a superior rating. No other ratings for individual cast members shall be announced.
 - f. The primary focus will be acting, and will be reflected on the Play Production Ballot.

5.6 DISTRICT AND STATE CONTEST

- 5.6.1 The district and state contests shall be under the direction of the Board of Directors and Executive Director.
- 5.6.2 **Classification for Competition.** The schools registering for play production shall be divided into six classes for competition. The number of schools in each class will be determined by the Board of Directors.
 - 5.6.2.1 The schools in each class will be assigned to districts for competition to qualify for the state contest. In Class A, the district champion and runner-up shall advance to the State Contest. In Classes, B, C, C2, D1, D2 the play judged to be the top play in each district will qualify for the State Contest.
 - 5.6.2.2 **District Assignments.** District assignments, sites for competition, and rules and instructions for district competition will be published in the Play Production Manual. Sites for district play production contests will be determined first by request of the schools in the district. If more than one school requests to host, the determination will be based on a minimum standard of quality of the facility. Schools will need to submit dimension of the stage and a description of their facility. (Lighting, PA/sound system, capacity, dressing rooms, etc.) If no school within the district submits a request for hosting the event, the NSAA shall decide who hosts the district regardless of facility.
- 5.6.3 **District Entries.** A school may enter one group in district competition.
 - 5.6.3.1 The entries to the district contests are to be submitted no later than a fixed date to be determined annually by the NSAA and indicated on the NSAA calendar.
- 5.6.4 **State Contest.** District directors will notify the NSAA Office of the state qualifiers. No further registration by the schools is required.
 - 5.6.4.1 Schools that qualify for the state contest are expected to participate in the state contest. Unless excused by the Executive Director, failure to compete shall result in the school being penalized.
- 5.6.5 **Ratings.** All plays in the district and state contests will be rated according to the following scale:
 - a. Superior
 - b. Excellent
 - c. Good

Speech Bylaws—Article 6

6.1 ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1.1 Participation by students in any speech contest shall be governed by the eligibility rules as set forth in Article 2, Bylaws Governing All Activities. Exception: Participation for remuneration in non-school competition does not make a student ineligible.
- 6.1.1.2 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit an on-line list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.
- 6.1.1.3 In order to participate in a sub-district, district or state contest in a particular activity, a student is required to have been a member of a school's team or group in that particular activity for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the sub-district, district or state competition. An exception to this requirement would be if a student was unable to be a member of a school's team or group due to injury, illness or transfers from another school.
- 6.1.2 **Participation Limited to School Group:** During speech season, a student shall not participate in any speech competition other than as a representative of his/her school. Exception: A school or its students may participate in National Speech Tournaments sanctioned by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, competition sponsored by governmental agencies or civic or service clubs.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 6.1.2

During the designated NSAA speech season, a student may not compete in non-high school competition. Exceptions are made for students participating in national speech tournaments, or in national speech tournament qualifying competition, or in competition sponsored by governmental agencies or organizations such as civic and service clubs.

- 6.1.2.1 In determining if a school is in violation of permitting students to participate in unauthorized speech competition, the following factors will be considered:
- Did the coach or sponsor of the speech team or organization enter the individuals in the competition?
 - Were school funds used to pay entry fees or any expenses for the individual students?
 - Were school-purchased equipment or materials used by the student?
 - Were the individual students under the supervision of the school while traveling to and from the site of such competition and/or during the competition?
 - Did the individual student actually speak or in any way perform in the speech competition?
 - Was the school name used or a name which might be interpreted as a school name?
- 6.1.2.2 A school in violation shall be subject to a penalty as set forth in Article 2.11 NSAA Bylaws.
- 6.1.3 **Supervision.** The sponsor, coach, or an authorized faculty member must accompany the group in all interschool

6.2 SANCTIONING OF SPEECH COMPETITION

- 6.2.1 **Intrastate Competition.** Speech competition involving only Nebraska high schools does not require a sanction.
- 6.2.2 **Interstate Competition.** Members of the NSAA may participate in speech contests at an out-of-state school provided the host school has complied with the rules and regulations of its own State Association and the accreditation regulations of the North Central Association. Sanctions must be granted by the Activities Association of the host state or the National Association of Secondary School Principals. (Refer to Article 1.8, NSAA Constitution, for sanctioning procedures.)

6.3 SEASON

- 6.3.1 **Start of Season.** No school may participate in any interscholastic speech tournament held prior to the Friday immediately preceding the first Saturday in November.
- 6.3.2 **End of Season.** The state speech season shall end two weeks following the State Speech Tournament. No high school may participate in speech tournaments after this time, with the exception of the national speech tournament.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 6.3.2

Speech teams sponsored by NSAA high schools may not participate in speech competition as a school-sponsored team before the official start of the NSAA speech season nor after the designated end of the NSAA speech season, with the exception of the national speech tournament.

The school shall not provide support for students participating, in speech activities outside the designated NSAA speech season, with the exception of national speech tournaments. Such school support might include, but not limited to, school funding or sponsoring individuals/teams. If the school provides any financial support or provision to sponsor or conduct the activity, then it shall be considered school support.

- 6.3.3 **December Moratorium.** There will be five consecutive days in December where there shall be no practice or interschool competition by individuals or teams in any speech activity. The specific dates of each five-day period shall be set by the Board of Directors three years in advance. [The moratorium is to include December 24 and 25 and the 5-days must be consecutive for each activity.]

6.4 STUDENT LIMITATIONS

- 6.4.1 **Contest Limitation.** Participation in interschool speech competition by any high school student shall be limited to two meets per calendar week (Monday through Saturday), with a maximum of twelve (12) meets, in addition to the state-sponsored series of tournaments from the date of the first permitted contest to the close of the state speech tournament. There shall be no competition on Sunday.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 6.4.1

Once the NSAA speech season is concluded, there are no restrictions on which days of the week a student may participate in outside speech competition, including national speech tournaments. The limitations do not preclude participation by a school or its students in National Speech tournaments sanctioned and approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals as permitted by NSAA Bylaws.

6.5 SCOPE OF COMPETITION

- 6.5.1 **Individuals Events.** Competition under this section shall include:
- i. Interpretation of Humorous Prose
 - ii. Interpretation of Serious Prose
 - iii. Poetry
 - iv. Persuasive
 - v. Entertainment
 - vi. Extemporaneous
 - vii. Informative
 - viii. Program Oral Interpretation
- 6.5.2 **Group Events.** Competition under this section shall include:
- a. Interpretation of Drama
 - b. Duet Acting (Class A – Duo Interpretation)

6.6 STATE AND DISTRICT CONTESTS

- 6.6.1 **Directors.** The district and state contests shall be under the direction of the Board of Directors and Executive Director. The Executive Director may appoint directors for each site.
- 6.6.2 **Classification for Competition.** The schools registered for speech shall be divided into six classes for competition. Classification shall be based on student enrollment in grades 9-11 as reported on the School Membership Report submitted to the State Department of Education on October 1 of the previous year.
- 6.6.2.1 **District Assignments.** The schools in each class shall be divided into districts for district competition. The dates, sites and judges for district contests shall be set by the NSAA Office.
- 6.6.3 **District Entries.** A school may have a total of twenty (20) entries in a district speech contest with the breakdown as follows:
- 6.6.3.1 **Individual Events.** Each school may have a maximum of sixteen (16) entries in individual events. A student may enter and participate in three events.
- 6.6.3.2 **Group Events.**
Two entries per school – Duet Acting (Class A – Duo Interpretation)
Two entries per school – Oral Interpretation of Drama
- 6.6.3.3 **Student Limitations.** A student may enter and participate in two events. (Three events in Class D1 & D2)
- ### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 6.6.3.3**
- Speeches shall be conducted in English. Other languages or foreign terms may be used to prove a point or provide emphasis, explanation or definition.*
- 6.6.3.4 **District Entries Deadline.** The entries to the district contests are to be submitted no later than a fixed date to be determined annually by the NSAA and indicated on the NSAA calendar.
- 6.6.4 **District Finals & Qualification for State Contest.** In all classes, six entries will advance to the final round of competition at districts. In Class A, the top four performers in each event from each district will qualify for the State Contest. In Classes B, C1, C2, D1 and D2, the top three performers in each event from each district will qualify for the State Contest.
- 6.6.4.1 If an individual or team qualifies for state competition through competing in a district meet, that individual or team is expected to compete in the state contest in which he/she or the team qualifies. Unless excused by the Executive Director, the school shall be penalized.
- 6.6.4.2 Substitutions shall not be permitted for a student who qualifies for the state speech contest in an individual event.
Personnel of group events may be changed.

6.7 JUDGES AND RATINGS

- 6.7.1 **Selection of Judges.** It is recommended the judges used in interscholastic speech and play production competition be registered with the NSAA.
- 6.7.2 **Judges' Responsibilities.** In addition to the assignment of quality ratings, critic judges shall be required to give written criticisms of a constructive nature to all participants.
- 6.7.2.1 In arranging the schedule, district directors should provide time between events during which the judge may meet with contestants and their directors for the purpose of giving such criticism.
- 6.7.3 **District Contest Ratings.** All contestants in District Contests shall be rated according to the following scale:
Superior; Excellent; Good.
- 6.7.3.1 For failure to abide by the prescribed time limits by more than 30 seconds, judges shall lower the contestant one assigned rank.
- 6.7.4 **State Contest Judging.** All preliminary performances at the state speech contest will be presented twice, each time before one judge.
- 6.7.4.1 **Team Scoring.** Sweepstakes points for the state contest will be based on final round scoring only:
First place-20 points, Second-18, Third-16, Fourth-14, Fifth-12, Sixth-10.
- 6.7.5 **Protests.** Protests regarding the decision of the judges will not be heard. Errors in computation, which prevent a qualifier from being placed in the finals, must be brought to the attention of the contest director prior to the beginning of the final round of competition. When the finals have been completed, team points calculated, winners announced and awards issued, the results are final and no changes can be made in individual placement, unless a correctable error is discovered. Clerical errors in team scoring may be corrected by the contest director or NSAA Executive Staff when discovered.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 6.7.5

A correctable error shall be defined as those that involve:

- a. *Mathematical computation errors in individual points affecting placement of the speakers involved.*
- b. *Mathematical computation errors in team points affecting team placement.*
- c. *Mistakes made in calculation of judge's preference in the final round affecting the placement of the speaker involved.*

6.8 RULES AND STANDARDS

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR SECTION 6.8

Each coach is reminded to select literature that will not offend the moral standards of the community or be in bad taste. It is advisable to eliminate all cursing, profane references to the Deity, and immorally suggestive statements.

- 6.8.1 **Interpretation of Prose Literature-Humorous and Serious.**
- 6.8.1.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of these two separate events is to train students to convey the thought, feelings and mood of a selection of prose literature to an audience.
- 6.8.1.2 **Rules.** The selection shall be an original cutting or arrangement of prose literature from published books, short stories or plays. Commercially produced cuttings are not to be used. The contestant shall make introductory remarks concerning the author, selection and cutting designed to heighten attention, understanding and appreciation of the selection by the audience. Maximum time limit including introductory remarks shall be ten (10) minutes.
The selection may be delivered from manuscript, with or without a lectern.
- 6.8.1.3 **Judging Standards.** The art of interpretation is to be regarded as essentially one of suggesting the meaning, feeling and mood of a story so vividly as to recreate the author's work in the minds of the audience. In assigning quality ratings to a performer, the judge should take into consideration the literary merit of the selection, appropriateness, use of the body and use of the voice in interpreting. This is a contest in oral interpretation, not acting. The performer should try to distinguish all the characters by suggesting distinctive visual and auditory clues, depending upon the audience to fill in the picture. Familiarity with the script is essential so the contestant may maintain eye contact the majority of the time. The selection may be memorized. The performer may use a lectern.
The final test of good Oral Interpretation of Prose Literature is the ability to use all these factors so successfully that audience members forget that they are listening to a contest.
- 6.8.2 **Interpretation of Poetry.**
- 6.8.2.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to encourage students to obtain a wide knowledge and appreciation of poets and their poetry, and to increase their ability to share with others the full meaning intended by the poet by interpreting from the manuscript.
- 6.8.2.2 **Rules.** The participant shall select, cut and arrange one long poem or a group of poems or a poem unified by either a central theme or the writing of one author. The presentation shall include introductory and transitional remarks to heighten the understanding, the theme or the poet's works. If one long poem is used, transitions are optional. Time limit including such remarks shall not be fewer than six (6) nor more than eight (8) minutes.

- The arrangement shall be interpreted from manuscript with or without lectern.
- 6.8.2.3 **Judging Standards.** Poetry is written to be read aloud; therefore, poetry interpretation is regarded as recreating the thoughts and emotions of the poet in the minds of the audience. On assigning quality ratings, the critic should take into consideration the appropriateness of the poem(s) chosen by the student, the effectiveness of the cutting and arrangement, and the adequacy of the introductory and transitional remarks which unify the presentation. In interpreting poetry from a manuscript, the meaning should be conveyed primarily through the voice. Appropriate body action, eye contact and other mechanisms of delivery are encouraged. The contestant shall be observed for naturalness and emotional responsiveness. While effective use of rhythm can contribute to interpretation, it should not become “sing-song” or monotonous. The final test of good Oral Interpretation of Poetry is the ability of the contestant to cause audience members to forget they are listening to a contest.
- 6.8.3 **Persuasive Speaking.**
- 6.8.3.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this activity is to train speakers to choose and organize material supporting a central theme in a persuasive speech on a timely subject, and to present these ideas in a direct, communicative, and effective speaking manner.
- 6.8.3.2 **Rules.** This contest shall consist of persuasive speeches actually written by the speaker delivering them. The speaker shall use any appropriate, worthwhile, relevant subject matter which can be developed in the time allotted. Maximum time limit will be ten (10) minutes. Not more than one hundred fifty (150) words of speech shall be direct quotations from any other speech or writing, and such quotations shall be indicated in the “manuscript.” Extensive paraphrasing of any source is prohibited. The speech may be presented from manuscript in an extemporaneous style. The performer may or may not use the lectern. The judge may request a copy of the manuscript at the conclusion of the speech. Visual aids will not be allowed.
- 6.8.3.3 **Judging Standards.** Since these speeches have been written by the contestant delivering them, the judges shall consider thought, composition and delivery. The chosen topic shall be discussed intelligently and with some degree of originality. The speaker may be given wide latitude in the ideas expressed but held closely accountable for the manner in which they are expressed. Material shall be organized according to some logical plan to produce a unified and coherent speech. The composition shall be considered carefully for its persuasiveness, eloquence and diction. The composition shall reveal a discriminating choice of words and shall be especially adapted to oral presentation. Delivery shall be judged for mastery of the usual mechanics of speech and communicativeness. In addition, the speech shall be observed for qualities of directness and sincerity. The best delivery technique retains the directness and simplicity of good conversation employing the necessary energy to reach all listeners. The final test of Persuasive Speaking is the ability of the speaker to make the audience forget it is a contest.
- 6.8.4 **Entertainment Speaking**
- 6.8.4.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to encourage the speakers to develop and demonstrate their creativity for employing imaginative language and thinking into their speech writing. The speakers should also demonstrate their ability to organize and present a speech to entertain without mimicking professional comics.
- 6.8.4.2 **Rules.** This speech shall be of an entertaining nature composed by the contestant. This shall be an original composition. The speech shall be based on a theme or central idea and shall be delivered in an extemporaneous manner with or without a lectern. One 4” x 6” or smaller note card is optional. Visual media may be employed, but costuming and makeup shall not be used. Costuming is wearing any article to enhance the presentation which is not normally worn at a speech contest. Maximum time limit shall be eight (8) minutes.
- 6.8.4.3 **Judging Standards.** An entertainment speech of an interesting nature shall combine the elements of basic organization, graphic word pictures, humor and lively animated delivery. The most effective speeches to entertain employ one or more of the following devices: exaggeration, understatement, plays on words, satire or irony. Generally, basic entertainment may be found by observing the aspects of everyday living. The material presented shall be organized to produce a unified and coherent speech, rather than a loosely structured comic routine. Delivery shall be judged for the mastery of the usual mechanics of speech with emphasis on the speaker’s use of bodily communication, poise, and timing. The final test of Entertainment Speaking is the ability of the speaker to make the audience forget that this is a contest.
- 6.8.5 **Extemporaneous Speaking.**
- 6.8.5.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to encourage students to read widely on current public affairs, to train them to apply principles of speech composition on a selected timely topic in a limited period of time,

and to deliver the speech with fluency and effectiveness.

- 6.8.5.2 **Rules.** The general area from which the extemporaneous speaking topics are to be formulated shall be current public affairs. Specific topics shall be selected from subjects discussed in standard periodicals during the current school year. The NSAA office shall provide managers with a list of topics chosen for district contest use.

An NSAA Certified Judge shall supervise the preparation room. The supervisor shall inspect the preparation material used by each contestant. Pre-prepared extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs, and outlines shall be barred from the preparation room. Underlining or highlighting on material will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. The use of electronic devices, e.g. computers and calculators, can be used in the preparation room or during preparation time. During preparation time, students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers, and journals or articles provided:

- a. They are originals or photocopies of originals.
- b. Original articles or copies must be intact and uncut.
- c. There is no written material on original or copies (source citation is allowed).
- d. Topical indexes without annotation are allowed.

Laptop/electronic file use: the use of laptop computers in extemporaneous speaking is permitted at the NSAA- sanctioned events under the following computer use rules and guidelines:

- a. Extemporaneous Speaking contestants may make use of electronic devices to store and to retrieve their subject files at all NSAA tournaments. Students can retrieve extemporaneous files to read but cannot write speeches or organize their thoughts on a computer. This rule in no way prevents students from utilizing paper copy files to enable the competitor to successfully compete in Extemporaneous Speaking. The NSAA takes no position on which form of file storage is preferable for use at NSAA tournaments.
- b. Electronic devices are defined as laptop computers, netbooks, iPads, cell phones, or other portable electronic equipment. Secondary devices such as flash drives or external hard drives are allowed as well.
- c. Source Materials: Students may consult published books, periodical articles, newspaper articles, think tank articles, government reports, or journal articles saved on their electronic device or present in hard copy form provided:
 - i. There are no notations made within or on the saved article other than citation information.
 - ii. Any highlighting or underlining of the articles is done in only one color within each article. Bolding, italicizing, or any other manipulation of the original text of sources (other than highlighting or underlining as previously stipulated) is prohibited.
- d. Pre-written Extemporaneous speeches, handbooks, briefs, or outlines are prohibited from the prep room, whether stored electronically or present in hard copy form, and are grounds for disqualification.
- e. Power Source: Competitors are responsible for making certain their electronic devices are fully functional and for proper power management ensuring that their device(s) remain functional throughout the competition day.
- f. Internet: Contestants may use electronic devices (including laptop computers, tablets, and/or cell phones) to access the internet during speech rounds with the following conditions:
 - i. Computers or other electronic devices may not be used to receive information for competitive advantage from non-competitors (coaches, assistant coaches, other students) in the form of email, text, or instant message from inside or outside of the room in which the competition occurs.
 - ii. Penalty: Contestants found to have violated provisions above will be disqualified. In case of a serious dispute or critical question, the designated NSAA Official may be contacted for a ruling.
- g. Liability: Extemporaneous Speaking competitors accept full responsibility for the safety and security of their electronic devices throughout the entire course of any NSAA tournament. Students are welcome to use locks, etc. to secure their devices in the prep room. Students, parents, and coaches should be aware that students are bringing and using these electronic devices at their own risk. The NSAA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken devices. The NSAA does not assume any liability for a student's electronic devices.
- h. File Monitoring: The NSAA and its representative bodies retains the right to view and search any electronic devices to ensure compliance with any and all rules at any NSAA tournament.
- i. Electronic devices should be muted in the prep room. Contestants should not play games or engage in other distracting activities on their electronic devices in the prep room. Tournament officials may ask a student to power-off the device if it becomes distracting. Failure to abide by said requests may result in a disqualification.
- j. Students from the same school may share computers during preparation. However, communication among contestants during preparation time is strictly prohibited.

No other material shall be allowed in the extemporaneous preparation room other than that given above and material deemed in violation of these guidelines shall be removed by the supervisor and taken to the student's coach or tournament director. Students violating these guidelines DURING preparation time will be disqualified.

For Class A, thirty minutes before the contest is to begin and all other classes one hour before the contestant is to speak, the contestant shall draw three (3) topics, select one without consulting anyone, and return the other two.

After the topic has been selected and recorded, the contestant shall withdraw to a room assigned and prepare the speech without consulting anyone. Just before speaking, the speaker shall present the judge with the topic drawn and selected. The speech shall be delivered extemporaneously. One (1) 4" x 6" or smaller note card may be used. Time limit shall be five (5) to seven (7) minutes. Judges in extemporaneous speaking will provide time signals.

- 6.8.5.3 **Judging Standards.** The extemporaneous speech shall not be regarded as a memory test of the material contained in any one magazine article, but rather as an original synthesis by the speaker of the current fact and opinion on the designated topic as presented by various sources. Information presented shall be well chosen, pertinent and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic. The contestant, therefore, shall be held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn. He/she shall be downgraded for shifting to a phase of the topic which is not stated. Delivery shall be judged for mastery of the usual mechanics of speech and communication. The final test of Extemporaneous Speaking is the ability of the contestant to interest listeners in the thought to the extent that the speaker causes them to forget that this is a contest.

6.8.6 **Informative Public Speaking.**

- 6.8.6.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to teach the student to organize and present material of informative nature, to increase knowledge of speech composition, to develop proficiency in delivery, and to utilize visual media appropriately.

- 6.8.6.2 **Rules.** This contest shall consist of informative speeches written by the speakers delivering them. The speakers shall gather and organize the material in composing an original speech.

The primary purpose of this speech shall be to inform the audience. Any other purpose, such as to entertain, to impress or to convince shall be secondary.

The speech shall be delivered extemporaneously. One (1) 4" x 6" or smaller note card is optional.

The speaker may use a lectern.

The student is encouraged to use visual media such as charts, maps, diagrams, or actual objects, always mindful that these media should be an integral part of the presentation and not an unnecessary frill or gimmick.

The maximum time limit shall be 10 minutes.

- 6.8.6.3 **Judging Standards.** The primary aim of this speech shall be to present information clearly and interestingly. The judge shall consider clarity of organization and development by examples, illustration, analogies, statistics, and use of effective wording and factors of interest. Delivery shall be judged for the mastery of the usual mechanics of speech and effectiveness in the use of visual media. The speech shall be well composed and delivered, so that it is unmistakably clear, and understanding, explanation and instruction occur. The final test of Informative Speaking is the ability of the speaker to make the audience forget this is a contest.

6.8.7 **Interpretation of Drama.**

- 6.8.7.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this activity is to train students to create within the minds of the audience a clear impression of the author's central idea, story, character, situations, and mood of the play or of the scenes being read.

- 6.8.7.2 **Rules.** The presentation shall be an interpretation of drama and not play production. Each member of the group shall possess a copy of the manuscript. The number of participants in each group shall be no fewer than three (3) or more than five (5). If the script calls for more than five characters, and it is impossible to omit additional characters, contestants may read more than one character. An introduction shall provide continuity for the cutting. Maximum time limit shall be fifteen (15) minutes.

Interpretation of drama may be presented in a variety of ways. It may be performed with the participants in any arrangement that is effective. Movement is allowed but shall remain in the realm of suggestion rather than that of realistic acting. Deliberate touching shall not be permitted. Either off-stage focus, on-stage focus or combination of both may be utilized by the contestants. Entrances and exits shall be suggested. Costumes, make-up, properties, special lighting, or sound effects shall not be permitted.

- 6.8.7.3 If the play chosen is subject to royalty payment, the participating school shall be responsible for obtaining permission from the publisher for its use and for paying such royalty charges as may be involved.

6.8.7.4 **Judging Standards.** The judge shall take into consideration the literary value of the play, the quality of the cutting and suitability for the group and event, as well as the effectiveness in the interpretation. The art of interpretation shall be regarded as essentially one of suggesting the meaning, the feeling, and the mood of the play so vividly as to recreate the drama in the minds of the audience. Readers shall show bodily responsiveness to the meaning and feeling of dialogue in order to reveal character and central theme of the play, within the scope of the rules. The director's discretion shall dictate the amount and kind of movement, gestures, and reaction.

The final test of good Oral Interpretation of Drama is the ability of the participants to bring the play to life, Causing the audience to forget they are listening to a contest.

6.8.8 **Duet Acting.**

6.8.8.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this activity is to encourage contestants to exercise creative imagination in their selection, adaptation, and presentation of material suitable for theatre. In this event contestants will reveal their ability to create characters, communicate the inter-relationship of characters, and interpret the meaning of the material used.

6.8.8.2 **Rules.** This event shall consist of a scene or sequence of theatrical material which requires two actors to perform. The presentation shall not exceed twelve (12) minutes. Narration may be used to provide necessary expository background. The narrators shall be one or both of the two actors. Costuming, make-up, scripts and lighting shall not be permitted in this activity. Stage props shall be limited to a table and two chairs. Hand props, sound effects, and musical accompaniment shall not be permitted.

6.8.8.3 **Judging Standards.** This event shall be judged on the following points. The acting of the two actors shall be judged with respect to the elements of modern dramatic techniques including characterization, stage movement, and the interaction between the characters. The scene or sequence presented shall be evaluated as to its theatrical value. The comments during narration shall be judged for their value in enhancing the presentation. The total effect shall be judged in terms of unity resulting from the combination of the duet acting and the material selection. No individual recognition shall be given. The final test of Duet Acting is the ability of the contestants to cause the audience to forget this is a contest.

6.8.9 **Duo Interpretation.**

6.8.9.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this activity is to encourage contestants to exercise creative imagination in their selection, adaptation, and presentation of material suitable for theatre. In this event contestants will reveal their ability to create characters, communicate the inter-relationship of characters, and interpret the meaning of the material used.

6.8.9.2 **Rules.** This event shall consist of a scene or sequence of theatrical material which requires two actors to perform. The presentation shall not exceed TEN (10) minutes. Narration may be used to provide necessary expository background. The narrators shall be one or both of the two actors. The interpretation must be delivered from memory; No notes, prompting or scripts shall be allowed. No costumes or props shall be permitted. During the performance, off-stage focus (meaning contestants may not look directly at each other) must be employed by both contestants. The contestants may react to each other's verbal and/or non-verbal expressions but are not allowed to touch one another. Contestants may touch and make eye contact during introductory material.

6.8.9.3 **Judging Standards.** This event shall be judged on the following points. The acting of the two actors shall be judged with respect to the elements of modern dramatic techniques including characterization, stage movement, and the interaction between the characters. The scene or sequence presented shall be evaluated as to its theatrical value. The comments during narration shall be judged for their value in enhancing the presentation. The total effect shall be judged in terms of unity resulting from the combination of the performance and the material/selection. No individual recognition shall be given. The final test of duo interpretation is the ability of the contestants to cause the audience to forget this is a contest.

6.8.10 **Program Oral Interpretation**

6.8.10.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this event is to encourage students to obtain a wide knowledge and appreciation of various forms of literature. With a spotlight on argumentation through literature, program oral interpretation focuses on a student's ability to combine multiple genres of literature centered around a single theme. Selections used in program oral interpretation shall be cuttings from a minimum of two genres of literature constructed to create a theme or argument. The material may be humorous, dramatic, or combine both tones, and be taken from the following:

*Drama which includes plays, screenplays or monologues

*Poetry which includes literature written in verse and free-verse.

*Prose which includes fiction or nonfiction, and may be taken from but not limited to, novels and short stories; journal, magazine or newspaper articles; research from governmental and educational documents; as well as essays, speeches and blogs.

- 6.8.10.2 **Rules.** Interpretations shall be no more than ten (10) minutes in performance including introductory and transitional materials. There is no minimum time limit. The interpretation must be delivered via manuscript. The student is allowed to use the manuscript as a prop to enhance blocking as long as the manuscript is in the student's physical possession throughout the performance. No costumes or props other than the manuscript shall be permitted. The introduction shall be memorized. All titles and authors used in the performance must be cited in the introduction.
- 6.8.10.3 **Judging Standards.** Program interpretation is regarded as recreating the thoughts and emotions of the author in the minds of the audience. On assigning quality ratings, the critic should take into consideration the appropriateness of the material chosen by the student, the effectiveness of the cutting and arrangement, and the adequacy of the introductory and transitional remarks which unify the presentation. In interpreting the program from a manuscript, the meaning should be conveyed primarily through the voice. Appropriate body action, eye contact and other mechanisms of delivery are encouraged. The contestant shall be observed for naturalness and emotional responsiveness. The final test of good program oral interpretation is the ability of the contestant to cause audience members to forget they are listening to a contest.

6.9 AWARDS

- 6.9.1 Awards to students and schools shall be governed by Article 2.15, Bylaws Governing All Activities.

Music Bylaws—Article 7

7.1 OBJECTIVE

- 7.1.1 Interscholastic music activities are intended to supplement and enrich the secondary music curriculum. These activities provide goals for the development of musical skill and understanding for both the individual and the participating group. These activities enhance citizenship, teach the individual responsibility, promote loyalty and develop a sense of school pride.

7.2 ELIGIBILITY

- 7.2.1 Participation by students in any music contest shall be governed by the eligibility rules that govern all activities, Article 2, NSAA Bylaws, except participation for remuneration does not constitute ineligibility.
- 7.2.2 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit an on-line list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 7.2.1

“Any music contest” shall be defined as any NSAA sponsored music festival, competition, or event.

7.3 CLASSIFICATION

- 7.3.1 **Method.** Schools shall be divided into five classes with classification based on the enrollment in grades nine, ten and eleven according to the enrollment figures submitted to the Department of Education on October 1 of the preceding school year.
- 7.3.2 Music Classes are as follows:
Class AA Enrollment of 601 or greater
Class A Enrollment of 301-600
Class B Enrollment of 151-300
Class C Enrollment of 75-150
Class D Enrollment of 0-74
- 7.3.3 Schools are to compete by classes in all large ensemble events. A school may compete in a higher class, provided it competes in such higher class in all events in which it enters. However, a school may not compete in a class lower than the one indicated by its enrollment.

7.4 COMPETITION AND SANCTIONS

- 7.4.1 Schools may not enter any music contest or festival in which the renditions of soloists and/or organizations are rated, judged or in any way classified, unless such contest or festival is sponsored or approved by the Board of Directors.
- 7.4.1.1 The sanctioning of music contests is governed by Article 1.8, NSAA Constitution. Sanctioning of events held during the summer months is not required.
- 7.4.2 **Sunday Competition.** No school that is a member of the NSAA shall be permitted to engage in any interschool contest on Sunday.
- 7.4.3 **December Moratorium.** There shall be five consecutive days in December during the holiday season where there shall be no practice and no interschool competition by individuals or teams in any music activity. Music groups may perform if there is no practice in school facilities and the performance is local and on a volunteer basis. The specific dates of each five-day period will be set by the Board of Directors three years in advance. [\[The moratorium is to include December 24 and 25 and the 5 days must be consecutive for each activity.\]](#)

7.5 DISTRICT COMMITTEE

- 7.5.1 **Organization.** Each NSAA district shall have a District Music Committee which consists of the District Managing Committee and two music directors who shall be appointed annually by the District Managing Committee.
- 7.5.2 **Duties.**
- 7.5.2.1 Select the date, site, and contest director for their district music contest.
- 7.5.2.2 The District Music Committee will elect a music coordinator from the Committee. The coordinator will arrange for the administration of the district music contest and represent the district on a state-wide advisory committee.
- 7.5.2.3 The State Music Coordinators Advisory Committee. The coordinator from each of the six NSAA legislative districts will meet once each year with the NSAA staff. This meeting will be held in the spring following the district music contest, with the purpose of evaluating the district contest.

7.6 DISTRICT CONTESTS

- 7.6.1 The Board of Directors may schedule and arrange for District Music Contests, but shall not schedule for a State Music Contest.
- 7.6.2 **District Entries.** Schools may enter the District Contest nearest them with approval from the director of the contest they wish to enter and from the music committee from each of the two districts involved. The deadline for approval shall be December 1 prior to the contest.

- 7.6.2.1 **Date Due.** The entries to the District Contest must be submitted on-line via the NSAA Website by midnight Central Time, March 20, prior to the contest. No late entries are permitted.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 7.6.2.1

- (1) *Due to the transition to the electronic submittal of District Music Contest entries, no hard copy entry forms will be accepted. All schools must complete and submit their District Music Contest entries electronically no later than midnight Central time, March 20, prior to their contests.*
- (2) *Any school that does not submit the electronic entry by the deadline will be notified by the NSAA and given two school days to submit their electronic form. A \$500 late administrative fee will be paid to the NSAA in addition to regular District Contest fees for the late entry to be allowed within this two-day period.*
- (3) *A school may substitute personnel for existing legal entries up until the scheduled performance of that entry, for example student B may replace student A in a trumpet solo entry or vocal duet entry or string quartet entry, which will not require making a change to the contest schedule.*
- (4) *A school may make additions to their contest entries after the entry deadline with permission from their contest site director, providing they do not exceed the legal number of entries for their class. A \$50 administrative fee will be paid by the requesting school to the contest site for each added entry.*

- 7.6.2.2 **Entry Fees.** The District Music Committee shall determine the entry fees for District Music Contests. All fees shall be submitted for the District Music Contest according to each district's requirements immediately after the March 20 entry deadline. An additional charge may be made for schools from outside the district.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 7.6.2.2

Due to the transition to the electronic submittal of District Music Contest entries, payment for contest entry fees must be sent to the contest site address specified on the electronic entry submission acknowledgement immediately after the March 20 deadline unless payment is required at a different time by the host director or NSAA district involved. Schools will be assessed a \$200 fine (in addition to entry fees), payable to their NSAA District, if their entry fees have not been paid in full before the designated deadline.

- 7.6.2.3 **Contest Schedules.** The site director(s) for each District Music Contest location shall provide complete contest performance schedules to their participating schools no later than 14 days before the start of their District Music Contest.

7.7 DISTRICT CONTEST RULES

- 7.7.1 **Compliance with Rules.** Any entry failing to comply with the rules in this section is subject to a penalty by the District Contest Director and/or Music Committee.

7.7.2 **Music Selection.**

- a. All large ensemble events will choose their own selections with the recommendation that two contrasting selections be used.
 - b. All solo and small ensemble events will choose their own selections with the recommendation that one selection be used.
 - c. The 1976 copyright law is very clear on the use of copying music. Some provisions of the law state: Copying shall not substitute for the purchase of books, publishers, reprints, or periodicals.
 - d. Copying is permissible for the following uses:
 1. Emergency copying to replace purchased copies which for any reason are not available for an imminent performance provided purchased replacement copies shall be substituted in due course.
 2. For academic purposes other than performance, multiple copies of excerpts of works may be made provided that the excerpts do not compromise a part of the whole which would constitute a performable unit such as a section, movement or aria but in no case more than 10% of the whole work.
 - e. Copying is prohibited for the following uses:
 1. Copying to create or replace or substitute for anthologies, compilations, or collective works.
 2. Copying for the purpose of performance except as in (d)(1) above.
 3. Copying for the purpose of substituting for the purchase of music except as in (d)(1) and (d)(2) above.
 - f. Exceptions to prohibited copying include:
 1. If a piece of music is out of print, permission may be obtained from the publisher to make copies for performance use.
 2. If music (or scores, etc.) has been ordered but not received, a copy of the order may be attached to a copy.
3. If a pianist has an awkward page turn, pages may be copied as long as the pianist has an original

copy at the piano.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS For 7.7.2.

Original sheet music which is obtained on-line as a downloaded and printed purchase or is in the public domain is authorized for NSAA contests and festival performances. This music must include information printed on the sheet music, receipt or accompanying document that confirms the identification of the seller, the number or copies purchased or the public domain status. Unauthorized photocopying of sheet music obtained on-line is a violation of United States Federal copyright law.

- 7.7.3 **Number of Entries.** A school may have a maximum number of entries as determined by class.
- 7.7.3.1 A school wishing to enter strings (violin, viola, cello, bass viola) will have additional entries determined by class, which must be only string entries as defined in the list of acceptable events.
- 7.7.3.2 Maximum entries by class:
Class AA - 48 plus 20 strings, plus 2 piano solos
Class A - 52, plus 2 piano solos
Classes B and C - 46, plus 2 piano solos
Class D - 40, plus 2 piano solos
- 7.7.4 All soloists must be in the ninth grade or above. Students in Class AA and A choral groups must be in the ninth grade or above. In choral events in Classes B, C, and D, and in instrumental ensemble events in all classes, students in the junior high school and below may be included.
- 7.7.5 **Large Ensembles.**
- 7.7.5.1 Large groups shall be bands, orchestras, mixed choruses*, madrigals/chamber choirs, jazz choirs, show choirs, and choruses and jazz bands. Each NSAA District Music Coordinator will determine the number of Large Ensemble entries allowed in each District Music Contest.
*The term Mixed Chorus in the Large Ensembles category shall not mean the requirement exists for both genders of students to be included for those schools comprised of a single gender only (non-coed schools).
- 7.7.6 **Small Ensemble Events.**
- 7.7.6.1 All small ensembles shall have a maximum of 24 in a group.
- 7.7.6.2 **Vocal Ensembles:**
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Duet | Triple Trio |
| Quartet | Trio |
| Octet | Sextet |
| Double Octet | Double Sextet |
| Barbershop Quartet | |
- 7.7.6.3 **Instrumental Ensembles:**
- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Woodwind Trio | Percussion Ensemble | Trombone Quartet |
| String Quintet | Saxophone Quartet | Flute Quartet |
| Horn Quartet | Cornet or Trumpet Duet | Cornet or Trumpet Quartet |
| Flute Duet | Clarinet Trio | Piano Trio (Violin, Cello, Piano) |
| Saxophone Trio | Drum Quartet or Quintet | Mixed Brass Quartet |
| String Sextet | Saxophone Sextet | Clarinet Duet |
| Trombone Trio | Cornet or Trumpet Trio | Brass Quintet |
| Flute Trio | Mixed Clarinet Quartet | String Quartet |
| Violin Quartet | String Trio | Brass Sextet |
| Woodwind Quintet | Horn Trio | Clarinet Quartet (4 B Flat Soprano) |
| (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Bassoon) | | |
- 7.7.6.4 Any ensemble not listed above should be entered as a Miscellaneous ensemble. Each school may enter as many Miscellaneous ensembles as it wishes, as long as it does not exceed the maximum number of entries for that class.
- 7.7.6.5 Unlimited small ensemble entries, vocal and instrumental, are allowed, but exact duplication of personnel will result in disqualification from that event.
- 7.7.7 **Unqualified Events:**
Any entry that is non-musical in nature (for example, baton twirling) or is primarily comprised of instruments or voice parts not common in standard literature (for example, accordion, harmonica) that would require the opinion of additional judges should not be included in District Music Contests. However, final decision pertaining to such events rests with the District Music Committee or its designate.
- 7.7.8 **Solo Events.**
- 7.7.8.1 Vocal Solos:
- Soprano/Alto voice
 - Tenor/Bass voice

- 7.7.8.2 Instrumental Solos:
Violin, viola, cello, string bass, piccolo, flute, oboe, English horn, bassoon, clarinet (including alto, bass, etc.), baritone/euphonium, saxophone (including alto, tenor, etc.), cornet or trumpet, trombone, French horn, piano, tuba, percussion.
- 7.7.8.3 Solo Events
A student may perform one vocal solo and/or one instrumental solo per instrument.
- 7.7.9 **Time Limits.** All events shall be limited in time as follows. These time limits include time for preparation on stage, tuning, playing, and exit. Time between numbers is included in the time of performance. Any performance violating these time limits will receive a rating which has been lowered one division.

Class AA	Class A	Class B, C, D
Band or Orchestras 25	Band or Orchestras 25	Band or Orchestras 22
Mixed Chorus* 18	Mixed Chorus* 18	Mixed Chorus* 15
Jazz Band 20	Jazz Band 20	Jazz Band 20
Show Choir 20	Show Choir 20	Show Choir 20
Bass/Treble Chorus 12	Bass/Treble Chorus 12	Bass/Treble Chorus 12
Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12	Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12	Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12
Jazz Choir 20	Jazz Choir 20	Jazz Choir 20
Small Ensembles 6	Small Ensembles 6	Small Ensembles 6
Solo Events 6	Solo Events 6	Solo Events 6

* The term Mixed Chorus in the Large Ensembles category shall not mean the requirement exists for both genders of students to be included for those schools comprised of a single gender only (non-coed schools).

- 7.7.10 **Scores.** It is strongly recommended that the measures be numbered for all scores provided to adjudicators. Performers or their accompanists using illegally copied music will not be allowed to perform.
- Solo and Small Ensemble Scores.** The performer shall provide the judge with an original score for each solo and small ensemble entry. Proof of a second original score must also be presented for the accompanist and for the performer (if the performance is not memorized).
 - Large Ensemble Scores.** With the exception of show choirs and jazz bands only, the director shall furnish the judges of large ensembles with one original score for each selection for each judge, (three sets of scores for three judges). Show Choir and Jazz Band directors assume responsibility for the legality of the musical arrangements performed.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 7.7.10

For all District Music contest performances, judges presented with or observing photocopied sheet music without required permissive documentation shall deem the music as illegally copied and shall not allow the performance to begin, continue, or be critiqued and rated.

- 7.7.11 **Memorization.** Memorization is not mandatory for any solos, small or large ensembles.
- 7.7.12 **Accompanying and Directing.**
- 7.7.12.1 Any regular piano accompanist or one chosen by the Contest Director may act as official accompanist. An accompanist is required when an arrangement includes piano accompaniment.
- 7.7.12.2 Students or non-students, including directors, may serve as accompanists. The use of the same accompanist for two or more schools should be avoided to prevent scheduling conflicts.
- 7.7.12.3 Tape-recorded accompaniments are permissible.
- 7.7.12.4 Large ensembles and small ensembles with eight or more members may perform with or without a conductor.
- 7.7.12.5 Directors are not allowed to give vocal assistance to their group, or play with their band or orchestra.
- 7.7.13 **Ratings.**
- 7.7.13.1 Judges will rate contestants both in solo and ensemble as follows:
- Division I
 - Division II
 - Division III
 - Division IV
 - Division V
 - Pluses or minuses will not be used with the ratings. (It will be the Contest Director's responsibility to see that this is understood by the judges before the contest begins).
- 7.7.13.2 Contest directors shall facilitate the return of judges' rating sheets to directors immediately following the close of the contest, but in no case later than seven days following the close of the contest.

7.8 JUDGES

- 7.8.1 **Selection of Judges.** All judges shall be selected and contracted by the Music Committee or it's designate from a list of approved adjudicators compiled by the NSAA. It is recommended that a judge

who has given private instruction to an individual contestant during the current year not be allowed to rate or criticize that individual contestant in contest solo events.

7.8.2 **Number of Judges.** All solos and small ensembles shall be judged by one judge and all large ensembles shall be judged by three judges.

7.8.3 **Regulations and Instructions to Judges:**

- a. All judges shall be expected to become acquainted with and to cooperate with the rules of the contest in rendering fair, accurate and constructive judgment.
- b. All judges shall be expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Judges shall not fraternize with directors or discuss contest performances with unofficial persons. Judges shall not in any way communicate with other judges in large ensemble events during a contest performance.
- c. If contest rules are violated, the judge shall rate the contestant without prejudice but shall make note of the alleged violation on the judge's sheet. It shall be the duty of the District Contest Director to make final ruling on the alleged violation.
- d. Adjudicators shall be guided by the following definitions of ratings:
 1. Division I shall represent an outstanding performance.
 2. Division II shall represent an excellent performance that is outstanding in some respects.
 3. Division III shall represent a good average performance but not outstanding in any respects.
 4. Division IV shall represent a below average performance in most respects.
 5. Division V shall represent a poor performance.
- e. Official judging sheets as supplied by the Nebraska School Activities Association shall be used for all events.

Adjudicators shall submit prepared and rated judging sheets at the finish of each event, or at the finish of each session.

- f. The ratings of the three judges used for concert performance shall be averaged to determine the final rating as follows:

I	II	III	IV	V
1 1 1	1 2 2	1 3 3	1 4 4	1 5 5
1 1 2	1 2 3	1 3 4	1 4 5	2 5 5
1 1 3	1 2 4	1 3 5	2 4 4	3 5 5
1 1 4	1 2 5	2 3 3	2 4 5	4 5 5
1 1 5	2 2 2	2 3 4	3 4 4	5 5 5
	2 2 3	2 3 5	3 4 5	
	2 2 4	3 3 3	4 4 4	
	2 2 5	3 3 4	4 4 5	

7.8.4 **Points of Judging:** Each of the adjudicator's scoring sheets provide for the rating of appropriate solo or ensemble performance elements using the following scoring definitions:

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Point | Consistently Outstanding |
| 2 Points | Strong, occasional inconsistencies |
| 3 Points | Repeatedly inconsistent |
| 4 Points | Consistently Weak |
| 5 Points | Unacceptable |

Adjudicator's scoring sheets comprised of 7-performance elements employ the following rating system to convert the ballot's total points into a final Division Rating:

Total Points	Final Rating
7-10	Division I
11-17	Division II
18-24	Division III
25-31	Division IV
32+	Division V

Adjudicator's scoring sheets comprised of 9-performance elements employ the following rating system to convert the ballot's total points into a final Division Rating:

Total Points	Final Rating
9-13	Division I
14-22	Division II

23-31	Division III
32-40	Division IV
41+	Division V

Adjudicator's scoring sheets comprised of 11-performance elements employ the following rating system to convert the ballot's total points into a final Division Rating:

Total Points	Final Rating
11-16	Division I
17-27	Division II
28-38	Division III
39-49	Division IV
50+	Division V

Appropriate scoring sheet captions for District Music Contest Points of Judging are selected from the following performance elements:

- 7.8.4.1 **Tone.** Beauty of tone along with control, characteristic timbre, maturity, energy, blend and tuning or vibrato where appropriate, of the various instruments/voices and group as a whole.
- 7.8.4.2 **Intonation.** The individual's/group's tonality awareness and pitch center in relation to scales, intervals, chords and unisons - where appropriate.
- 7.8.4.3 **Precision.** The individual's/group's performance accuracy to the printed page: rhythms - note/rest values; bowings; duration, beat - pulse/steadiness; correctness of meters; ensemble feel - where appropriate.
- 7.8.4.4 **Technique.** The individual's/group's performance related to percussion: stickings, rudiments, rolls – rudimental/orchestral, body/hand/instrument positions.
- 7.8.4.5 **Facility.** The individual's/group's ease of performing: fingerings/positions/bowings/shifts/printed notes; articulations; breathing/phrasing; posture; instrumental or vocal dexterity; and attacks/releases.
- 7.8.4.6 **Balance.** The group's harmonious adjustment of volume and timbre between instruments or voices applied to: voices/sections/ensemble, and melodies/harmonies/accompaniments.
- 7.8.4.7 **Expression and Interpretation.** The individual's/group's: phrase shape, style contrasts in tempo/dynamics/articulation, feel for the musical line and textual inflection - where appropriate.
- 7.8.4.8 **Diction.** The individual's/group's overall enunciation with clarity of consonants, purity/naturalness of vowels, diphthongs, syllabic inflection and stylizations.
- 7.8.4.9 **Other Factors.** Additional aesthetic considerations pertinent to the type of solo or ensemble ranging from: choice of music, discipline, stage presence/appearance, poise, feeling of ensemble, arrangements, musical variety, sequencing, pacing, showmanship, energy, facial projection, time/rhythmic feel, fills, back-up, instrumentation, accompaniment, effects, grace, tuning, and memorization – if required.
- 7.8.4.10 **For Directors Only.** Critiques (which should be noted on a page separate from the scoring sheet) shall be directed to the instructor.

7.9 AWARDS

- 7.9.1 Awards to students and groups shall be governed by Article 2.15, Awards to Students and Schools.

Journalism Bylaws—Article 8

8.1 PURPOSE

- 8.1.1 The purpose of the activity of Journalism shall be to establish a closer relationship among high school publications in the state, to furnish an opportunity for the discussion of problems, and to establish standards for high school journalism.

8.2 FEES

- 8.2.1 A school shall indicate its intention to participate in Journalism by paying the annual activity registration fee.

8.3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 8.3.1 An advisory committee composed of high school journalism instructors who are members of the Nebraska High School Press Association shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of the NSAA.
- 8.3.2 The advisory committee shall have power, with the approval of the Executive Director, to designate specific journalism advisors as directors of contests and clinics.

8.4 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- 8.4.1 Participation by students in any journalism contest shall be governed by the Article 2, Bylaws Governing All Activities, except writing for remuneration does not cause ineligibility.
- 8.4.1.1 **Certificate of Eligibility.** Prior to the first date permitted for interschool competition in each activity, each member school shall submit an on-line list of all students participating and eligible to participate in each activity.

8.5 CONTESTS AND CLINICS

- 8.5.1 The Board of Directors may divide the state into divisions for the purpose of district and sub-district meetings and clinics.
- 8.5.2 The advisory committee shall be authorized to arrange for an Interscholastic Journalism Contest and a clinic to be held in connection with the annual convention of the Nebraska High School Press Association.
- 8.5.2.1 The regulations governing such contest and clinic shall be approved by the Executive Director of the NSAA.
- 8.5.3 All other interscholastic contests relating to Journalism shall be approved by the Executive Director of the NSAA.

8.6 CLASSIFICATION

- 8.6.1 Classification shall be based on the enrollment in grades nine, ten, and eleven according to the enrollment figures submitted to the Department of Education on October 1 of the preceding school year.

8.7 AWARDS

- 8.7.1 Awards presented to students and schools shall be governed by award rules Article 2.15, Awards to Students and Schools.

Middle Level Activities Bylaws—Article 9

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

Note: 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.

Note: 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.



2023 - 2024 NSAA School Membership



Schools are listed in alphabetical order by district.

The number with each school is that school's official combined 3-grade enrollment figure for the 2023-2024 school year.

Summary of Districts - School, Total Enrollment

District I - 53 Schools, 17,031 Enrollment
District II - 91 Schools, 41,868 Enrollment
District III - 55 Schools, 6,170 Enrollment

District IV - 59 Schools, 10,400 Enrollment
District V - 24 Schools, 2,055 Enrollment
District VI - 27 Schools, 3,354 Enrollment

DISTRICT I

Aurora	263
Beatrice	507
Bruning-Davenport	34
Centennial	111
College View Academy	52
Crete	530
Deshler	63
Diller-Odell	55
Dorchester	53
Exeter-Milligan	36
Fairbury	190
Fillmore Central	140
Freeman	93
Friend	48
Giltner	50
Hampton	48
Harvard	34
Heartland	77
Johnson County Central	112
Lawrence-Nelson	47
Lewiston	38
Lincoln Christian	194
Lincoln East	1631
Lincoln High	1528
Lincoln Lutheran	91
Lincoln North Star	1488
Lincoln Northeast	1357
Lincoln Northwest	499
Lincoln Pius X	810
Lincoln Southeast	1382
Lincoln Southwest	1581
Lincoln Standing Bear	500
Malcolm	156
McCool Junction	60
Meridian	52
Milford	175
Nebraska Lutheran	47
Norris	583
Parkview Christian	46
Pawnee City	57
Raymond Central	176
Sandy Creek	80
Seward	373
Shickley	31
Southern	89
Sterling	44
Superior	88
Sutton	83
Thayer Central	100
Tri County	104
Waverly	498
Wilber-Clatonia	150
York	397

DISTRICT I - TOTAL 17,031

DISTRICT II

Aquinas Catholic	90
Archbishop Bergan	90
Arlington	169
Ashland-Greenwood	218
Auburn	178
Bellevue East	1024
Bellevue West	1148
Bennington	760
Bishop Neumann	124
Blair	533
Boys Town	184
Cedar Bluffs	82
Clarkson	62
Columbus	961
Columbus Lakeview	234
Conestoga	159
Cornerstone Christian	106
Creighton Preparatory School	715
Cross County	95
David City	142
Douglas County West	227
East Butler	63
Elkhorn	544
Elkhorn North	741
Elkhorn South	1050
Elmwood-Murdock	83
Falls City	170
Falls City Sacred Heart	44
Fort Calhoun	191
Fremont	1230
Fullerton	60
Gretna	1345
Gretna East	600
High Plains Community	54
Howells-Dodge	63
Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer	54
Humphrey	77
Humphrey St. Francis	42
Johnson-Brock	76
Leigh	50
Lindsay Holy Family	13
Logan View	144
Louisville	145
Lourdes Central Catholic	78
Lyons-Decatur Northeast	67
Mead	67
Millard North	1882
Millard South	1932
Millard West	1708
Mount Michael Benedictine	184
Nebraska City	309
North Bend Central	131

DISTRICT II-cont.

Oakland-Craig	103
Omaha Benson	1153
Omaha Brownell Talbot	101
Omaha Bryan	1129
Omaha Buena Vista	721
Omaha Burke	1304
Omaha Central	1952
Omaha Christian Academy	62
Omaha Concordia	224
Omaha Duchesne Academy	241
Omaha Gross Catholic	272
Omaha Marian	444
Omaha Mercy	212
Omaha North	1273
Omaha Northwest	1085
Omaha Roncalli Catholic	269
Omaha Skutt Catholic	530
Omaha South	1859
Omaha Street School	28
Omaha Westside	1555
Omaha Westview	743
Osceola	54
Palmyra	125
Papillion-La Vista	1407
Papillion-La Vista South	1445
Platteview	292
Plattsmouth	376
Quest Forward Academy	71
Ralston	755
Schuyler	463
Scotus Central Catholic	188
Scribner-Snyder	37
Shelby-Rising City	83
Syracuse	164
Tekamah-Herman	117
Twin River	90
Wahoo	256
Weeping Water	79
Yutan	108

DISTRICT II - TOTAL 41,868

DISTRICT III

Ainsworth	87
Allen	38
Bancroft-Rosalie	73
Battle Creek	136
Bloomfield	67
Boone Central	141
Boyd County	80
Chambers	92
Cedar Catholic	18
Creighton	54
Crofton	97
Elgin	42
Elkhorn Valley	103
Emerson-Hubbard	51
Guardian Angels C.C	78
Hartington-Newcastle	74
Homer	89
Keya Paha County	24
Laurel-Concord-Coleridge	102
Lutheran High Northeast	104
Madison	121
Neligh-Oakdale	68
Newman Grove	39
Niobrara	40
Norfolk	988
Norfolk Catholic	109
Omaha Nation	115
ONeill	191
Osmond	42
Pender	76
Pierce	180
Plainview	61
Ponca	96
Pope John	29
Randolph	50
Riverside	57
Rock County	46
Santee	37
South Sioux City	839
St. Edward	44
St. Mary's	41
Stanton	99
Stuart	44
Summerland	83
Verdigre	38
Wakefield	126
Walthill	67
Wausa	58
Wayne	223
West Holt	102
West Point-Beemer	175
Winnebago	141
Winside	53
Wisner-Pilger	94
Wynot	48
DISTRICT III - TOTAL	6,170

DISTRICT IV

Adams Central	207
Amherst	94
Anselmo-Merna	46
Ansley	33
Arcadia	24
Arnold	38
Arthur County	29
Brady	50
Broken Bow	182
Burwell	64
Callaway	47
Central City	173
Central Valley	57
Centura	105
Cozad	186
Doniphan-Trumbull	107
Elba	26
Elm Creek	65
Gibbon	114
Gothenburg	187
Grand Island	2050
Grand Island C.C.	119
Hastings	761
Hastings St. Cecilia	83
Heartland Lutheran	51
Hershey	127
Kearney	1245
Kearney Catholic	166
Kenesaw	67
Lexington	681
Litchfield	23
Loup City	66
Loup County	25
Maxwell	78
McPherson County	19
Nebraska Christian	73
North Platte	892
North Platte St. Pat's	81
Northwest	506
Ogallala	226
Ord	134
Overton	55
Palmer	56
Paxton	54
Perkins County	91
Pleasanton	68
Ravenna	84
Sandhills	16
Sargent	45
Shelton	46
Silver Lake	55
Spalding Academy	15
St. Paul	154
Stapleton	48
Sumner-Eddyville-Miller	60
Sutherland	76
Wallace	37
Wheeler Central	19
Wood River	114
DISTRICT IV - TOTAL	10,400

DISTRICT V

Alma	78
Arapahoe	73
Axtell	66
Bertrand	56
Blue Hill	69
Cambridge	68
Chase County	154
Dundy County Stratton	55
Elwood	42
Eustis-Farnam	38
Franklin	54
Hayes Center	24
Hitchcock County	56
Holdrege	232
Loomis	60
Maywood	37
McCook	315
Medicine Valley	45
Minden	205
Red Cloud	49
Southern Valley	76
Southwest	75
Wauneta-Palisade	51
Wilcox-Hildreth	51
DISTRICT V - TOTAL	2,055

DISTRICT VI

Alliance	302
Banner County	32
Bayard	92
Bridgeport	99
Chadron	218
Cody-Kilgore	40
Crawford	35
Creek Valley	38
Garden County	50
Gering	455
Gordon-Rushville	102
Hay Springs	47
Hemingford	80
Hyannis	31
Kimball	78
Leyton	49
Minatare	40
Mitchell	133
Morrill	84
Mullen	40
Potter-Dix	44
Scottsbluff	829
Sidney	278
Sioux County	24
South Platte	58
Thedford	30
Valentine	139
DISTRICT VI - TOTAL	3,354