FLORIDA
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

OFFICIALS REGULATIONS

2026-2027



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General Rules and Policies for Associations

Policy 1
Sanctioning of Local Officials Associations

1.1 Sanctioning is Mandatory. Each local official's association must submit a new or renewing application each year with the FHSAA Office utilizing the online web form via the FHSAA website. A local officials association which fails to submit a new or renewing application with the FHSAA Office, or to which sanctioning is denied, will not be permitted to assign officials to athletic contests in which FHSAA member schools participate.
1.1.1 A list of sanctioned local officials' associations will be sent each school year to FHSAA member schools. Member schools may contract only with those officials' associations sanctioned by the FHSAA Office.
1.1.2 Proposed new local officials' associations may not contact member schools regarding contracts for contests until sanctioned by the FHSAA Office.

1.2 Request for New or Additional Sanctioning. Associations that were not sanctioned by the FHSAA in the preceding school year may be considered for sanctioning by the FHSAA if the association meets the following criteria:
1.2.1 Must successfully demonstrate in writing to the FHSAA the need for the sanctioning of a new association in its geographic area.
1.2.2 Must properly complete and return to the FHSAA Office an Application for Sanctioning as a Local Officials Association after satisfying Policy 1.2.1.
1.2.3 If granted approval, the association is required to have a distinctive name (i.e., one that is not already in use or too similar to that of a sanctioned local association) and must submit a proposed constitution and bylaws. These documents must include provisions for:

- Election of officers
- Establishment of committees
- Recruitment of new and minority officials
- Training of member officials
- Procedures for assigning member officials to contests
- Procedures for recommending member officials for State Series assignments
- A process for addressing grievances submitted by member officials

Note: The proposed constitution and bylaws must receive approval from the FHSAA Office and are subject to review every five (5) years.

1.2.4 Must provide the FHSAA Office with a copy of the association's IRS letter showing the association's name and taxpayer identification number assigned to that name, along with an IRS Form W-9.
1.2.5 Must submit their list of prospective members. Such prospective members shall not presently be "primary" members of any other viable local official's association sanctioned by the FHSAA.
1.2.6 Consideration for sanctioning will not be forthcoming until the FHSAA has received a sufficient number of Applications for Registration as a Contest Official from individuals listing

the applying association as their primary association, such that the applicant association's membership will meet or exceed the FHSAA's minimum membership requirements set forth in Policy 1.4. Applying associations that do not meet the minimum membership requirement in a specific sport by the date set by the FHSAA shall not receive final approval of sanctioning in that sport. In the event final sanctioning is withheld, individuals who listed the applying association as their primary association will be asked to re-designate their choice of local association for the affected sport.

1.3 Renewal of Existing Sanctioning. Local associations sanctioned by the FHSAA in the preceding school year, may renew their sanctioning, provided they are in good standing with the FHSAA. The local association must meet the following criteria:

1.3.1 Properly complete the online renewal process. No members of a local association may register until the association is renewed by the association president.

1.3.2 Submit to the FHSAA Office a copy of the IRS letter showing the association's name and taxpayer identification number assigned to that name, a current IRS Form W9, and a current copy of its constitution and bylaws.

1.3.3 The total number of member officials in the sport(s) for which an association is requesting renewal of sanctioning must meet or exceed the FHSAA's minimum membership requirements as set forth in Policy 1.4. Associations that do not meet the minimum membership requirement in a specific sport will not be sanctioned in that sport.

1.4 Minimum Membership Requirements. To receive and/or renew a sanction for a given sport, local officials' associations must meet the following minimum membership requirements:

a) Baseball, Basketball, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball and Water Polo - 10 officials
b) Football - 25 officials
c) Wrestling - 5 official

1.4.1 Local associations are sanctioned on a "by sport" basis, and membership totals in each sport will be computed as described in Policy 1.4.2.

1.4.2 For sanctioning purposes, total membership in an association shall be defined as the total number of officials registered with the FHSAA who have designated the association as their primary local association in the specific sport(s) for which an association is sanctioned. This total shall be computed by the FHSAA after the administration date of the examination in each sport and be the basis for renewal decisions for the next school year. Officials affiliated with an association on a secondary basis shall not be counted as part of an association's total membership. Officials registered with an association in one sport shall not be counted in another sport unless they also are registered in that sport.

1.4.3 Insurance. To conduct business as an FHSAA sanctioned officials' association, the following coverage is required:

1.4.3.1 General Liability. General liability provides protection against lawsuits involving bodily injury or property damage. A policy that has a minimum coverage of $1,000,000 per occurrence and $2,000,000 aggregate per year is required. This type of policy is the one most important to protect your business and is required by many school districts and other public agencies to use their facilities for a meeting or clinic. If an officials' association is going to host their own clinics, they must have this type of insurance. They

will be asked to provide a certificate of insurance and name the property owner (usually a school) as "an additional insured."

1.4.3.1.1 Optional Insurance. These insurances are recommended but optional.

a) **Crime Insurance.** Crime insurance provides protection against financial loss caused by the dishonest disappearance of money, securities, or negotiable instruments. This Crime Insurance Plan includes coverage for loss by theft or forgery by an officer or volunteer. Examples of covered losses under this plan are the loss or dishonest disappearance of:
   i. Money or securities in the league treasury
   ii. Money collected from fund raising activities
   iii. Money set aside for the purchase of uniforms and equipment

b) **Directors and Officers Insurance.** This provides protection for claims arising out of allegations of errors, omissions or wrongful acts committed by its directors, officers, employees, or volunteers. This coverage will respond to allegations of discrimination against a third party, acts beyond granted authority, failure to deliver services, wrongful dismissal, and wrongful employment practices. Defense costs are paid in addition to the limit of liability.

Policy 2

Obligations of Officials Associations

The FHSAA has assigned the following obligations to each local official's association.

2.1 Education of Member Officials. Each local official's association is responsible for educating FHSAA officials in the rules of the sport in which they will officiate. It is important that each FHSAA official has a thorough knowledge of the rules before he/she officiates his/her first contest and takes the FHSAA rules examination.

2.2 Training of Member Officials. Each local official's association must hold a minimum of two training sessions for its member officials during the regular season in each sport. These training sessions should focus on the application of the rules to specific situations and mechanics.

2.2.1 Per FHSAA Policy 18.5, an official's association may host officials training clinics with its contracted member schools during the specific sport season.

2.2.1.1 The official's association is responsible for inviting its contracted member schools to participate in the officials training clinic.

2.2.1.2 The officials association shall retain full authority over the planning, coordination, organization, and conduct of such clinics.

2.2.1.3 The officials association shall request approval to host such a clinic, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, a minimum of five (5) business days prior to the clinic date.

2.2.2 Each association must offer its contracted schools at least one training session at which the school's athletic director and/or head coach may attend to hear and discuss the sport's new and emphasized rules.

2.2.3 Violation of this policy could result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 per

occurrence and/or other sanctions to the member school and/or the officials association.

2.3 Distribution of Materials. Each local officials' association will receive a mailing consisting of cards, rulebooks as well as other materials deemed necessary from the FHSAA. It is the responsibility of the local association to distribute this material to its primary members.

2.4 Changes in Membership. Local associations are responsible for informing the FHSAA of any changes to, or discrepancies on, the muster reports (membership lists) that the FHSAA provides to the local association. This information should be provided to the FHSAA as soon as possible. Local association membership lists should exactly match the FHSAA's association muster reports. Officials have up until two (2) weeks after their sports registration deadline has passed to change associations.

2.5 Committees

2.5.1 Committees are Mandatory. Each local official's association is required to have an evaluation, assignment, recommendations, grievance, and education/training committee. These committees exist to ensure that each local official's association operates in a fair and democratic manner which is in the best interests of its member officials. Any exception to the committee as established herein must be approved in writing by the FHSAA Office.

2.5.2 Composition of Committees.

a) Neither an executive board member nor the assignment officer (booking commissioner) may serve as a voting member of any committee established herein, except for the recommendation committee.
b) The assignment officer (booking commissioner) may serve on the recommendation committee as a voting member.
c) Only one of these officers may serve on a committee in an ex-officio capacity.
d) No member may serve on more than one committee.
e) An executive board member must recuse himself/herself if he/she is party to or otherwise involved in an appeal.
f) Committees must consist of three or five members.
g) Committees shall be selected/appointed based on the local association's Articles of Incorporation.

2.6 Responsibilities of Committees.

2.6.1 Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee is responsible for setting up the process and selecting individuals who will assist with the evaluation of member officials within the local officials' association. Each official with two or more years of experience should be evaluated at least once during each season. First-year officials should be evaluated periodically throughout the season. Mini clinics may be offered, if necessary, to re-enforce good officiating skills.

2.6.2 Assignment Committee. The Assignment Committee is responsible for overseeing the entire contest assignment procedure within the local officials' association. This includes ensuring compliance with requirements on the composition of officiating crews, reviewing and approving each member official's schedule of assigned contests and making the assigning officer aware of any corrections that need to be made before the assignment schedule is submitted to the membership.

It is not implied that the Assignment Committee is to make assignments.

2.6.3 Recommendations Committee. The Recommendations Committee is responsible for reviewing the evaluations of each member's official during the regular season. This committee is also responsible for preparing and submitting to the FHSAA Office a list of member officials who deserve consideration for assignment to State Series contests. If the assignment official (booking commissioner) is not on the committee as a voting member then the recommendation committee should work with the assignment official (booking commissioner) to prepare and submit to the FHSAA, the list of member officials who deserve to be considered for assignment to State Series contests.

2.6.4 Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee is responsible for hearing complaints and appeals made or brought by one or more of its member officials. Member officials who have grievances because of penalties may appeal under the provisions of the local official's association's constitution and bylaws.

2.6.5 Education and Training Committee. The Education and Training Committee is responsible for the planning, content, and implementation of training sessions, including on-the-field/court training. This also includes educating local officials on FHSAA policies and procedures, NFHS rules and mechanics, and developing a curriculum that is current and effective in both content and methodology.

General Standards and Expectations for Officials

- Demonstrate integrity, professionalism, and impartiality at all times.
- Enforce rules consistently, confidently, and fairly.
- Maintain knowledge of rules, mechanics, and procedures.
- Promote sportsmanship and respect for education-based athletics.
- Treat athletes, coaches, administrators, spectators, and fellow officials with respect.
- Communicate professionally and effectively.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials and event personnel.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and improper influence.
- Honor all assignments and contractual obligations.
- Arrive on time, prepared, and properly equipped.
- Maintain professional appearance and conduct.
- Prepare physically and mentally for each contest.
- Exercise sound judgment and emotional control.
- Prioritize the safety and welfare of student-athletes.
- Address unsafe conditions and emergency situations appropriately.
- Refrain from abusive, inappropriate, or confrontational behavior.
- Use social media responsibly and professionally.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding association and contest matters.
- Accept feedback and pursue continual improvement.
- Uphold the integrity and public trust of the officiating profession.
- Comply with all association policies, procedures, and ethical standards.

Policy 3

Authority of the FHSAA

3.1 FHSAA Bylaw 8.9.2 authorizes the Board of Directors to establish policies and procedures for the registration.

3.2 Individual officials or local officials' associations that violate the policies expressed in this Officials Regulations are subject to reprimand, probation, monetary penalties, and/or suspension or expulsion as an individual official or officials' association by the FHSAA.

Policy 4
Registration of Officials

4.1 Registration is Mandatory. An individual who intends to officiate as either a baseball umpire, basketball official, football official or clock operator, flag football official, lacrosse official, soccer official, softball umpire, swimming & diving official, track & field official, volleyball official, water polo referee, and/or wrestling referee in an interscholastic athletic contest involving an FHSAA member school must register with the FHSAA Office everyyear before he/she officiates.
4.1.1 Applications can be completed via the Officials Central Hub www.fhsaa.arbitersports.com.
4.1.2 To qualify for the early registration fee discount applications must be finalized by the designated deadlines.
4.1.3 Registration for the current year will not be accepted in the FHSAA Office after the administration date of the examination in the sport for which application is being made, with the exception of officials transferring from another state and have already taken the rules exam.

4.2 Requirements for Registration. To be registered as an official an individual must:
a) Be 19 years of age or older (for exception, see Policy 4.5).
b) Register via the FHSAA's approved process.
c) Pay the appropriate non-refundable and non-transferable registration fee, as well as any assessed late fee and any outstanding fines and/or penalty fee for all previously registered sports.
d) Join and maintain membership in a local officials' association which has been sanctioned by the FHSAA Office.
e) Certify that you have never been arrested for or convicted of a felony, or any crime involving dishonesty, illegal substances, or immoral conduct. You must also not have been denied officiating registration by the FHSAA or any other state's high school association.
    i. If you have been arrested or convicted of a felony, provide a police or court report detailing the reason, date, and resolution, along with a reference letter from a judicial or local officials association officer.
    ii. Falsification or failure to disclose this information on your FHSAA application will result in a five-year suspension, with possible membership termination.
    iii. FHSAA officials must comply with the Jessica Lunsford Act, requiring a Level 2 background screening to check against state and national sexual offender databases. Some counties may have stricter Level 2 screening requirements. Failure to obtain this screening after

notification may lead to a five-year suspension and possible membership termination.

4.3 An individual official who has an outstanding balance with the FHSAA as a result of unpaid registration fees, monetary fines or penalties, or other assessed fees shall not be permitted to renew his/her registration until the outstanding balance has been paid in full.

4.4 An individual official who has been suspended or expelled from officiating by the FHSAA shall not be permitted to renew his/her registration until the individual's period of suspension has lapsed or he/she has been reinstated.

4.5 Individuals who are between the ages of 16-18 years of age may register as a "student official" and be assigned to a "mentor" official for training.
4.5.1 Student officials will be allowed to register at a reduced fee of $10 per sport while an active student official.
4.5.2 Student officials will be allowed to work middle school (6th-8th grades), junior high contests (8th-9th grades) and non-varsity contests once registered.
4.5.3 Student officials may not officiate for the middle school in which the student official attended.

4.6 The FHSAA Office reserves the right to reject any application for registration as an FHSAA official. Local officials' association officers and/or boards of directors are required to report criminal misconduct on the part of any member of their association to the FHSAA Office for investigation.

4.7 The individual must indicate during his/her registration process the name of the association of which he/she is a member.
4.7.1 An individual who is not a member of a sanctioned local officials association will not be able to be a FHSAA Official. An individual cannot contract with or otherwise offer his/her services to a member school as an independent official.

4.8 An individual may join and maintain membership in more than one local official's association. However, for administrative purposes, the individual must designate one local official's association as his/her "primary" association for each registered sport.
4.8.1 Individuals may join additional local associations on a secondary basis. An official must advise his/her primary association of his/her secondary association affiliations and vice versa. However, the individual official is responsible for providing any associations of which he/she is a member on a secondary basis with information regarding exam grades and current status with the FHSAA.
4.8.2 The individual official is responsible for providing his/her primary association with the number of varsity games officiated as assigned by his/her secondary association(s) prior to the deadline for filing that report with the FHSAA.

4.9 Termination Date of Registration. All registrations terminate June 30 each year regardless of the date the application for registration is made and accepted.

4.10 Officials Not Employed by FHSAA. Individuals registering as FHSAA officials do so as independent contractors and not as employees of either the member schools or the FHSAA.
4.10.1 Schools must contract with FHSAA sanctioned officials' associations for officials as individual contractors and not as school or FHSAA employees.

4.11 Registration Fees. Registration fees must be paid at the time of registration to the FHSAA Office. Officials may pay fees by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) online. Registration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Registration fees for the 2026-27 school year are as follows:
4.11.1 The fee to officiate one sport is $70—this appears in the system as a $15 registration fee and a $55 sport fee.
4.11.2 Each additional sport will be an additional $55.
4.11.2.1 The $55 registration fee for each additional sport after the first sport is available only to those individuals who register for more than one sport during the same school year.
4.11.3 Officials submitting registration after the established deadline shall be assessed a late registration fee of $30 per sport.
4.12 Insurance. The registration fee covers individual insurance. This coverage provides an accident and health package for the individual referee's injury as well as a personal liability policy to protect the individual official from lawsuit involving their work as an official.
4.12.1 Certificates of insurance are not provided, nor can any other person or business be named as an additional insured.

4.13 Supplies. Registered officials will receive a National Federation rules book & case book if published by the NFHS. Officials will also receive a subscription to the NFHS Network.
4.13.1 Officials may receive rule books, case books and other materials through their primary local associations.

4.14 Cancellation of Registration. An official who registers with the FHSAA and who, during the same school year, is unable to continue to work as a contest official, must cancel that registration in writing to the FHSAA Office before the sport specific rules examination deadline to avoid fines for not taking the FHSAA rules examination.
4.14.1 All financial obligations to the FHSAA outstanding at the time of cancellation must be cleared. Officials canceling their registration will not receive credit for experience or games officiated in the sport in which registration is being canceled.
4.14.2 Application fees for canceled registrations will not be refunded. Officials canceling their registrations in a given year are encouraged to register again in subsequent years as their individual situations permit.
4.14.3 Officials are not required to register with the FHSAA in a given year if they do not intend to officiate during that year.

4.15 Membership in Other Organizations. The FHSAA does not require its registered officials to join or maintain membership in any organization other than a sanctioned local officials association. However, membership in such outside organizations is permissible provided:

a) The organization does not have guidelines, regulations, policies, or procedures which conflict with those of the FHSAA; and
b) The organization does not practice discrimination.

4.15.1 Business unrelated to the FHSAA officials' program, such as recreational or youth league assignments shall not be a part of the agenda for any FHSAA-related meeting conducted by a local officials' association. The assignment of officials to officiate FHSAA athletic events shall not be influenced in any way by assignments to work non-FHSAA events.

Policy 5

State Series Passes

5.1 A registered contest official may purchase an FHSAA State Series Pass via the FHSAA's approved process. This pass will admit the bearer only to all district, regional and FHSAA Finals state championship games, tournaments and meets in all sports sanctioned by the FHSAA during a school year.

5.1.1 This pass is not valid at any preseason or regular season event. State Series pass holders must sign in at the pass gate, provide proper photo identification and record the pass number.

5.1.2 State Series Passes are non-refundable and non-transferable. Abuse of a State Series Pass will result in its confiscation. State Series Passes are not valid for students or for individuals under the age of 18. State Series gates are open through half-time only.

Policy 6

Online Examinations

6.1 Rules Examinations. Each FHSAA official, with the exception of Football Clock Operators and student officials, must take the FHSAA online rules examination in the sport(s) in which he or she is registered each year.

6.2 At the end of the examination cycle in each sport, officials who fail to take the mandatory FHSAA rules examination in the sport(s) for which they are registered shall be suspended, effective immediately, from officiating at any level for the sport in which the exam was not completed.

6.3 FHSAA will not accept any waivers for not completing the rules exam.

6.4 The local official's association which each official designates as his/her primary local association will be notified of the official's grade via muster reports generated through the Arbiter reports. Secondary local associations must consult with primary local associations as to the status of secondary members. Grades will be available through the online testing center but will not be given to individual officials over the telephone or via e-mail.

6.5 An official who is found guilty of cheating on rules examinations will receive a grade of zero on the examination, be placed on probation for one year and receive a fine of $100.

6.6 Individuals who register online may view their test scores via the online testing center after all rule's examinations have been graded.

6.7 Required Exam Score to Officiate Varsity Contest. In order for an FHSAA official to officiate varsity level contests, the official must receive a grade of 75 or higher on the current year FHSAA online rules examination in the applicable sport.

6.7.1 Any official who does not take the regularly scheduled FHSAA online rules examination will receive a grade of zero and will be ineligible to officiate varsity level contests during the current school year, or sub-varsity contests.
6.7.2 Local officials' associations may not assign officials who are not in compliance with this provision to officiate varsity or sub-varsity level contests.

6.8 If, for any reason, the FHSAA Office is unable to grade the current year rules examination prior to the start of a sports season, the grade an official received on the previous year's rules examination will be used to determine his/her eligibility to officiate a varsity level contest until such time as the cur- rent year grades become available or until the FHSAA announces an effective date.

6.9 An official who fails to post an exam score prior to the initial exam deadline for the online exam will lose their eligibility until the exam is completed.

6.10 There will be two windows to complete the exam.
a) If the exam is completed during the first exam window officials will meet the testing requirement to be eligible for postseason.
b) If the exam is completed during the second window officials will only be eligible up through the district tournament.

6.11 Penalties. Individual officials and officials' associations which violate the provisions of Policy 6 will be subject to monetary penalties, possible denial of registration, and sanction for the following school year until all monetary penalties have been paid.

Policy 7
Rules of Conduct

The following provisions are rules of conduct by which all FHSAA officials are expected to abide. A violation of any one of these provisions may subject an offending official to a monetary penalty, suspension as an official, or both.

7.1 All FHSAA officials must conduct themselves on and off the athletic field/court in a manner conducive to the best interests of the FHSAA, its member schools and the interscholastic athletic program in general. No FHSAA official may pursue a course of action which is detrimental to the welfare of the FHSAA or its member schools.

7.2 All FHSAA officials must comply with all FHSAA guidelines, regulations, policies, and procedures as contained in this Officials Regulations.

7.3 All FHSAA officials must be neatly dressed in the appropriate uniform as prescribed in this Officials Regulations, and project a physically fit appearance, when officiating a contest involving an FHSAA member school.

7.4 All FHSAA officials must arrive on time for the contest as required by the rules of the applicable sport.

7.5 All FHSAA officials should be in good physical condition, mentally ready to officiate the best possible contest and be fully cognizant of the sport's rules. Officials are expected to make each call as they see it without fear or favor, regardless of the score, and to hustle at all times.

7.6 No FHSAA official may officiate a contest involving a school in all the following stipulations within the last four (4) years:
a) His/her child or immediate relative attends or previously attended
b) The official himself/herself and/or a relative works or worked
c) The official attended, graduated, or coached

7.7 No FHSAA official may officiate a varsity district contest in which the official currently serves as a coach at a school in that particular district.

7.8 No FHSAA official may cancel a contract made between his/her local officials association and a member school or violate any provisions thereof without a reason that is satisfactory to the FHSAA.

7.9 No FHSAA official may arrive or appear at the contest site with the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his/her breath.

7.10 No FHSAA official may use tobacco, tobacco-like or vaping products during the contest or in the vicinity of the athletic court or field.

7.11 No FHSAA official may engage in unsporting conduct.

7.12 No FHSAA official may refuse to officiate any contest with another FHSAA official because that same other FHSAA official is or is not also a registered member of a national or international officials' organization.

7.13 No FHSAA official may officiate a contest or part of a contest which is classified as an "exhibition," "practice game," or "alumni game" including one or more-member schools. Such games are prohibited by FHSAA Bylaws. This provision, however, does not preclude an FHSAA official from officiating an intra-squad contest or scrimmage in which all participants are students at the same one school.

7.14 Officials shall not post, share, or distribute content that is obscene, discriminatory, harassing, threatening, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate. Officials shall not publicly criticize, ridicule, or demean student-athletes, coaches, schools, administrators, fellow officials, or the association.

7.15 Officials shall avoid online conduct that creates the appearance of bias, favoritism, or conflict of interest.

7.16 All officials must go to a dressing facility or secluded area provided by the school during

halftime and not discuss any calls made previously in the contest to anyone who is not a part of the officiating crew. Additionally, once the contest has concluded, the officials are to vacate the playing area immediately. The officials are not to monitor post-game activities like handshakes. The administrators at the schools are to monitor those activities.
7.17 The use of electronic devices by an FHSAA contest official during a contest is prohibited unless specifically authorized or required by the applicable NFHS playing rules or FHSAA sport administrative procedures.

Policy 8
Injury Guidelines

8.1 Student-Athlete Injury Guidelines. The following guidelines are to be followed in the event an athlete is injured during a contest. These guidelines are for the protection of the injured athlete and the official(s).
8.1.1 Coaches and medical personnel must be aware that some sports rules will require officials to charge the injured athlete's team with a timeout.
8.1.2 Coaches and medical personnel should be allowed to enter the field or court and should be given unlimited time to evaluate an injury and give emergency care. Officials should not request that coaches move an injured athlete.
8.1.3 The officials' only role in dealing with athletic injuries is to stop play as soon as possible so that the injured athlete can receive attention as soon as possible. Officials must not offer medical advice or take any action to manage or treat any injury.
8.1.4 Suspected Concussions. The NFHS concussion rule calls for the immediate removal of the participant from the contest or practice. Contest officials must be cognizant of athletes who display signs, symptoms, or behaviors of a concussion (see NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion) and immediately stop play for injury evaluation by school personnel within the rules of the game.
8.1.4.1 The responsibility of the contest official is limited to activities that occur on the field, court, or mat. Once the participant has been removed from a contest due to a suspected concussion, the coach, school, and appropriate healthcare professional(s) assume full responsibility for that athlete's further evaluation and safety.

8.2 Official Injury Guidelines. The annual official's insurance summary can be found on the FHSAA Central Hub.
8.2.1 All injuries must be reported to the FHSAA Officials Department within 24 hours of the incident using the Official Injury Report Form (AT6-INJ), available on the FHSAA Central Hub.
8.2.1.1 If unable to submit electronically, please email a member of the FHSAA Officials Department within 24 hours of the incident.

Policy 9
Membership of Local Association

9.1 Requirement of Membership. All FHSAA officials must join and maintain membership in a local official's association which has been sanctioned by the FHSAA Office. Individual officials may not contract with or otherwise offer their services to member schools.

9.2 Refusal of Membership. Each local official's association must afford membership to any FHSAA official in good standing who requests to join the sanctioned local officials' association. Membership to an FHSAA official in good standing may not be refused. Any official denied membership must be shown documentation for the denial.

9.3 Conditional Membership for First-Time Officials. Only registered FHSAA officials, in good standing, may be given membership in a local officials' association. However, individuals who have applied for registration to the FHSAA Office for the first time may request and must be allowed to join a local officials association on a conditional basis until the individual has been approved by the FHSAA Office.

9.4 Administration and Governance. Each local officials' association shall adopt bylaws establishing its organizational structure and governance. These bylaws shall not be in conflict with any provision of FHSAA bylaws, guidelines, regulations, policies, or procedures.
9.4.1 An individual official who has been placed on probation by the FHSAA shall not be eligible for election or appointment to any office within the local officials' association until his/her period of probation has expired or has been rescinded.

Policy 10
Assigning Officials

10.1 Regular Season Contest
10.1.1 Must be Made by Assignment Officer. The assignment of each member official to regular season contests (events that do not require FHSAA and/or NFHS sanctioning) must be made by the local officials' association's assignment officer and approved by the association's Assignment Committee before being issued to the member official.

10.1.2 Criteria to be Followed in Making Assignments. The criteria to be followed in assigning a member official to a regular season contest are:
a) The qualifications and ability of the official as determined by his/ her FHSAA ranking, the official's performance on the most recent FHSAA rules examination, and evaluations of the official made by the local official's association.
b) No official may be assigned to work more than two home football games during a season for the same one team or more than four home games during a season for the same one team in any other sport.
c) If a local officials association permits a school with which it is contracted to scratch or otherwise request that a particular official not be assigned to officiate its contests, the assignment officer must not assign that official to that school's home contests.

10.1.3 Assignments giving preference to a particular school or official are prohibited.
10.1.4 Crews assigned to officiate varsity level boys' and girls' contests must have one official with four or more years' experience (Rank 1 or 2) unless a Rank 3 official is evaluated to be exceptional.
10.1.4.1 The assignment of the referee for football should be a Rank 1 or Rank 2 official with a minimum of five years of FHSAA experience or its interscholastic equivalent.
10.1.5 Crews assigned to officiate junior varsity contests must have a minimum of one Rank 1 or Rank 2 official.

10.2 District Tournament/Meet

10.2.1 Must be Made by Assignment Officer. The assignment of officials to officiate a district tournament/meet (with the exceptions of swimming & diving and track & field) must be made by the assignment officer of the local officials' association to which the official belongs and approved by the Assignment Committee, according to the following procedure:

10.2.1.1 The principal of the district coordinator school should submit to the assignment officer of the appropriate local officials' association a list of officials who have been selected by the coaches present at the district meeting to officiate their district tournament/meet.

10.2.1.2 If the official selected by a particular district already has been assigned to other district tournaments/meets, the assignment officer may assign other officials from his/her association to officiate the district tournament/ meet. If, however, the officials selected by a particular district were specifically requested in writing by the district and those officials are unavailable, the assignment officer must notify the district coordinator of their unavailability.

10.2.2 Criteria to be followed in Making Assignments. Criteria to be followed in assigning a member official to officiate a district tournament/meet are as follows:

10.2.2.1 Requires the recommendation of coaches in each district.

10.2.2.2 The qualifications and ability of the official as determined by his/her FHSAA ranking, the official's performance on the most recent FHSAA rules examination (must have a minimum score of 80) and evaluations of the official made by the local officials' association.

10.3 Regional & State Tournament/Meet. The assignment of officials to officiate a regional and state tournament or meet will be made by the FHSAA Office. These assignments may or may not be made from the list of officials compiled by the association's Recommendations Committee as required in Policy 10.3.1 with the exceptions of swimming & diving and track & field.

10.3.1 The Recommendations Committee within each local officials' association must compile and submit by the prescribed deadline to the FHSAA Office a list of member officials who deserve consideration for assignment to a regional tournament contest or state tournament contest. This list of recommended officials must be approved by majority vote of the local officials' association membership prior to its submission to the FHSAA Office.

10.3.2 Officials may only be on one association's recommendation list. It is the responsibility of the official to notify his/her association which association he or she wishes to officiate for during the state series.

10.3.3 Criteria to be followed in Making Assignments. Those officials in each sport who have met the following criteria will be given priority consideration for selection to officiate State Series contests:

a) Officials who are classified by the FHSAA as Rank 1 or Rank 2 in that sport.
b) Officials who were selected to officiate a district tournament contest in that sport.
c) Officials who have scored "80" or above on the FHSAA rules examination for that sport.
d) Officials who are recommended to the FHSAA Office by the local official's association to which they belong. The FHSAA Office may request the local association to submit a copy of the official's regular season evaluation for recommended officials.

10.4 Payment of Fees for State Series Contest. The host member school will be notified of the appropriate fees to be paid to officials assigned to officiate State Series contests at the regional level. Payment of fees for officials' services must be issued to the local officials' association to which the official belongs to. Checks issued to officials' associations for payment of state series

games may be presented to the crew at the game site or mailed immediately to the association's address.

Policy 11
Officials Advisory Committee

11.1 Responsibilities of the Committee. The FHSAA has established three Officials Advisory Committee (Fall Sports, Winter Sports, and Spring Sports) to advise the Board of Directors on matters pertaining to the officials' community. Each committee shall meet annually to make such recommendations and forward such comments as it deems appropriate to the FHSAA Board of Directors.

11.2 Nomination of Candidates. Candidates for election to the Officials Advisory Committee must be FHSAA officials in good standing, be registered in the same sport as the seat for which they are being nominated and be nominated by their primary local official's association. Each local officials' association may nominate one official for each sport in which they are sanctioned by the FHSAA. No official may be nominated in more than one sport.
11.2.1 Local associations are ineligible to nominate a candidate for the Officials Advisory Committee in a particular sport if they currently have a member from their association serving on the Officials Advisory Committee in that sport.
11.2.1.1 A member of a particular officials' association may not succeed another member of the same officials' association in the same sport.
11.2.2 No official may succeed himself/herself as a member of the Officials Advisory Committee, in a particular sport.
11.2.3 Officials nominated by their local association for election to the Officials Advisory Committee will not be placed on the ballot if they are not properly registered and in good standing with the FHSAA at the time the ballot is prepared or if their nomination does not meet one or more of the other provisions of the section.

11.3 Conduct of Elections. Elections will be held online every three years on a rotational basis by sectional representation. Odd sections will be held on odd years and even sections will be held on even years.
11.3.1 Each official is entitled to vote for one representative in the sport in which he/she officiates.
11.3.2 All committee members shall be elected by those officials who are registered and in good standing in that sport.
11.3.3 The candidate(s) with the most votes in each sport shall be declared the winner(s).
11.3.4 Pursuant to FHSAA Policy 19.2.5, should a vacancy occur in any seat with an unexpired term on an advisory committee, the Executive Director shall appoint a qualified individual from the group represented to fill the vacant seat for the duration of the term.

11.4 Length of Terms. Each elected official will serve a term of three (3) years. To ensure that the terms of the members of the Officials Advisory Committee do not all expire in the same year, terms will be staggered.

Policy 12
The Coach-Official Conference

12.1 Calls Based on Rules. The assignment of each member official to regular season contests (events that do not require FHSAA and/or NFHS sanctioning) must be made by the local officials' association's assignment officer and approved by the association's Assignment Committee before being issued to the member official.

12.1.1 Procedure for Conducting Conference. A conference requested by a coach or by a team captain on behalf of the head coach to discuss rule enforcement should be conducted according to the following procedure:

a) The coach or team captain must request a time-out when the rules governing the contest allow.
b) The coach or team captain must inform the referee or umpire-in- chief that he/she requests a conference at the sideline to discuss a rule.
c) The referee or umpire-in-chief must honor such requests.
d) The rule in question should be briefly and courteously discussed and the correct decision should be reached.
e) The referee or umpire-in-chief must correct all errors if errors are made, providing they are correctable according to the rules governing the contest.
f) The contest should be resumed without delay.

12.2 Judgement Calls. Conference to discuss a judgment call are prohibited.

12.2.1 A judgment call on the part of an official is not subject to question or discussion. No conference to discuss a judgment call may be granted by an official.

12.2.2 An official must refrain from discussing a judgement call made during a contest with coaches and players.

12.3 Media Communication. An official must refrain from discussing any calls made during a contest with spectators and members of the media at any time.

Policy 13

Disqualifications (Ejections) of Athletes and Coaches

13.1 Sportsmanship and Unsporting Conduct (Policy 30). Student athletes, coaches, administrators, spectators, and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship and the ethics of competition before, during and after all contests in which they participate and/or attend.

13.2 Procedure for Disqualification of an Athlete. An FHSAA official must adhere to the following procedure when disqualifying (ejecting) an athlete from a contest:

a) Call time out. Stop the action.
b) Do not hurry. Go directly to the head coach and clearly notify the head coach directly that the player is disqualified (ejected). Provide both the athlete and the head coach with a statement of explanation as to why the athlete is disqualified (ejected). Be professional, courteous, and assertive. Do not debate the issue with the coach.
c) Go to the opposing head coach and notify him/her that the athlete has been disqualified (ejected) and provide him/her with the exact same statement of explanation.
d) Report the disqualification (ejection) to the official scorekeeper if the rules of the contest so require.
e) Resume the contest.

13.3 Procedure for Disqualification of a Coach. An FHSAA official must adhere to the following procedure when disqualifying (ejecting) a coach from a contest:

a) Call time out. Stop the action.
b) Do not hurry. Go directly to the head coach and clearly notify him/her that he/she or, if applicable, another member(s) of his/her coaching staff is disqualified (ejected). Provide the head coach with a statement of explanation as to why he/she or the member(s) of his/her coaching staff is disqualified (ejected). Inform the disqualified (ejected) individual that he/she must leave the premises (facility) for the remainder of, and after that contest and that he/ she may not give any further instruction to, have any further contact with, or confer with athletes or other members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the contest. Be professional, courteous, and assertive. Do not debate the issue with any member of the coaching staff.
c) Go to the opposing head coach and notify him/her that the coach has been disqualified (ejected) and provide him/her with the exact same statement of explanation.
d) Report the disqualification (ejection) to the official scorekeeper if the rules of the contest so require.
e) Resume the contest.

13.3.1 Disqualified Coach Must Leave Premises. A coach who is disqualified (ejected) from a contest must leave the premises (facility) and may not give any further instruction to, have any further contact with or confer with athletes or other members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the contest, including halftime, breaks between quarters and other intermissions or following the contest. The coach may not sit in the spectator seating area, stand beyond the fence, etc. The coach must remove himself/herself from the premises (facility) to a position where he/she is no longer visible to the participants and spectators and the competition is no longer visible to the coach. The coach may not communicate with his or her team, assistant coach(es), or fans by any means of technology.

13.3.2 A coach who has been disqualified (ejected) from a contest, refuses to leave the premises (facility) as specified in Policy 13.3.1 or is intent upon continuing to coach his/her athletes or conferring with other members of his/ her coaching staff in defiance of the officials, the officials are instructed to discontinue the contest and declare it a forfeit.

13.3.3 If a coach or coaches are disqualified (ejected) from contest and no other authorized school personnel are available to take charge of the athletes, the contest must be suspended. In volleyball, the offending team must forfeit per NFHS Rule 1-7-2b.

13.4 Protocol after Disqualification

13.4.1 Official May Not Hear Appeal or Reverse Decision. Once an official has disqualified (ejected) an athlete and/or coach, the official may not entertain any appeal from the athlete, coach, athletic director, principal, parent, spectator, or any other individual associated with the school. The disqualification (ejection) of an athlete and/or coach is a judgment call and may not be reversed. The official's decision is final. All questions regarding appeals must be referred to the FHSAA Office.

13.4.2 Official May Not Discuss Penalty for Disqualification. Under no circumstance should an official discuss with an athlete, coach, athletic director, principal, parent, spectator, news media or any other individual the disciplinary penalty which may be assessed an athlete or coach who is disqualified (ejected) from a contest. That penalty will be decided and processed by the FHSAA Office, which will communicate such penalty directly to the school's principal or FHSAA representative.

13.4.3 Official Not Responsible for Enforcing Penalty. An official is not to enforce any disciplinary penalty assessed an athlete and/or coach who is disqualified (ejected) from a contest. The official should, however, be aware of a school, coach, or athlete's failure to comply with such disciplinary penalty, it is the

duty of the official to report the offense to the FHSAA Office. Under no circumstance may an official approach the offending individual(s) directly.

13.5 Notifying FHSAA Office of Incidents Officials must file a written report online with the FHSAA Office within 24 hours (preferably by the end of the contest) using the AT6 Form (Unsporting Conduct Incident Report form), which is provided on the FHSAA Central Hub, when:

a) An athlete or coach is ejected for any reason from a contest (with the exception of an athlete who receives a blue card in soccer).
b) An athlete or coach is guilty of a flagrant act and/or unsporting conduct before or after a contest for which he/she is not ejected.
c) A contest must be temporarily stopped due to unsporting conduct on the part of a spectator or spectators.
d) A contest, for whatever reason, does not go to its normal conclusion.
e) The contest facility is, in the official's opinion, judged to be unsafe for participants, or hazards are present.
f) The contest facility or team equipment/uniforms do not meet rule specifications.

13.5.1 When Verbal Reports Must Be Filed. Officials are required to notify the FHSAA Office the following morning when a bench-emptying brawl occurs, or when a contest, for whatever reason, does not go to its normal conclusion. Such verbal reports are in addition to the necessary written reports.

13.5.2 Responsibility for Filing Reports. The referee or umpire-in-chief is responsible for ensuring that reports as required by Policy 13.5 and Policy 13.5.1 are filed with the FHSAA Office on the AT6 form. The actual report, however, may be written by the official who ejected the athlete or coach or who witnessed the behavior that required a contest to be temporarily stopped or discontinued.

13.5.3 Content of Written Reports. Written reports must be properly completed and must provide detailed information concerning the incident that prompted the report. The report must always include:

a) The sport and gender are being contested (ex. football, girls' basketball).
b) The level of competition (ex. junior high, junior varsity, varsity).
c) The date and site of the contest.
d) The names of the participating schools.
e) The first and last name of any athlete and/or coach who was ejected from a contest, as well as the jersey number of the athlete (if the name of the athlete is unknown, providing the jersey number will be sufficient).
f) The score of the contest and the time remaining in the contest if it was necessary to declare it ended prematurely.
g) A detailed narrative of exactly what occurred and exactly what was said to prompt the action that required the filing of the report; if anyone uses abusive/profane language, the language must be specifically written in its entirety. The report must be factual and must not contain opinions on what suspension shall be levied.
h) The name, signature, address, and daytime telephone number of the official filing the report.

Policy 14

School's Responsibilities to Officials (FHSAA Policy 27 and 28)

14.1 Member schools are charged with the following responsibilities relative to FHSAA officials when serving as host for an athletic contest to which the officials are assigned.

a) An authorized representative of the host school shall greet the officials upon their arrival.

b) The host school should provide a private, secure place for the officials to park.
c) The host school should provide a secure dressing room which affords privacy (See Policy 18.7 regarding dressing rooms for state series contests).
d) The host school should provide the officials access to private shower facilities.
e) The host school should provide the officials with refreshments (i.e., water and/or sports drinks) during the half-time intermission and other appropriate times.
f) The host school must provide pregame, halftime and postgame security for the officials. A school official or principal's designee must escort the officials to and from the playing field or court to prevent harassment.
g) The host school principal or game administrator must indicate to the referee or umpire-in-chief his/her seat location should a situation develop where assistance is needed during the contest.
h) School personnel, including coaches, shall not enter the officials' dressing facility while the officials are in attendance except when requested by the officials.
i) The host school for state series contests beyond the district level shall provide contest officials with a secure and adequate dressing room (one each for mixed gender crews) with properly operating bathroom facilities, including showers with warm water, at the site of the contest. If the site does not have such facilities, the host school shall obtain and provide at its expense an appropriate hotel/motel room(s) reasonably close to the site. The host school is required to complete dressing room arrangements and have the information available to the head referee at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest. It is the responsibility of the head referee or umpire-in-chief to contact the school administration at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest to verify the arrangements for the contest. The referee or umpire-in-chief shall report to the FHSAA Office the failure of any host school to provide dressing facilities as required.

14.2 Policy on Crowd Control. The FHSAA policy requires the home school administration to be responsible for the control of spectators during an athletic contest and recommends that the home school secure uniformed security to assist with this responsibility. However, the officials assigned to officiate a contest are responsible for the conduct of the contest. In the event a spectator or spectators interfere with the conduct of a contest or causes an official to become distracted through continual, unrelenting verbal abuse, the official should immediately stop the action and report the spectator or spectators to the home school administration or the nearest uniformed security officer and ask that they be restrained or removed from the facility.
14.2.1 If the home school administration or uniformed security is unwilling or unable to comply and the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point. Under no circumstance should an official ever engage with, confront, challenge, rebuke or threaten a spectator, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during or after a contest.

14.3 Post Season Payment

Policy 15
Required Uniforms by Sport

15.1 FHSAA Insignia. The use of the blue and green FHSAA Shield insignia is mandatory in all sports on all levels.

15.2 Baseball.

a) Major League Style (Smitty BBS-300) Carolina blue, black or navy pullover shirt with the FHSAA shield insignia embroidered or sublimated above the left chest or pocket and the letters FHSAA in blue (on black and navy shirts) or black (on light blue shirt) embroidered or dye sublimated on the right sleeve. American flag with white border applied or dye sublimated on left sleeve.
b) Gray slacks.
c) Shoes as required by NFHS rules.
d) Navy blue or black cap with FHSAA acronym embroidered in FHSAA silver and blue on the front and vertical shield logo embroidered on the back (Smitty or Richardson brands are approved).
e) Black or navy-blue jacket or navy-blue V-neck pullover, if worn.
f) Home plate umpires must wear all necessary protective equipment.

15.2.1 Umpires working in the post-season, beginning with the district tournament, must wear the FHSAA approved postseason uniform available from FHSAA approved vendors.

15.3 Basketball.

a) Smitty's NCAA black/white 1" striped shirt with black raglan style shoulders, sleeves, and side panel with the FHSAA insignia dye sublimated on the left sleeve and the letters FHSAA dye sublimated in blue on the right sleeve. American flag with white border dye sublimated on the back of the shirt.
b) Black slacks.
c) Black shoes as required by NFHS rules.
d) Black belt, if worn.
e) Black jacket, if worn.

15.4 Flag Football.

a) Collared 2 1/4" black and white striped shirt FHSAA shield dye sublimated above left chest pocket. American Flag with white border applied or dye sublimated on left sleeve.
b) Black pants or shorts.
c) Black socks.
d) Solid black football shoes.
a) Black baseball cap with white piping. The Referee may wear a white baseball cap.
e) Additional essential equipment includes a plastic whistle, penalty marker, blue or white bean bag to mark non-penalty spots (crew should be consistent for uniformity), game card, pencil and rubber bands or some device to keep track of the down number. The penalty marker shall be a light gold flag (15" x 15") with a middle.

15.5 Football.

b) Collared 2 1/4" black and white striped shirt (long sleeve permitted if necessary) with FHSAA shield dye sublimated above left chest pocket.
    - 1" or 2" striped shirts are allowed provided the entire crew is dressed alike.
c) Full length black pants with a single 1 ¼" stripe down each leg with FHSAA shield on right pocket with black socks, white knickers with one-piece hose with northwestern stripes, or black shorts with black socks.

d) Black shoes, which may include some white accents, with black laces as required by NFHS rules. Shoes should be shined before each game.
e) Black belt.
f) Black baseball cap with white piping. The Referee must wear a white baseball cap.
g) Black jacket, if worn.
h) If using split crews, the host crew shall determine the dress for that game.
i) Proper Equipment: a whistle, penalty marker (light gold flag 15"x15"), blue or white bean bag (all members of the crew should use the same color) to mark non-penalty spots (back judge shall carry two different colored bean bags; one for marking the end of the kick and one for marking first touching), game card, pencil and rubber bands or some device to keep track of the down number. (Per NFHS).

15.5.1 Officials working in the post-season, beginning with the district tournament, must wear the official "State Series" uniform.

a) Full length black pants with a single 1 ¼ inch striped down each leg with FHSAA logo near right pocket (purchase from approved vendor).
b) Collared 2 1/4" black and white striped shirt with FHSAA logo above shirt pocket. American flag with white border on left sleeve. Flag placement: 2" above the top of the black ribbing of the left sleeve or 3" down from the left shoulder seam on a long-sleeved shirt.

15.6 Lacrosse.

15.6.1 Girls Lacrosse.

a) Black and white 1" striped shirt with Byron collar with FHSAA shield dye sublimated above left chest pocket (black undergarment if visible). American flag with white border sublimated on left sleeve.
b) White or black shorts or solid black wind pants (female officials may wear a black kilt).
c) Black belt.
d) Solid black shoes with black laces.
e) Solid black baseball cap or visor, if worn.
f) Black jacket, if worn.

15.6.2 Boys Lacrosse.

a) Black and white 1" striped shirt with Byron collar with FHSAA shield dye sublimated above left chest pocket (black undergarment if visible). American flag with white border dye sublimated.
    - 2" striped shirts are allowed provided the entire crew is dressed alike.
b) White or black shorts or black wind pants (female officials may wear a white kilt).
c) Black belt.
d) Solid black shoes with black laces.
e) Black baseball cap with white piping.
f) Black jacket, if worn.

15.7 Soccer.

a) Aqua (PMS 319c), black, blue, green, red, or yellow shirt with pin stripes with FHSAA shield on left chest pocket and the letters FHSAA dye sublimated in black on the right sleeve. American flag with white border dye sublimated on left sleeve.
b) Black shorts or trousers.
c) Black belt, if worn.

d) Black knee socks with white horizontal stripes.
e) Shoes as required by NFHS rules.
f) Black cap, if worn.
g) Black jacket, if worn.

15.7.1 Officials working in the post-season, beginning with the district tournament, will be required to wear the FHSAA approved postseason Aqua (PMS 319c) uniform and black knee socks with two white horizontal stripes.

15.8 Softball.

a) Major League style (Smitty BB-S347) bright blue or midnight navy pullover with the FHSAA shield dye sublimated above the left chest pocket and the letters FHSAA in blue dye sublimated on the right sleeve. Long-sleeved powder blue or navy shirts are optional.
b) Charcoal gray or navy-blue slacks. Black leather belt. Patent leather belts are not authorized.
c) Solid black shoes. Plate shoes will have a hard shell or steel reinforced toe and a steel or reinforced tongue. Patent leather shoes are not authorized.
d) Navy blue or black socks.
e) White or navy-blue undershirts. Long-sleeved undershirt sleeves shall NOT be exposed. The crew must be dressed the same.
f) Navy blue cap with FHSAA acronym embroidered in FHSAA silver and blue on the front and vertical shield logo embroidered on the back. (Smitty or Richardson brands are approved).
g) Navy blue jacket, navy blue jacket with light blue and white stripes. Any or all umpires may wear a jacket/pullover. However, if more than one umpire wears a jacket/pullover, they must match.
h) Home plate umpires must wear all necessary protective equipment. This includes mask with throat protector, chest protector, shin guards, and cup (for male umpires).
i) Ball bags must be unadorned navy blue.

15.8.1 Umpires working in the post-season, beginning with the district tournament, must wear the official "State Series" uniform shirts available through the FHSAA approved uniform vendors.

15.9 Swimming & Diving.

a) White collared polo with FHSAA shield sublimated on left chest and the letters FHSAA dye sublimated in blue on the right sleeve or on a lanyard.
b) Navy or khaki pants/shorts/skirts/capris.
c) Solid white socks and shoes.
d) White jacket, sweater, or hat if worn.
e) Small and unobtrusive jewelry is permitted.

15.9.1 Officials who are eligible for the FHSAA Finals will be notified of their required uniform.

15.10 Track & Field.

a) Blue polo with FHSAA insignia on the left chest and the letters FHSAA in white on the right sleeve. Beige or khaki pants or shorts are encouraged.
b) Small and unobtrusive jewelry is permitted.

15.10.1 Officials working in the post-season, beginning with the district tournament, must wear the official uniform shirt (listed above) in addition to all other required uniforms items listed above. FHSAA may designate and/or provide a different shirt for the state championship meet.

15.11 Volleyball.

a) Blue polo with FHSAA insignia on the left chest and the letters FHSAA in white on the right sleeve.
b) Black slacks.
c) Solid Black Athletic Shoes as required by NFHS rules.
d) Black socks.
e) Black belt, if worn.
f) Black jacket, if worn.
g) Small and unobtrusive jewelry is permitted.

15.11.1 Officials and line judges working in the post-season, beginning with the district tournament, must wear the one of the official "State Series" uniform shirts available through the FHSAA approved uniform vendors, in addition to all other required uniform items listed above.

a) Blue polo with FHSAA insignia on the left chest and the FHSAA in white on the right sleeve

15.12 Water Polo.

a) White shirt with FHSAA insignia on left chest or pocket.
b) White trousers.
c) White shoes.
d) White jacket, if worn.
e) White hat, if worn.

15.13 Wrestling.

a) Black and white 1" striped short-sleeve shirt or gray short sleeve shirt with black pinstripes with the FHSAA shield sublimated on left chest and the letters FHSAA in black (for gray shirts) or blue (for black and white shirts) sublimated on the left sleeve. American flag with gold border dye sublimated on the back of the shirt.
b) FHSAA insignia on left chest or pocket.
c) Black slacks.
d) Shoes as required by NFHS rules.
e) Black socks.
f) Black belt, if worn.
g) Black jacket, if worn.

15.13.1 Officials working in the post-season, beginning with the district tournament, must wear the official "State Series" uniform shirt available through the FHSAA approved uniform vendors, in addition to all other required uniform items listed above.

15.14 Restrictions.

15.14.1 Jewelry. Officials are prohibited from wearing jewelry while officiating a contest. The only exceptions to this policy are a wedding band, game timing device and a medical alert bracelet which, if worn, must be taped to the body with clear tape so that it remains visible.

15.14.1.1 Not applicable to swimming & diving, track & field, or volleyball officials.

15.14.2 Numbers. The wearing of numbers on shirts by FHSAA officials is strictly prohibited.

15.14.3 Local Association Patch. A local association patch may be worn on the upper front of the jacket or left shoulder of shirts, provided a request is made. Patches may not exceed three (3) inches in diameter and must be black and/or white in color. Other color combinations are prohibited.

15.14.4 FHSAA Insignia Prohibited at Non-FHSAA Contests. The FHSAA insignia, including "FHSAA" and the "Florida Shield," is the property of the FHSAA and may be used by contest officials only as approved by the FHSAA Office. An FHSAA official may not wear any part of his/her uniform containing the FHSAA insignia at any time other than when officiating a contest involving an FHSAA member school. For example, an FHSAA official may not wear the FHSAA insignia on any article of clothing as a spectator or while officiating AAU, American Legion, ASA, city recreational league contests, etc. This requirement does not preclude officials who have just finished officiating a contest from watching part of a succeeding contest while in uniform nor does it preclude officials who have arrived early for a contest from observing the preceding contest while in uniform.

15.15 Exceptions. Any exceptions to this dress code must be approved in writing by the FHSAA Executive Director or his/her designee.

Policy 16
Rankings for Officials

16.1 Designations and Criteria.
16.1.1 Each FHSAA official will be ranked each year by the FHSAA Office, with the exception of track & field and swimming & diving officials. The rankings to be used for this purpose are Rank 1; Rank 2; and Rank 3.
16.1.2 Rankings will be determined according to the following criteria, with the exception of soccer:

16.1.2.1 Score on the current year's FHSAA rules examination; and
16.1.2.2 Completed years of experience as a high school official to date.

16.2 Definitions and Qualifications.
16.2.1 Rank 1 Official. A Rank 1 Official is that individual who has demonstrated consistent superior performance over a sustained period of time. This official is at the top of his/her peer group and has met standards of performance in excess of those required of Rank 2 and Rank 3 officials. The qualifications for a Rank 1 Official are as follows:

16.2.1.1 The official must score a 90 or better on the FHSAA rules examination for that year;
16.2.1.2 Completed the exam within the initial deadline window; and
16.2.1.3 The official must have a minimum of seven (7) completed years' experience as a high school official, either with the FHSAA or another state association that is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

16.2.2 Rank 2 Official. A Rank 2 Official is that individual who has demonstrated competence and gained the experience necessary to officiate at all levels of athletic competition in his/her sport. This official is in the broad middle range of his/her peer group. The qualifications for a Rank 2 Official are as follows:

16.2.2.1 The official must score an 80 or better on the FHSAA rules examination for that year;
16.2.2.2 Completed the exam within the initial deadline window; and

16.2.2.3 The official must have a minimum of three (3) completed years' experience as a high school official, either with the FHSAA or another state association that is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

16.2.3 Rank 3 Official. A Rank 3 Official is an individual who has not met the minimum qualifications to become a Rank 2 official in a given year.

16.3 Soccer Rankings

16.3.1 Criteria. Rankings will be determined according to the following criteria:

16.3.1.1 Score on the FHSAA Soccer Evaluation, which is effective for two years after completion;

16.3.1.2 Score on the current year's FHSAA rules examination; and

16.3.1.3 Completed years of experience as a high school official to date.

16.3.2 Definitions and Qualifications.

Rank 1 Official. A Rank 1 Official is an individual who has demonstrated consistent superior performance over a sustained period of time. This official is at the top of his/her peer group and has met standards of performance in excess of those required of Rank 2 and Rank 3 officials. The qualifications for a Rank 1 Official are as follows:

(a) The official must earn 90 or higher on FHSAA rules examination.

(b) Complete the exam during the initial window of the exam window.

(c) The official must score an 8.3 and above on the FHSAA evaluation conducted by an FHSAA approved evaluator.

(d) The official must have 4 or more years of previous experience as a high school official.

Rank 2 Official. A Rank 2 Official is an individual who has demonstrated competence and gained the experience necessary to officiate at all levels of athletic competition in his/her sport. This official is in the broad middle range of his/her peer group. The qualifications for a Rank 2 Official are as follows:

(a) The official must earn 80 or higher on the FHSAA rules examination.

(b) Complete the exam during the initial window of the exam window.

(c) The official must score a 8.0 and above on the FHSAA evaluation conducted by an FHSAA approved evaluator.

(d) The officials must have 2 or more years of previous experience as a high school official.

Rank 3 Official. A Rank 3 Official is an individual who doesn't meet the requirements of a rank 1 or 2 official.

16.4 Transferring from Another State Association. An official who transfers his/her registration from another state association that is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations and who meets all FHSAA qualifications will be assigned a ranking by the FHSAA Office in accordance with his/her record in the previous state association. Documentation from the previous state association must be received on the state association's official letterhead for verification of the official's grade on the rule's examination for the current year, rules clinic attendance for the current year, number of contests officiated during the previous year and completed years of experience to date. The official must submit this information for processing within thirty (30) days of his/her registration with the FHSAA. If received and processed later than 30 days after registration, the official may be credited in the next year of registration.

16.5 Officials Recognition Program.
16.5.1 Meritorious Achievement. The meritorious achievement award will be presented to each official who qualifies under the following criteria in the same one year:

1) 10 or more years' completed service;
2) Rank 1 status; and
3) A score of 95 or better on the rule's examination. The award, which will be in the form of a commemorative certificate, will be presented only one time in his/her career in each sport.

16.5.2 Milestones in Years of Service. Officials will be recognized by the FHSAA when they reach different milestones in years of service as follows: 3, 5,10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years. Officials will be presented certificates commemorating this award at each of these marks.

16.6 Officiating State Championship Event. Officials may purchase FHSAA Finals contest official souvenir rings through the FHSAA-approved vendor.

Policy 17
Officiating Fees

17.1 Establishing Fees. Officiating fees should be agreed upon by negotiations between local officials' associations and the member schools that they serve.
17.1.1 The FHSAA requires that local officials' associations enter into a written agreement or contract with each school, district school board, conference, league, etc. that the association serves during the regular season. This document should contain all financial terms and conditions, as well as detail the obligations of both parties. Events requiring sanction from the FHSAA Office and/or NFHS must be submitted under a separate contract and may have no bearing on the regular season contract. District tournament assignment as in Policy 10.2 may not be included in the regular season contract. The agreement shall require the signatures of the authorized representatives of both parties. Each local official's association shall submit a copy of its contract to the FHSAA Office no later than one full calendar week prior to the start of the regular season competition.
17.1.2 The accomplishment of any agreement or contract can be completed only when the fees agreed upon are within the ability of the school to pay and are also commensurate with the services rendered. Any agreed upon fees must be within the maximum allowed by the FHSAA official pay scale.

17.2 Maximum Pay Scale. In all cases, the agreed upon fees are the maximum fees, inclusive of the game plus travel, which may be paid by any FHSAA member school to any FHSAA registered officials association. This fee structure does not preclude the payment of lower fees, if agreed upon.

Baseball

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity	$99.00	$109.00	$119.00
Sub-Varsity	$75.00	$85.00	$95.00
State Series			

District Tournament	$109.00
Regional Tournament	$119.00
FHSAA Finals	$129.00

Basketball

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity	$93.00	$103.00	$113.00
Sub-Varsity	$70.00	$80.00	$90.00
State Series			
District Tournament	$103.00		
Regional Tournament	$113.00		
FHSAA Finals	$123.00		

Flag Football

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity (3 Officials)	$64.00	$74.00	$84.00
Sub-Varsity (3 Officials)	$59.00	$69.00	$79.00
State Series			
District Tournament	$74.00		
Regional Tournament	$84.00		
FHSAA Finals	$94.00		

Football

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity (field officials)	$125.00	$135.00	$145.00
Sub-Varsity (field officials)	$86.00	$96.00	$106.00
Clock Operator	$77.00	$87.00	$97.00
State Series			
Regional Tournament (field official)	$145.00		
Regional Tournament (clock)	$87.00		
State Semifinal (field official)	$155.00		
State Semifinal (clock)	$97.00		
FHSAA Finals (field)	$165.00		
FHSAA Finals (clock)	$107.00		

Lacrosse

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity	$93.00	$103.00	$113.00
Sub-Varsity	$79.00	$89.00	$99.00
State Series			

District Tournament	$103.00
Regional Tournaments	$113.00
FHSAA Finals	$123.00
FHSAA Finals (4th Official)	$80.00

Soccer

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity	$89.00	$99.00	$109.00
Varsity- AR	$79.00	$89.00	$99.00
Sub-Varsity	$74.00	$84.00	$94.00
Sub-Varsity- AR	$64.00	$74.00	$84.00
State Series			
District Tournament (Center)	$99.00		
District Tournament (AR)	$89.00		
Regional Tournament (Center)	$109.00		
Regional Tournament (AR)	$99.00		
Regional Tournament (4th Official)	$65.00		
FHSAA Finals (Center)	$119.00		
FHSAA Finals (AR)	$109.00		
FHSAA Finals (4th Official)	$75.00		

Softball

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity	$90.00	$100.00	$110.00
Sub-Varsity	$70.00	$80.00	$90.00
State Series			
District Tournament	$100.00		
Regional Tournament	$110.00		
FHSAA Finals	$120.00		

Swimming and Diving

Regular Season	
Contract directly with member schools	
State Series	
Stroke and Turn Judge	$83.00
Chief Judge	$83.00
Starter/Admin	$93.00
Meet Referee	$108.00

Track and Field*

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Meet Referee	$164.00	$174.00	$184.00
Starter and Clerks	$144.00	$154.00	$164.00
Field and Running Judges	$92.00	$102.00	$112.00
Weights and Measurements	$48.00	$58.00	$68.00
State Series			
District Meet Referee	$176.00	$186	$196
District Starter and Clerks	$155.00	$165	$175
District Field and Running Judges	$104.00	$114	$124
District Weights and Measures	$60.00		
District Electronic Distance Measurement – Laser or Other Device (Supplement)	$50		
District Electronic Distance Measurement – Total Station (Supplement)	$100		
Region Meet Referee	$196.00	$206	$216
Region Starter and Clerks	$178.00	$188	$198
Region Field and Running Judges	$122.00	$132	$142
Region Weights and Measures	$77.00		
Region Electronic Distance Measurement – Laser or Other Device (Supplement)	$50		
Region Electronic Distance Measurement – Total Station (Supplement)	$100		
State Meet Referee	$223.00	$233	$243
State Meet Starter, Clerks and Awards Stewards	$205.00	$215	$225
State Meet Umpire	$155.00	$165	$175
State Meet Judge	$133.00	$143	$153
State Meet Weights and Measures	$133.00		
State Meet Electronic Distance Measurement – Laser or Other Device (Supplement)	$50		
State Meet Electronic Distance Measurement – Total Station (Supplement)	$100		

Notes*

a) Mileage may be paid for Weights and Measures if the assignment is stand-alone.
b) Officials who work more than one assignment in a meet may be paid time and half at the highest rated assignment.
c) The rate of pay for meets that include more than one district, region, or classification is time and a half at the highest rated assignment.
d) Approved Regular Season Qualifying Meets will use the District Meet pay scale.

Volleyball

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity Referees (3 out of 5)	$84.00	$94.00	$104.00

Line Judges (3 out of 5)	$45.00	$55.00	$65.00
Varsity Tournament Referees (2 of 3)	$68.00	$78.00	$88.00
Line Judges (2 of 3)	$40.00	$50.00	$60.00
Sub-Varsity Referee	$64.00	$74.00	$84.00
Sub-Varsity Line Judge	$35.00	$45.00	$55.00
State Series			
District Tournament Referee	$94.00		
District Tournament Line Judge	$55.00		
Regional Tournament Referee	$104.00		
Regional Tournament Line Judge	$65.00		
FHSAA Finals State Tournament Referee	$114.00		
FHSAA Finals State Tournament Line Judge	$75.00		

Water Polo

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity	$62.00	$72.00	$82.00
Sub-Varsity	$53.00	$63.00	$73.00
State Series			
District Tournament	$72.00		
Regional Tournament	$82.00		
FHSAA Finals	$92.00		

Wrestling*

Regular Season	Under 50 miles	50-74 miles	75+ miles
Varsity Meets/Duals (inc. Tourns.)	$97.00	$107.00	$117.00
Sub-Varsity Meets	$87.00	$97.00	$107.00
Per match wrestled IBT-Varsity	$6.00	$6.00	$6.00
Per match wrestled IBT-Sub-Varsity	$5.00	$5.00	$5.00
Weigh-ins IBT/Dual	$36.00	$46.00	$56.00
State Series			
IBT District Tournament	$180.00		
IBT Region Tournament	$455.00		
1st Day/2nd Day - IBT State Tournament (per day)	$210.00		
3rd Day - IBT State Tournament	$101.00		
Dual District Tournament	$108.00		
1st Day - Dual Region Tournament	$119.00		
1st Day/2nd Day – Dual State Tournament (per day)	$248.00		
Dual State Tournament	$248.00		
Weigh-ins IBT/Dual	$36.00		

Notes*

a) If a host school requests officials from another association (not under contract with the host school) and that association is located 50+ miles from the host school or site of the event, the host school may provide mileage and hotel rooms for those officials for that event.

b) The region host shall provide a hotel room for every two officials traveling 75+ miles if the weigh-ins on the second day of the region begin prior to 10:00 a.m. local time. Depending on your location, 75 miles could be anywhere from a 90-minute drive to 2 hours. Also, the host has the ability to adjust the event if cost becomes a concern on their end.

c) If an association covers a school that requires an official to drive 75+ miles, additional mileage may be applied to that event at the agreement of the school and the association.

d) All Dual and IBT payments may be processed through ArbiterPay. The game fee via ArbiterPay shall reflect all applicable tournament compensation, including daily tournament and weigh-in fees.

17.3 Administrative Fees. The fee schedule below includes maximum amounts that may be charged outside of the official's game fees. Any ancillary fees in addition to those listed below are prohibited.

Fees for Preseason and Regular Season		
	Fee per Home Game	**Football Fee per Home Game**
Middle School	$8.00	$15.00
Sub Varsity	$10.00	$20.00
Varsity	$12.00	$25.00
Wrestling Booking fees:	1-6 officials - $25	7-10 officials - $50
	11-15 officials - $75	16+ officials - $100

Late Deadline to Submit Schedule or Enter into Arbiter
$100.00

Late Deadline to Submit Payment (Regular Season)
$200.00

Online Schedule Entry Fee: (Arbiter/other online software during the Regular Season)	
$50.00	If school chooses to have association enter

Official Scratches:	
$50.00	Per Official - Max 3 (If association allows scratches)

Game Change Fees (unless related to weather/safety/security):	
10+ days before a match / game	$0.00
9 days and under before a match / game	$25.00

Note: Game Day Cancellation complete referee crew will be paid, unless it is related to safety / security / weather.

17.4 Per FHSAA Policy 27.10, the host school for Florida High School State Championship Series contests shall provide payment within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the contest. Failure to remit payment within fourteen (14) calendar days may result in a minimum $250 monetary penalty and/or other sanctions.

17.5 Mileage.

17.5.1 State Series.

17.5.1.1 District Tournament. Sixty (60) cents per mile, one way, per officiating crew. Two vehicles per playoff crew are permitted in football for state series contests.

17.5.1.2 Regional. Eighty-Nine (89) cents per mile, one way, per officiating crew. Two vehicles per playoff crew are permitted in football for regional contests.

a) Per FHSAA discretion, mileage may/may not be paid depending on the sport(s).

17.5.1.3 State Tournament. Eighty-Nine (89) cents per mile, one way, per officiating crew. The FHSAA shall establish the officiating crew size and composition for each sport prior to postseason (with the exception of Track and Field.)

a) Per FHSAA discretion, mileage may/may not be paid depending on the sport(s).

17.6 Suspended Contests. If a game is suspended due to weather or other uncontrollable events, the officiating crew will receive the full travel fee and half of the game fee. The officiating crew will receive another full travel fee and the remaining game fee for the continuation of the contest the following day(s). In the event there are multiple suspensions, the officiating crew will always receive their full travel fee if they arrive at the facility. The FHSAA Staff will make the final determination on payment.

Policy 18

FHSAA Athletic Regulations that Apply to Officials

18.1 Playing Rules. Unless waived by at least two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), or those approved by it, shall be the official rules for interscholastic athletic competition in all sports, Bylaw 8.2.1. All NFHS contest official's mechanics manuals will be adopted, unless otherwise noted for a specific sport.

18.2 Protests of Officials Decisions. Any decision made by a contest official shall not be contested. The decisions of the contest officials are final (Bylaw 8.1.2).

18.3 Interrupted or Suspended Outdoor Contests.

18.3.1 Storms. If a severe thunderstorm or electrical storm occurs in the area prior to the start of or during any outdoor contest, the officials must immediately contact the principal, or his/her designee, of each school involved to determine if the contest should be played as scheduled, delayed, suspended, or postponed. If the principal, or his/her designee, of either of the schools involved requests that the contest be interrupted or postponed, the officials must immediately honor such request. If the principal, or his/her designee, of only one of the competing schools is available, his/her request must be honored. In the event that neither the principal nor his/her designee is present, the head coach will be presumed to be the principal's designee (Policy 32.1).

18.3.2 Safety is Paramount. The safety and welfare of all concerned is of paramount importance. In no case may an official deny a request by a principal, or his/her designee, to delay, suspend or postpone an outdoor contest due to inclement weather or imply that the contest will be forfeited as a result of such a request (Policy 32.2).

18.3.3 Suspended Contests. A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption. Otherwise, National Federation Rules regarding the resumption of suspended contests will apply (Policy 32.3).

18.4 Sideline Cheerleading Policy. The following policy on sideline cheerleaders must be governed by officials with regard to indoor contests:
18.4.1 Sideline cheerleaders must remain in their seats along the sidelines at all times when the ball is alive, or a contest is in progress (Policy 33.2.1).
18.4.2 Officials are responsible for the enforcement of this regulation. First offense – warning; Second and subsequent offense(s) – technical foul in basketball; awarding of point against violating school in volleyball and wrestling (Policy 33.2.2).

18.5 Policy on Alcohol and Tobacco Products. The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco-like products by student-athletes, coaches and officials is prohibited during the contest and in the vicinity of the playing field or court. A student-athlete in violation of this policy is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, will be ejected from the contest, and will be suspended from subsequent contests for a period of up to six weeks in accordance with the FHSAA Policy on Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Additionally, the official must report any violation of this policy by either a student-athlete or coach to the FHSAA Office. Violation of this policy by a student-athlete or coach will subject the school to a monetary penalty. Violation of this policy by an official will subject the official to a monetary penalty or suspension or both (Policy 31.1).

18.6 Bands, Noisemakers, Signs at State Series Contests. With the exception of football and flag football, bands will not be allowed to play at state series tournaments/meets in outdoor sports (Administrative Procedure 3.1.5.1). Bands are prohibited at football district tiebreakers. With the exception of basketball, bands will not be allowed to play at state series tournaments/meets in indoor sports (Administrative Procedure 3.1.5.2).
18.6.1 In Basketball, bands must not play when the ball is live, including free throws. Bands may play only during pre- game warm-ups, timeouts, and halftime.
18.6.2 Whistles, artificial noisemaking devices that mimic or simulate a game whistle, air horns, and all other artificial or mechanical noisemaking devices, are prohibited in all state series events (Administrative Procedure 3.1.4).

18.7 Dressing Rooms. The host school for each state series contest beyond the district tournament shall provide contest officials with a secure and adequate dressing room (one each for mixed sex crews) with properly operating bathroom facilities including showers with warm water at the site of the contest. If the site does not have such facilities, the host school shall obtain and provide at its expense an appropriate hotel/motel room(s) reasonably close to the site. The host school is required to complete the dressing room arrangements and have the information available to the referee or umpire-in- chief at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest. It is the responsibility of the head referee or umpire-in-chief to contact the school administration at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest to verify the arrangements for the contest. The referee or umpire-in- chief shall report in writing to the FHSAA Office the failure of any host school to provide dressing facilities as required (Policy 27.9).

Policy 19
Sport-Specific Regulations

19.1 Officiating Crews

19.1.1 Regular Season. The officiating crew size listed below is the minimum number of officials to be used. The use of additional officials is optional and is agreed upon in the game contract between schools.

a) Baseball - 2 umpires
b) Basketball - 2 referees
c) Flag Football - 3 officials
d) Football - 5 officials plus 1 play clock operator
e) Lacrosse - 2 officials
f) Soccer - 2 officials
g) Softball – 2 umpires
h) Volleyball - 2 referees
i) Water Polo - 2 referees
j) Wrestling - 1 referee

19.1.2 State Series.

a) Baseball - 3 umpires
b) Basketball – 3 referees
c) Flag Football - 4 officials
d) Football - 5 officials plus 1 clock operator for district tiebreakers, 7 officials plus 1 clock operator for remainder of state series
e) Lacrosse – 3 officials
f) Soccer - 1 referee, 2 side referees and 4th official for regionals and finals
g) Softball - 3 umpires
h) Swimming - 1 meet referee
i) Track & Field - For all meets with seven (7) or more schools, at least one (1) registered FHSAA Track & Field official is required.
j) Volleyball - 2 referees and 2-line judges
k) Water Polo - 2 referees
l) Wrestling - 1 referee for district (optional assistant referee), 1 referee plus 1 assistant referee for region and FHSAA Finals semifinals, last round of region wrestlebacks, region consolation and championship finals.

19.2 Regulations by Sport.

19.2.1 Baseball Regulations.

19.2.1.1 Regular season.

19.2.1.1.1 Suspended Game. A game called for any reason (darkness, rain, mechanical failure, or other conditions) where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will continue from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game. (NFHS Rule 4-2-4 Note).

19.2.1.1.2 Completed Game. A game that has been called because of darkness, rain, mechanical or other conditions after four-and-one-half or five innings have been completed will be declared a completed game if a winner can be determined.

19.2.1.1.3 Sub-varsity Limitations. In sub-varsity baseball games, no new inning shall start two hours after the first pitch of the game. Any inning in progress shall be completed.

i. **Exception 1.** In a game delayed by weather, the delay time shall be added to the 2-hour time limit (ex. game starts at 3 p.m. and between the top and bottom of the third inning there is a 45-minute rain delay. No new inning will start after 5:45 p.m.

ii. **Exception 2.** When another game is not scheduled to follow the current game, if the score is tied after the two-hour limit has been reached, additional inning(s) shall be played to resolve the tie.

iii. **Exception 3.** Saturday games. In a double-header situation (ex. a varsity contest following a sub-varsity contest), at the end of the two-hour time limit, if the score is tied, the contest will end in a tie.

19.2.1.2 State Series.

19.2.1.2.1 Pregame Warm-up for District, Regional Games. Each team will be allowed 15 minutes for infield practice before each game. No batting practice will be permitted on the playing field. Batting practice may be conducted on an auxiliary field if one is available.

19.2.1.2.2 Pregame Warm-up for State Tournament. Each team will be allowed 10 minutes for infield practice before each game. Infield practice time may be reduced or eliminated due to existing field conditions. No batting practice will be permitted on the playing field. Batting practice may be conducted on an auxiliary field if one is available.

19.2.1.2.3 Official Ball for Regional Finals and State Tournament. The official ball of the FHSAA Baseball Finals is the Wilson A1010 HS1. Schools can use any NFHS approved baseballs during the regular season.

19.2.1.3 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.2 Basketball Regulations.

19.2.2.1 Regular season.

19.2.2.1.1 Officials Crew Size. A minimum of two officials (referee and umpire) is required for all interscholastic basketball games. The use of three officials is recommended. However, crews of three officials will be mandatory for a minimum of six boys and three girls' varsity home basketball games at each school during the regular season. The decisions of the game officials shall be final. No protests will be allowed. It is recommended that officials should not officiate more than two games within the same day.

19.2.2.2 State Series.

19.2.2.2.1 Pregame Warm-up. The warm-up period for all district, regional and state tournament games will be 15 minutes.

19.2.2.2.2 Official Ball for State Tournament. The Wilson NCAA Official Boys Game basketball (29.5) and the Wilson NCAA Official Girls Game basketball (28.5) are the official balls of the FHSAA Basketball Finals.

19.2.2.3 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.3 Flag Football Regulations. FHSAA Flag Football Rules are the official rules for all regular season games involving teams participating in the invitational state series as well as invitational FHSAA state series games.

19.2.3.1 State Series.

19.2.3.1.1 Pregame Warm-up. The warm-up period for all district tournament and FHSAA State Series games will be 15 minutes.

19.2.3.1.2 Official Ball for State Tournament. The Wilson Speedskin Heir Women's Football is the official ball of the FHSAA Flag Football State Series. No other ball may be used by any team at the state tournament.

19.2.3.2 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.4 Football Regulations.

19.2.4.1 Regular season.

19.2.4.1.1 Length of Quarters. The length of quarters must not exceed:

a) Combination Seventh & Eighth Grade Games – Eight (8) minutes
b) Combination Seventh, Eighth & Ninth Grade Games – 10 Minutes
c) Junior Varsity Games & Varsity Games – 12 Minutes

19.2.4.1.2 Length of Halftime. The halftime for any football game must not exceed 20 minutes in length. This 20-minute period includes all halftime activities and the mandatory three-minute warm-up. Clock operators will set the halftime clock at 17 minutes and will not start the clock until signaled by the referee after all team personnel have vacated the field. Once the 17 minutes have expired, an additional three minutes will be placed on the clock for the mandatory warm-up period. Marching bands are entitled to the field for the full 17-minute period. Teams may take their three-minute warm-up in the end zones if the bands are still on the field after the 17-minute clock has expired.

19.2.4.1.3 Tiebreaker. The tiebreaker plan which is described in the National Federation Football Rules Book must be used in all football jamborees, pre- season classics, regular season games and state series games which end in a tie. However, the Executive Director may waive the use of the tiebreaker in football jamborees or pre-season classics upon written request of the host school principal, provided the request is based on the unanimous desire of the coaches of the participating schools.

19.2.4.1.4 Mandatory Water Breaks. The referee must call an uncharged one- minute timeout at the first clock stoppage after the 6:30 minute mark of each quarter. If the first clock stoppage is a timeout request by either team, then that timeout is granted and the next clock stoppage that is not a requested team timeout becomes the water break. Coaches may meet with their players during this timeout. This rule must be enforced in all games up to and including the regular season and playoffs, including both fall and spring preseason classics and jamborees.

19.2.4.1.5 Use of "Wireless Microphone" by Referee. The referee of a varsity football game may wear a "wireless mic" during any game under the following provisions:

a) Both coaches agree to use the system prior to the start of the game.
b) Only the type foul and the distance penalty may be given.
c) A player's name, position or number may never be given.
d) The information is given after the captain has made his decision to accept or decline the penalty.

19.2.4.1.6 Jamborees. FHSAA officials must be used. The Association suggests a different crew of officials be used for each quarter. Officials often donate their services for jamborees and use these contests for training. Regulation football rules must be used. Each period must start with a kickoff. Each team may request two timeouts per period. Each team may

participate in a maxi- mum of two 12-minute quarters, excluding tie breakers. Opponents need not be different in each quarter. Pregame procedures, such as marching captains to center of field and flipping coins should be avoided in order to conserve time. Decide in advance which team will kick, and which team will receive for each quarter.

19.2.4.1.7 Mercy Rule. If one team is ahead by a margin of 35 points or more at the end of the second quarter, the clock shall run continuously. Once the running clock is initiated, it shall run continuously with the exception of during any timeout taken by a team or officials, injuries, unsporting conduct penalties, and during the period between quarters.

19.2.4.1.8 Pregame Warm-ups. A school's team shall warm up in an area between the end line and the 45-yard line on the side of the field to which it is assigned for pregame warm-ups by the host school management. Enforcement of this policy shall be the responsibility of the host school management until the authority of the game officials begins. A violation of this policy shall be considered an act of unsporting conduct and shall be penalized pursuant to NFHS Rules.

19.2.4.2 State Series.

19.2.4.2.1 Officials Crew Size. Seven field officials and one registered clock operator will be used for all state series. Seven (7)-person crews shall follow the Collegiate Commissioners Association (CCA) crew of 7-person mechanics football officiating manual. If an association's recommendation committee places a registered timer on a playoff crew as an exclusive timer only, that association must also provide an additional alternate field official at no cost to the FHSAA or participating schools. That alternate's association will pay the alternate field official. The alternate field official would be expected to accompany the playoff crew and be prepared to step onto the field in the event of an injury to a working official.

19.2.4.2.2 Official Ball for Series Games. Wilson 1003, 1004 or 1005. No other footballs may be used by any team.

19.2.4.3 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.5 Lacrosse Regulations.

19.2.5.1 Regular season.

19.2.5.1.1 Suspended Game. A game called for any reason (rain, mechanical failure, or other conditions) where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will continue from the point of suspension, with the lineup of each team the same as the lineup at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.

19.2.5.1.2 Completed Game. A game that has been called because of rain, mechanical or other conditions after one half or more of the game has been completed will be declared a completed game if a winner can be determined.

19.2.5.2 State Series.

19.2.5.2.1 Pregame Warm-up. The warm-up period for all FHSAA State Series games will be 20 minutes.

19.2.5.3 Boys Lacrosse FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.5.4 Girls Lacrosse FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS

rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.6 Soccer Regulations.

19.2.6.1 Regular season.

19.2.6.1.1 Games. Varsity and junior varsity soccer games will be played in two halves of 40 minutes. Sub-varsity teams may play two 30-minute halves upon mutual agreement of opposing schools. These requirements will apply to all regular season games as well as invitational tournaments.

19.2.6.1.2 Ties. Regular season contests which end in a tie remain a tie. In the event of a tie in an invitational tournament game, an overtime procedure may be used to determine a winner.

19.2.6.1.3 Area Behind End Lines. Officials shall keep areas behind the end lines clear of spectators and media representatives. Photographers may be permitted behind the end lines provided they are at least three yards behind the end lines on the corners and at least six yards behind the end lines near the goals. Photographers shall not be permitted to stand behind the goals when the ball is in play.

19.2.6.1.4 Pregame Warm-up. Each team will have a 20-minute warm-up period prior to each game. Teams should arrive at the tournament site a minimum of 30 minutes prior to game time.

19.2.6.2 State Series.

19.2.6.2.1 Games. Varsity soccer games will be played in two halves of 40 minutes.

19.2.6.2.2 Ties. All state series games that are tied at the end of regulation play will be resolved according to the overtime procedure per Administrative Procedure 4.10.1.1.4.

19.2.6.2.3 Pregame Warm-up. Each team will have a 20-minute warm-up period prior to each game. Teams should arrive at the tournament site a minimum of 30 minutes prior to game time.

19.2.6.2.4 Official Ball for State Series. The official ball of the FHSAA Soccer Finals is the Wilson Vivdo, however the use of the Wilson VEZA or the Wilson Forte Fybrid II are allowed to be used. The use of this ball will be mandatory by all teams in all games played in the state tournament. During the regular season and throughout the state series, with the exception of the state tournament, schools can use any ball with the NFHS stamp.

19.2.6.3 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.7 Softball Regulations.

19.2.7.1 Regular season.

19.2.7.1.1 Suspended Game. A game that has been called because of weather, mechanical failure, or other conditions in which a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will continue from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.

19.2.7.1.2 Completed Game. A game that has been called because of weather, mechanical failure, or other conditions after four-and-one-half innings or five innings have been completed will be declared a completed game.

19.2.7.1.3 Length of Junior Varsity Games. When varsity and junior varsity teams are scheduled to play back-to-back on the same date, at the same site, and on the same field, no new inning may be started in a junior varsity game after an hour and a half. In situations where the field is properly lit and there is ample time between junior varsity and varsity games, the junior varsity teams shall be permitted to play a regulation game of seven innings.

19.2.7.1.4 Coaches Boxes. Please see NFHS rule 1-1-4, 3-5-2 and 3-5-3 for rules pertaining to the coaches' box.

19.2.7.1.5 Game Ball. The game ball as specified in NFHS Rule 1-3 shall be used and the COR shall not exceed .47.

19.2.7.1.6 Pitching Warm-up Areas. Warm-up areas inside of the field are allowed provided the field has 25 feet or more from the foul line to the fence. All players (pitcher, catcher, protective player) must wear helmets, and an assistant coach or player must be present to protect the catcher/pitcher while the pitcher is warming up.

19.2.7.1.6.1 Exception. A pitcher who is facing the field of play and can see all action may elect not to wear the helmet.

19.2.7.1.7 Tournament Time Limit. For multi-team tournaments, the tournament director has the option to impose a two (2) hour time limit. No new inning shall start after two (2) hours provided the following conditions are met:

a) All participating coaches are notified of the time limit when they register for the tournament; and
b) All games must be played to four-and-one-half or five innings. If four-and-one-half are not complete after two hours, the game must continue past the time limit in order to complete the required number of innings.

19.2.7.2 State Series.

19.2.7.2.1 Pregame Warm-up. Each team will be allowed 15 minutes for infield practice before each game. No batting practice will be permitted on the playing field. Batting practice may be conducted on an auxiliary field if one is available.

19.2.7.2.2 Official Ball for State Series. Wilson A9011 is the official softball of the FHSAA Softball State Series (district, regional and state finals). No other softball may be used by any participating team during the State Series.

19.2.7.3 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.8 Swimming & Diving Regulations.

19.2.8.1 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.9 Volleyball Regulations.

19.2.9.1 Regular season.

19.2.9.1.1 Pre-Match Warm-Up Period. A 15-minute warm-up period shall precede all matches as follows:

1) First seven minutes– Visiting team practices on the full court; the home team may practice ball-handling outside of the six-foot area from the volleyball court sideline on a side court area with volleyballs if the facility permits (this provision does not

apply to auxiliary gyms).

2) Next seven minutes – Home team practices on the full court; the visiting team may practice ball-handling outside of the six-foot area from the volleyball court sideline on a side court area with volleyballs if the facility permits (this provision does not apply to auxiliary gyms).
3) One minute clean up– Both teams - clearing the court to play. When starting a match after a preceding match, a reasonable amount of time should be given to the teams leaving to collect their personal belongings and vacate the bench area.

19.2.9.1.1.1 Officials shall arrive on the court for the required official, coaches, and captains meeting 20 minutes before the start of the match. Teams may warm up on the court with volleyballs. Ball handling and warm-up by both teams on their respective sides of the net will be permitted provided no balls go over the net and the court are ready and supervised by the host.

19.2.9.2 State Series.

19.2.9.2.1 Official Ball for State Series. Wilson Nova volleyball is the official ball of the FHSAA Girls Volleyball State Series (district, regional and state finals). Wilson Helix volleyball is the official ball of the FHSAA Boys Volleyball State Series (district, regional and state finals). No other ball may be used by any participating team in these respective state tournaments.

19.2.9.3 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.10 Water Polo Regulations.

19.2.10.1 Regular season.

19.2.10.1.1 Length of Varsity Games. Varsity water polo games shall be played in four periods of seven (7) minutes of actual play each.

19.2.10.1.2 Length of Junior Varsity Games. Junior varsity water polo games shall be played in four periods of six (6) minutes of actual play each.

19.2.10.1.3 Team Uniforms. Any uniform that is used by a swimmer must cover ALL of the buttocks and must be made of a material that does not become trans- parent when wet. Any competitor in violation of this rule will not be allowed to enter into competition until the offending attire is replaced.

19.2.10.2 State Series.

19.2.10.2.1 Official Ball for State Series. The KAP7 model number 105 is the official ball of the FHSAA Boys' Water Polo Finals and the KAP7 model number 104 is the official ball of the FHSAA Girls Water Polo Finals. No other ball may be used by any participating team in these respective state tournaments.

19.2.10.3 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

19.2.11 Wrestling Regulations.

19.2.11.1 State Series.

19.2.11.1.1 Wrestlebacks. Each district will seed and bracket its District Tournament in accordance with the procedure as outlined in NFHS 10 after the weigh-ins have been completed. Brackets will be crossed in the quarterfinal round to better ensure that the best four wrestlers in

each District Tournament advance to the Regional Tournament.

19.2.11.2 FHSAA Rule Modifications. Click here to find the NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption and other modifications, which have been approved by the FHSAA.

Policy 20
Penalties

20.1 Types of Penalties. The FHSAA Board of Directors has authorized the Executive Director to assess penalties against local officials' associations and individual officials who violate FHSAA regulations governing the administration and conduct of the FHSAA official's program. The four penalties, in general, that may be assessed, separately or collectively, include:

a) REPRIMAND – An official letter of censure to the local official's association or individual official regarding the violation(s). The letter of reprimand becomes a permanent part of the local associations or individual official's record.
b) FINE – A financial penalty assessed the local official's association or individual official for the violation(s). Fines range from as little as $25 to as much as $250 or more.
c) PROBATION – A period of warning for one calendar year during which time any additional violations committed by the local official's association, or the individual official may result in more severe penalties being assessed. Probation may also carry with it restrictions such as prohibition from officiating varsity level contests, prohibition from officiating State Series contests, etc.
d) SUSPENSION – A period of time during which the local official's association is prohibited from assigning member officials to officiate contests, or the individual official is prohibited from officiating contests.
e) REVOCATION – The most severe penalty that can be assessed any local official's association or individual official. It is the involuntary revocation of the local association's sanction or individual official's registration for a period of one or more years. No member school may enter into a contract with any local official's association who is sanctioned has been revoked. Neither may any local official's association accept into membership any individual official whose registration has been revoked.

20.2 Fine Schedule. The following fines are generally assessed local officials' associations and/ or individual officials for the most common violations of FHSAA regulations. This schedule is not all inclusive and does require the Executive Director to determine fines for violations not specifically covered herein. In all cases, these amounts are minimums and may be increased relative to severity of the violation.

DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION	MINIMUM AMOUNT
1. Failure to report ejections of student-athletes or coaches for unsporting conduct within 24 hours	$50.00
2. Failure to submit ejection reports on the proper FHSAA form	$25.00
3. Statements of criticism or other derogatory remarks concerning student-athletes, coaches, schools, etc…	$50.00
4. Use of tobacco or tobacco-like products by an official during a contest or in the vicinity of the playing site	$100.00
5. Officiating an illegal practice session, illegal scrimmage, or other illegal contest	$100.00

6. Use of profanity or other gutter language by an official……..…….…….. $150.00

7. Pursuit of coaches, athletes, spectators, etc. With intent, following a contest, by an official $150.00

8. Physical contact by an official on a coach, other school personnel, student athletes, or spectators ……..……...$250.00

9. Failure to submit local association reports by the established deadline ……..…….... $50.00

10. Officials officiating varsity level competition without the mandatory "75" score on the rule's examination for the current year (per contest officiated) $50.00

11. Associations assigning officials who did not score the minimum "75" score on the rules examination to officiate varsity level competition (per official assigned) $100.00

12. Falsification of records (registration) $50.00

13. Improper use of uniform and/or FHSAA insignia..... $50.00

14. Assignment of unregistered or unqualified officials –
Individual $50.00
Association $100.00

15. General failure to comply with FHSAA Policies $50.00

20.3 Misapplication of Rules. Officials who grossly misapply playing rules will be subject to disciplinary action.