



**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE**

NATALIE E. TENNANT

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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5/14/2015 10:51:49 AM

OFFICE OF
WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

**FORM 1 -- NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING OR COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE
(Page 1)**

AGENCY Secondary School Activities Commission

RULE TYPE Legislative Exempt AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE **Yes** **TITLE-SERIES** 127-

RULE NAME Provisions Governing Conduct **04**

CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

COMMENTS LIMITED TO
Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS
Monday, June 15, 2015 4:00 PM

WRITTEN COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED TO
Gary Ray
Executive Director
WV Secondary School Activities Commission
2875 Staunton Turnpike
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26104

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes
Charles K Heinlein -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



Title-Series: 127-04



Rule Id: 9752



Document: 26675



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**FORM 1 -- NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING OR COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE
(Page 2)**

AGENCY Secondary School Activities Commission

RULE TYPE Legislative Exempt AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE Yes **TITLE-SERIES** 127-

RULE NAME Provisions Governing Conduct 04

CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

The majority of public and most private schools in West Virginia belong to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Each year, the principals of member schools submit revisions to the rules and regulations. The submitted proposals are presented and voted upon at the annual Board of Control meeting. Any approved changes are then submitted to the West Virginia Board of Education for its review and approval.

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

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FORM 11 -- FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES (Page 1)

AGENCY Secondary School Activities Commission

RULE TYPE Legislative Exempt **AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE** Yes **TITLE-SERIES** 127-

RULE NAME Provisions Governing Conduct **04**

CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

PRIMARY CONTACT

Gary Ray

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

CITY, STATE ZIP

SECONDARY CONTACT

Virginia Harris

ADDRESS LINE 1 SECONDARY

ADDRESS LINE 2 SECONDARY

CITY SECONDARY, STATE SECONDARY ZIP SECONDARY

Charles K Heinlein -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



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SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER WHAT IMPACT THIS MEASURE WILL HAVE ON COSTS AND REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

No state costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 127CSR4.

Charles K Heinlein -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



Title-Series: 127-04



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FORM 11 -- FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES (Page 2)

AGENCY Secondary School Activities Commission

RULE TYPE Legislative Exempt AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE Yes TITLE-SERIES 127-

RULE NAME Provisions Governing Conduct 04

CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

FISCAL NOTE DETAIL -- SHOW OVER-ALL EFFECT IN ITEM 1 AND 2 AND, IN ITEM 3, GIVE AN EXPLANATION OF BREAKDOWN BY FISCAL YEAR, INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT.

Effect Of Proposal	Current Increase/Decrease (use ' - ')	Next Increase/Decrease (use ' - ')	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	0	0	0
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0
CURRENT EXPENSES	0	0	0
REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS	0	0	0
ASSETS	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0
ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES	0	0	0

Charles K Heinlein -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



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FORM 11 -- FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES (Page 3)

AGENCY Secondary School Activities Commission

RULE TYPE Legislative Exempt AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE **Yes** **TITLE-SERIES** 127-

RULE NAME Provisions Governing Conduct **04**

CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

3. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT). PLEASE INCLUDE ANY INCREASE OR DECREASE IN FEES IN YOUR ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES.

No state costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 127CSR4.

Charles K Heinlein -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



Title-Series: 127-04



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FORM 11 -- FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES (Page 4)

AGENCY Secondary School Activities Commission

RULE TYPE Legislative Exempt AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE **Yes** **TITLE-SERIES** 127-

RULE NAME Provisions Governing Conduct **04**

CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY AREAS OF VAGUENESS, TECHNICAL DEFECTS, REASONS THE PROPOSED RULE WOULD NOT HAVE A FISCAL IMPACT, AND OR ANY SPECIAL ISSUES NOT CAPTURED ELSEWHERE ON THIS FORM.

No state costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 127CSR4.

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

Charles K Heinlein -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



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FORM 12 -- BRIEF SUMMARY AND STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES (Page 1)

AGENCY Secondary School Activities Commission

RULE TYPE Legislative Exempt AMENDMENT TO EXISTING RULE Yes TITLE-SERIES 127-

RULE NAME Provisions Governing Conduct 04

CITE AUTHORITY W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988)

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER CONTENTS OF CHANGES IN RULE AND STATEMENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE RULE.

The majority of public and most private schools in West Virginia belong to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Each year, the principals of member schools submit revisions to the rules and regulations. The submitted proposals are presented and voted upon at the annual Board of Control meeting. Any approved changes are then submitted to the West Virginia Board of Education for its review and approval.

The proposed amendment to Series 4 will clarify the rule and bring it in line with a West Virginia Supreme Court decision.

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Charles K Heinlein -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.



Title-Series: 127-04



Rule Id: 9752



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Series 2, Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility
Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests
Series 4, Provisions Governing Conduct
West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission
Proposed Changes in Rules and Regulations

BACKGROUND

The majority of public and most private schools in West Virginia belong to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Each year, the principals of member schools submit revisions to the rules and regulations. The submitted proposals are presented and voted upon at the annual Board of Control meeting. Any approved changes are then submitted to the West Virginia State Board of Education for its review and approval.

PURPOSE

These amendments are brought forth to keep the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission current and updated on changes, trends and issues in the band and athletic programs.

These proposals were distributed for public comment in May and June. The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission will present to the Board the comments received for its review at the June meeting.

The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission staff, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Board of Control respectfully request that the proposed rule changes to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Rules and Regulations Handbook be approved.

CONTENT

Seven proposals are being submitted to the State Board by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Each rule change is presented with the whole rule being included. This will help the State Board members understand the significance of the rule change.

The following is a brief summary of the effect of each proposal:

1. To allow schools to maintain a freshman team, but play a junior varsity football team without losing eligibility. (Vote: Yes-107 No-3)
2. To limit participation to a bona fide move of at least one county away to help limit the number of transfers based solely upon athletic participation. (Vote: Yes-64 No-43)
3. To clarify current rule. (Vote: Yes-99 No-8)

4. To enhance the development of athletes within the state of WV by allowing certified high school and middle school coaches work with them year round. (Vote: Yes-54 No-53)
5. To align rule 127-3-9.6.c with current testing procedure. (Vote: Yes-118 No-0)
6. To allow schools to maintain a freshman team, but play a junior varsity football team without losing eligibility. (Vote: Yes-110 No-0)
7. To clarify current rules and bring in line with a West Virginia Supreme Court decision. (Vote: Yes-118 No-0)

IMPACT

Instruction

None

Leadership

None

Financial

None

Administrative

None

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS, PRINCIPALS, AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS WILL NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE CHANGES IN ORDER TO ADMINISTER THEIR SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT RULES. THERE IS NO MAJOR CHANGE THAT WOULD IMPACT ADMINISTRATION NEGATIVELY.

WVSSAC
Rules and Regulations Handbook
2015-16 Proposed Rule Changes

Proposal 1 (Passed 107 – 3)

Amend §127-2-3. Enrollment and Team Membership. (Pg. 16) as follows:

3.2.d. Students enrolled in the ninth grade of a four, five or six year high school may participate on the high school team. Also, ninth graders of a feeder school may participate on their high school team and sixth grade students of a K-6 elementary feeder school may participate on their middle school/9th grade team if granted permission by the county board of education or governing body of a private/parochial school and the school principals involved. Once a ninth grade student becomes a member of the high school team said student will be ineligible for the middle school/9th grade team in that sport. Members of a 9th grade team may be grouped for practice with members of the varsity/~~jv~~ team. However, if a 9th grade student participates, ~~which would include but not limited to dressing~~, in a varsity/~~jv~~ scrimmage or game that student becomes ineligible for the 9th grade team. Participation is defined as dressing and being available to play in a game, regardless if said player enters the game.

Rick Jones, Principal, John Marshall High School
Amy Minch, Principal, Wheeling Park High School

Rationale:

This would allow schools to maintain a freshman team, but choose to play a junior varsity football team without losing eligibility. It would also allow teams to move up a freshman to junior varsity and back down without losing eligibility. This would help keep teams from cancelling junior varsity games. The quarter rule would still be in effect.

Proposal 2 (Passed 64 - 43)

Amend §127-2-7. Residence- Transfer. (Pg. 19) by adding the following:

7.1.f. A student whose parents have resided in the school zone for a minimum of one academic year at which the student has been in attendance for a minimum of one academic year and whose parents make a bona fide change of residence to a new school zone during the school term may:

7.1.f.1. Retain eligibility as long as said student retains continuous enrollment and attendance or:

7.1.f.2. Transfer at time of change of residence to the school in the attendance zone in which the parents are now residing and be eligible in that school or:

7.1.f.3. Transfer at any time prior to the start of the next school year to the school in the attendance zone in which his parents are residing and be eligible for interscholastic activities at the receiving school.

7.1.f.4. However, a student who has started participation in a sport, which would include practice or contest, that they were participating in at a WVSSAC member school, may not participate in that sport for that sport season at the WVSSAC member school to where they transferred, so long as that transfer was within one contiguous county of their former member school.

David Nuzum, Principal
East Fairmont High School

Rationale:

Limiting participation to a bona fide move of at least one county away will help limit the number of transfers based solely upon athletic participation or disagreements with coaching staffs.

Proposal 3 (Passed 99 – 8)

Amend §127-2-8. Adoption/Guardianship. (Pg. 22) as follows:

8.3. Notwithstanding any other provision of the WVSSAC rules and regulations, any student residing with a guardian/custodian other than a testamentary guardian may not compete for a school in any sport on the varsity level but may compete at the junior varsity level. If a student elects to participate at the junior varsity level pursuant to this rule, the student may not participate at the varsity level even after being enrolled at the school for 365 days. However, if a student elects to participate at the junior varsity level pursuant to this rule, and then commences to reside with a custodial parent, the student may participate at the varsity level notwithstanding the fact that the student had previously participated at the junior varsity level pursuant to this rule.

Constitution and Bylaws

Rationale:

To clarify current rules.

Proposal 4 (Passed 54 – 53)

Amend §127-3-7. Out-of-Season Coaching. (Pg. 35) as follows:

7.2. School organized out-of-season practice or related activities shall ~~only~~ be permitted with principal approval during ~~Weeks 50, 51 and 52 of the National Federation Standardized Calendar the year, with the exception of 2 “dead periods” per sport, and Saturdays or Sundays. These periods are during week 52 (Fourth of July week) and one week before the opening of each specific sports season. During the Dead Periods, there will be no coaching, observing, practice, open facilities, leagues, or school sponsored clinics or camps. The sessions each day should not exceed two hours in length. Participation by students must be open to all students, voluntary, and not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team. Participation by students during these weeks practices does not meet Practice Rule 127-2-13.4.~~

7.2.a Saturday or Sunday activities that are part of a camp or league shall be permitted with Principal approval.

7.2.b The use of protective equipment, pads, shields or blocking dummies is not permitted during these workouts. Helmets can be used for safety purposes during 7 on 7 competitions or leagues.

Trent Sherman, Principal
Martinsburg High School

Rationale:

1. This rule change enhances the development of athletes within the state of West Virginia by allowing certified high school and middle school coaches to work with them year round.
2. This rule combats the negative influence that some AAU programs have on students who participate in those leagues.
 - a. Prevents situations created by well-meaning parents taking over local summer leagues and creating the negative, pressurized environment that our philosophy is against. As coaches, we see athletes developing bad habits during local leagues and now we will spend time during regular season changing patterns that should never have been taught to our student athletes.
3. This evens the playing field for our student athletes who must compete against schools from other states who are allowed to practice year round.
 - a. Pennsylvania – Allows unrestricted out of season coaching year round; no dead periods.
 - b. Virginia – allows unrestricted out of season coaching year round; 10 day prior to season start dead period & week of July 4 dead period.

- c. Maryland – Allows coaching of teams in leagues from last spring championship until start of fall practice & coaching of teams from start of fall practice until last spring championship at 80% of starting lineup.
- d. Ohio – Just approved out of season coaching with a player to coach ratio of 4 to 1.
- e. Kentucky – Does not govern summer months & allows out of season coaching with some restrictions during the school year.

Proposal 5 (Passed 118 – 0)

Amend §127-3-9. Game Officials. (Pg. 37) as follows:

9.6.c. Take Part I and Part II National Federation Rules Examinations in the sports where specified. Failure to comply will result in suspension for the current year take Part I will result in a 5 point deduction for the purpose of classification at the end of that sport season. Failure to take Part II Exam will result in suspension the following year.

Constitution and Bylaws

Rationale:

To align rule 127-3-9.6.c with current testing procedure.

Proposal 6 (Passed 110 – 0)

Amend §127-3-23. Football. (Pg. 47) as follows: Vote on only if Proposal 1 passes.

23.6.b. Any member of a freshman team in a 4-year high school that plays in a ~~junior varsity~~ or varsity contest (scrimmage, grid-o-rama or game) is ineligible to return to the freshman team.

Rick Jones, Principal, John Marshall High School
Amy Minch, Principal, Wheeling Park High School

Rationale:

This would allow schools to maintain a freshman team, but choose to play a junior varsity football team without losing eligibility. It would also allow teams to move up a freshman to junior varsity and back down without losing eligibility. This would help keep teams from cancelling junior varsity games. The quarter rule would still be in effect.

Proposal 7 (Passed 118 – 0)

Amend §127-4-3. Code for Interscholastic Athletics. (Pg. 58) as follows:

3.7.c. Any coach, student, or bench personnel ejected by an official will be suspended for the remainder of the game, match, meet or contest. ~~They will also face suspension in additional contest(s);~~ The coach, student, or bench personnel ejected by an official will also be suspended in additional contest(s); the suspension will be assessed based upon ten (10) percent of the allowed regular season contests or post season progression in a playoff tournament for each sport. Any tenth of a percentage from .1 to .4 will be a suspension equal to the whole number of the percent. Any tenth from .5 to .9 will be an additional contest added to the whole number. The suspension will include the number of indicated contests in that sport and at that level and all other sport contests in the interim at any level. A second ejection will result in the doubling of the suspension assessed for the first ejection. ~~If they are an individual is~~ an individual is ejected for a third time during the same sport season, the individual will be suspended from participating or coaching for 365 calendar days from the date of ejection. In accordance with rule 127-3-15.3, an individual ejected by an official may not appeal that ejection, or any subsequent suspension that is a consequence of the ejection by an official.

3.9.d. *Fine.* A fine may be levied by the Executive Director. ~~It may be levied in addition to a warning, probation, or suspension.~~

3.9.e. Each of these sanctions (Warning, Probation, suspension and Fine) may be imposed or levied separately, or in a combination of one or more sanctions.

3.10. *Appeals.* All cases involving disciplinary action against member schools, coaches, students, team attendants, or officials may be protested in accordance with §127-6. However, disciplinary action imposed by an official, including disciplinary action that is a consequence of a decision by an official, such as a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is governed by rule 127-3-15.3 and is not subject to appeal.

3.11. Review of Ejections. Disciplinary action imposed by a contest official, including disciplinary action that results in a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127-6. However, if the individual ejected believes the ejection was improper, he/she may request a review of the ejection by his/her principal. If the principal believes there is merit in the requested review, the principal shall complete and submit the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form within 24 hours or the next business day of the ejection to the Executive Director of the WVSSAC. If a review is properly requested, the WVSSAC will review the officials' special report, the WVSSAC School Ejection Review Form, and such other information as the WVSSAC deems appropriate. Upon review, the WVSSAC Executive Director or the designated Assistant Director will either sustain the ejection and any consequent suspension(s), or will determine the ejection was improper and void any consequent suspension(s). A decision by the WVSSAC upon reviewing an ejection is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127-6.

Constitution and Bylaws

Rationale:

To clarify current rules.

TITLE 127
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

SERIES 4
PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONDUCT

§127-4-1. General.

1.1. Scope. - These rules govern conduct for active and spectator participants, coaches and all other school personnel at interscholastic athletic events.

1.2. Authority. - W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2 and W.Va. Code §18-2-5.

1.3. Filing Date. - ~~July 13, 2012.~~

1.4. Effective Date. - ~~September 11, 2012.~~

1.5 Repeal of Former Rule - This legislative rule amends W. Va. 127CSR4, West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Series 4, Provisions Governing Conduct, filed ~~July 15, 2011~~ July 13, 2012, and effective ~~September 13, 2011~~ September 11, 2012.

§127-4-2. Sportsmanship.

2.1. Member schools are required to conduct all relations with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship. Acts which are prima facie evidence of failure to abide by this rule are those which are noted below and others of similar nature which violate the accepted code of good sportsmanship.

2.2. It shall be the responsibility of the home schools to take proper steps and precautions to insure that crowd and spectator control is handled reasonably at all interscholastic athletic contests including all post season athletic contests whether home or away. In addition to the spectators, attention must be directed to the safety, comfort, and security of the coaches, officials, and students. Their seating accommodations should protect them from spectator interference.

2.3. It shall be the responsibility of any team, student, coach, or attendant to remain in or a part of a contest until its normal end as provided by the National Federation Rules of that particular sport. The exception to the above would be provided by the same National Federation Rules of that particular sport. The penalty for a violation by a coach, student, or team attendant will not only involve ejection during that particular contest but shall also involve that student, coach, or team attendant not being a part of that school's team for the next regularly scheduled contest(s) or post season progression in a playoff tournament, as regulated in §127-4-3.7.3. The coach, student, or team attendant may practice in the days prior to the contest but may not dress or participate on the day of the contest. Rule 127-3-8 further explains the forfeiture consequences.

2.4. It shall be the responsibility of a member school to use every means at its disposal to impress upon its faculty, student body, team members, coaching staff, and officials the values of sportsmanship in preparation for the conduct and management of interscholastic contests.

2.5. It shall be the responsibility of an administrator, spectator, student, or coach to follow those directions provided for in the Code for Interscholastic Athletics.

§127-4-3. Code for Interscholastic Athletics.

3.1. The school administrator shall:

3.1.a. Encourage and promote friendly relationships and good sportsmanship throughout the school by requiring courtesy and proper decorum at all times, by acquainting students and others in the community with ideals of good sportsmanship and by so publicizing these concepts and attitudes that all members of the school and community will understand their meaning.

3.1.b. Insist upon implicit compliance with all rules and regulations of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, hereinafter referred to in this rule as the WVSSAC.

3.1.c. Secure WV registered officials for all contests.

3.1.d. Insist upon adequate safety provisions for all activities, for both participants and spectators.

3.1.e. Approve only those activities and schedules which are educationally and physically sound for the student.

3.1.f. Encourage all to judge the success of the athletic program on the basis of the education goals and the attitude of the participants and spectators, rather than on the basis of the number of games won or lost.

3.1.g. Insist that the students exemplify the highest standards of good sportsmanship as a means of inculcating desirable spectator attitudes.

3.1.h. Provide adequate hygienic, sanitary, and attractive facilities for the dressing and housing of visiting teams and officials.

3.1.i. Review with staff the Sportsmanship Rule.

3.2. The coach shall:

3.2.a. Demonstrate high ideals, good habits, and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards of the students.

3.2.b. Recognize that the purpose of competition is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of the students and that the most important values of competition are derived from playing the game fairly.

3.2.c. Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.

3.2.d. Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or of dissatisfaction with the officials.

3.2.e. Cooperate with the school principal in the planning, scheduling and conduct of sports activities.

3.2.f. Employ accepted educational methods in coaching, giving all students an opportunity to use and develop initiative, leadership, and judgment.

3.2.g. Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of the students refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving the team's chances to win.

3.2.h. Teach students that it is better to lose fairly than win unfairly.

3.2.i. Prohibit gambling, profanity, abusive language, and similar violations of good sportsmanship.

3.2.j. Refuse to disparage an opponent, an official, or others associated with athletic activities and discourage gossip and questionable rumors concerning them.

3.2.k. Properly supervise students under their immediate care and specifically observe a coach's responsibilities in conjunction with state interscholastic contests.

3.3. The spectator shall:

3.3.a. Realize that they represent the school just as definitely as does the member of a team, and, therefore, has an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through this behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.

3.3.b. Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.

3.3.c. Recognize that, since the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social, and emotional well-being of the students through the medium of contests, victory or defeat is in reality of secondary importance.

3.3.d. Treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending to them every courtesy.

3.3.e. Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

3.3.f. Respect the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them.

3.4. The student shall:

3.4.a. Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.

3.4.b. Participate to the limit of their ability. The true student does not give up, nor do they quarrel, cheat, bet, or grandstand.

3.4.c. Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true "sport" does not offer excuses for failures.

3.4.d. Maintain a high degree of physical fitness by observing team and training rules conscientiously.

3.4.e. Demonstrate loyalty to the school by maintaining satisfactory scholastic standing and by participating in and supporting other school activities.

3.4.f. Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.

3.4.g. Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without questions.

3.4.h. Respect the facilities of host schools and the trust entailed in being a guest.

3.4.i. The cheerleader shall always cheer positively for the team and never negatively against the opponent.

3.5. The official shall:

3.5.a. Place the welfare of the student above all other considerations.

3.5.b. Know the game rules thoroughly and give intelligent interpretations.

3.5.c. Maintain confidence and control from start to finish.

3.5.d. Work cooperatively with fellow officials and game administrators.

3.5.e. Refrain from exhibiting emotions or arguing with a student or coach. Maintain self-control under all conditions.

3.5.f. Be fair, impartial and professional.

3.5.g. Be neat and dress in the appropriate uniform.

3.5.h. Be in adequate physical condition for the demands of the particular sport.

3.5.i. Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play, game situation, or fellow official.

3.5.j. So conduct the game as to enlist the cooperation of students, coaches, and spectators in the interest of good sportsmanship.

3.6. *Protection, Facilities, and Assistance.* The home team is expected to furnish supervision. Outdoor facilities or playing facilities should be separated from the spectators by a restraining barrier (fence, wire, rope, etc.). Officials should be provided with a parking space, private dressing facilities not accessible to unauthorized personnel, and should be paid no later than half-time of game. The use of trained, competent, adult “assistant officials,” i.e., scorers, timers, chain and down marker crews, etc., is strongly recommended.

3.7. *Statement of Policy.* Insofar as unsportsmanlike actions by students, school administrators, officials, coaches, faculty members, and spectators are concerned, the identical items under the Sportsmanship Rule along with the following guides will be referred to by the WVSSAC:

3.7.a. The school whose coach behaves in a manner likely to have adverse influence on the attitudes of students or spectators may be provided with the choice of taking disciplinary action against that coach or having the entire school disciplined by the WVSSAC.

3.7.b. Any student who in protest lays hands or attempts to lay hands upon an official may be declared ineligible by the principal or by the WVSSAC for up to one year. Any student who strikes an opponent, coach, or a spectator during or following an athletic event may be declared ineligible by the principal or the WVSSAC for a specified period of time up to one year, depending on the seriousness of the act.

3.7.c. Any coach, student, or bench personnel ejected by an official will be suspended for the remainder of the game, match, meet or contest. ~~They will also face suspension in additional contest(s)~~ The coach, student, or bench personnel ejected by an official will also be suspended in additional contest(s); the suspension will be assessed based upon ten (10) percent of the allowed regular season contests or post season progression in a playoff tournament for each sport. Any tenth of a percentage from .1 to .4 will be a suspension equal to the whole number of the percent. Any tenth from .5 to .9 will be an additional contest added to the whole number. The suspension will include the number of indicated contests in that sport and at that level and all other sport contests in the interim at any level. A second ejection will result in the doubling of the suspension assessed for the first ejection. If they are an individual is ejected for a third time during the same sport season, the individual will be suspended from participating or coaching for 365 calendar days from the date of ejection. In accordance with rule 127-3-15.3, an individual ejected by an official may not appeal that ejection, or any subsequent suspension that is a consequence of the ejection by an official.

3.7.c.1. Any coach, player or bench personnel who has been ejected shall not be permitted to attend any contest(s) during said suspension. He/she shall not be affiliated with the team in any capacity. This would include but not be limited to transportation to or from the contest, meeting with the team before, during or after said contest. He/she is not permitted to be in sight or sound of said contest venue. Regular practice or team meetings not affiliated with a contest are permitted.

3.7.c.2. If suspensions are imposed to a student or bench personnel at the end of the sport season and no contest remains, the suspension is carried over to that particular sport until the next school year. In the case of a senior student, the penalty will continue to the next WVSSAC sponsored sport.

3.7.c.3. Any coach suspension that cannot be enforced during the sport season in which the ejection occurs will be enforced at the beginning of the next season of that same sport.

3.7.d. In case of spectators physically molesting an official, administrator, coach, or student, the school may be given one of two options: 1) file charges against the offender (s) or 2) accept discipline from the WVSSAC. Any person found guilty of W.Va. Code §61-2-15(a) Assault, Battery on Athletic Officials, while these individuals are working or as a result of working an athletic contest, shall be banned from all WVSSAC athletic events for a minimum of 365 days from the date of being found guilty. The school filing charges shall notify the WVSSAC of the incident and outcome of any legal action.

3.7.e. The school that does not lend complete cooperation in the host school's effort to promote the spirit of good sportsmanship may be disciplined by the WVSSAC.

3.7.f. A coach may be considered as committing unsportsmanlike conduct if they make degrading remarks about officials during or after a game either on the field of play, from the bench, or through any public news media, argues with officials, or goes through motions indicating dislike for a decision, protests the decision and actions of officials pertaining to the game during and after the contest,

or detains the official on the field of play following a game to request a ruling or explanation of some phase of the game. If a coach feels he/she has a legitimate criticism of a penalty call or a request for a rule interpretation, such criticism or request should be made in the privacy of the coach's office or the official's quarters and should be made in a courteous manner.

3.7.g. A student or team attendant shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or their designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules. A coach shall not leave the bench area, team box area, or the designated off-field area during a game or contest other than during that time permitted by game or contest rules unless a student altercation is taking place and the official requests assistance. Violation of this rule shall cause the coach, student, or team attendant to be immediately ejected from the contest, team penalized according to game or contest rules and that coach, student, or team attendant will not be eligible to participate in the next contest as outlined in §127-4-2.3.

3.8. Procedure. Unsportsmanship action must be reported in detail to the WVSSAC. A copy of the complaint must also be filed with the principal of the school involved. Each principal involved shall report such information or answers to the report as they deem appropriate. Upon receipt of all reports, the Executive Director and/or the Board of Directors of the WVSSAC shall investigate and adjudicate such reports in accordance with the powers afforded in §127-1-8.6 and 8.7 and §127-1-12.2 and 12.3 of the Constitution. Penalties up to and including suspension of member schools may be made in accordance with §127-4.

3.9. The following defines the different types of disciplinary action which may be assessed for violation of any WVSSAC rule by a member school, administrator, coach, athlete or contest official:

3.9.a. *Warning.* A warning may be given by the Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director. It is official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanship action has occurred, is a matter of record, and that such an occurrence must not be repeated.

3.9.b. *Probation.* Probation is a much more severe type of warning and may be expressed two ways: 1) a school, coach, student, or team attendant on probation is told that further violations will lead to a fine or suspension; and/or 2) a school on probation is on conditional WVSSAC membership but may engage in its regular schedule, sanctioned events, and all WVSSAC tournament play, providing a program is filed with the Executive Director of the WVSSAC indicating measures to be taken to alleviate this problem which caused the school to be placed on probation.

3.9.c. *Suspension.* A school/coach suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a WVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

3.9.d. *Fine.* A fine may be levied by the Executive Director. ~~It may be levied in addition to a warning, probation, or suspension.~~

3.9.e. Each of these sanctions (Warning, Probation, Suspension and Fine) may be imposed or levied separately, or in a combination of one or more sanctions.

3.10. *Appeals.* All cases involving disciplinary action against member schools, coaches, students, team attendants, or officials may be protested in accordance with §127-6. However, disciplinary action imposed by an official, including disciplinary action that is a consequence of a decision by an official, such as a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is governed by rule 127-3-15.3 and is not subject to appeal.

3.11. Review of Ejections. Disciplinary action imposed by a contest official, including disciplinary action that results in a suspension for an additional game or games as a consequence of an ejection, is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127-6. However, if the individual ejected believes the ejection was improper, he/she may request a review of the ejection by his/her principal. If the principal believes there is merit in the requested review, the principal shall complete and submit the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form within 24 hours or the next business day of the ejection to the Executive Director of the WVSSAC. If a review is properly requested, the WVSSAC will review the officials' special report, the WVSSAC Ejection Review Form, and such other information as the WVSSAC deems appropriate. Upon review, the WVSSAC Executive Director or the designated Assistant Director will either sustain the ejection and any consequent suspension(s), or will determine the ejection was improper and void any consequent suspension(s). A decision by the WVSSAC upon reviewing an ejection is not subject to appeal pursuant to Rule §127-6.

West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC)
Series 4: Provisions Governing Conduct

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: June 15, 2015

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

NOTICE: Comments, as submitted, shall be filed with the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office and open for public inspection and copying for a period of not less than five years.

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on WVSSAC Series 4: Provisions Governing Conduct. Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Title: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School System Superintendent | <input type="checkbox"/> School System Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Principal | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Support Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member |

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
§127-4-3.7.c. §127-4-3. Code for Interscholastic Athletics
§127-4-3.9.d.
§127-4-3.9.e.
§127-4-3.10.
§127-4-3.11.

Please direct all comments to:
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Executive Director
West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission
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Parkersburg, West Virginia 26104
Telephone No.: (304) 485-5494
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