WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

MAC WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AGENCY: Secondary School Activities Commission

TITLE-SERIES: 127-03

RULE TYPE: Legislative Exempt

Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes

Repeal of existing rule: No

RULE NAME: Provisions Governing Contests (Series 3)

CITE STATUTORY 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); and, W. Va. Bd. of Educ. V. Bd. of Educ., 239 W. Va. 705, 806 S.E. 2d 136 (2017)

COMMENTS LIMITED TO:

Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: 06/14/2021 4:00 PM

COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

NAME: Bernie Dolan, Executive Director

ADDRESS: West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

2875 Staunton Turnpike, Parkersburg, WV 26104

EMAIL: bernie.dolan@wvssac.org

PLEASE INDICATE IF THIS FILING INCLUDES:

RELEVANT FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: No

(IF YES, PLEASE UPLOAD IN THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FIELD)

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE RULE:

West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC) Series 3 governs the conduct of athletic contests.

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

Each year principals of WVSSAC member schools submit revisions to the rules and regulations to keep the WVSSAC current and updated on changes, trends, and issues in band and athletic programs.

SUMMARIZE IN A CLEAR AND CONCISE MANNER THE OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

There will be no economic impact on revenues of state government as a result of the proposed amendment of 127CSR03, WVSSAC Series 3.

B. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS:

There will be no economic impact on special revenue accounts as a result of the proposed amendment of 127CSR03, WVSSAC Series 3.

C. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS:

There will be no economic impact on the state or its residents as a result of the proposed amendment of 127CSR03, WVSSAC Series 3.

D. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

Effect of Proposal	Fiscal Year		
	2021 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2022 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. 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
2. Estimated Total Revenues	0	0	0

E. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

There will be no economic impact on revenues of state government, special revenue accounts, or the state or its residents as a result of the proposed amendment of 127CSR03, WVSSAC Series 3.

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Michele L Blatt -- 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

BACKGROUND

The majority of public and most private schools in West Virginia belong to the WVSSAC. 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 (WVBE) for its review and approval.

PURPOSE

These amendments are brought forth to keep the WVSSAC current and updated on changes, trends, and issues in the band and athletic programs.

These proposals will be submitted to the WVBE for consideration for placement on public comment at the May meeting. The WVSSAC will present comments received during the comment period to the WVBE at the July meeting and recommendation adoption of the rules.

The WVSSAC 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 placed on public comment.

CONTENT

Thirteen proposals were submitted by member schools for consideration; eight proposals were approved. Following is a brief description of the proposal and outcome of the vote.

1. Non-school Participation and school sports (Vote: Yes-21 No-103 Proposal FAILED)
2. Practice days prior to a scrimmage (Vote: Yes-71 No-53 Proposal PASSED)
3. Practice days prior to a contest (Vote: Yes-104 No-19 Proposal PASSED)
4. Football Classifications (Vote: Yes-47 No-76 Proposal FAILED)
5. Sunday Contests (Vote: Yes-21 No-104 Proposal FAILED)
6. Tournaments during a pandemic (Vote: Yes-51 No-74 Proposal FAILED)
7. Football equipment/contact levels (Vote: Yes-100 No-21 Proposal PASSED)
8. Football points rating system for playoffs (Vote: Yes-39 No-83 FAILED)
9. Middle school swim season no longer than 12 weeks (Vote: Yes-69 No-54 Proposal PASSED)
10. Middle school volleyball playing dates (Vote: Yes-99 No-26 Proposal PASSED)
11. Participation for homeschool students (Vote: Yes-76 No-40 Proposal PASSED)
12. Residence transfer for homeschooled students (Vote: Yes-105 No-14 Proposal PASSED)
13. AED Requirement (Vote: Yes-108 No-11 Proposal PASSED)

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.

West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission
Rules and Regulations Handbook
2021-22 Proposed Rule Changes

Proposal 1 (Non-school Participation)	**YES – 21**	**NO – 103**	**Failed**
Proposal 2 (Practice days prior to a scrimmage.)	YES – 71	NO – 53	Passed

Amend §127-2-13 Practice at 13.4.a.

13.4.a. on ~~seven~~ five separate days before participating in an interscholastic scrimmage

Proposal 3 (Practice days prior to a contest.)	YES – 104	NO – 19	Passed

Amend §127-2-13 Practice at 13.4.b.

13.4.b. on ~~14~~ 12 separate days, exclusive of the day of contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest. The following sport(s) is exempted from the provisions of this rule: golf

Proposal 4 (Football Classifications)	**YES – 47**	**NO – 76**	**Failed**
Proposal 5 (Sunday Contests)	**YES – 21**	**NO – 104**	**Failed**
Proposal 6 (Tournaments during a pandemic.)	**YES – 51**	**NO – 74**	**Failed**
Proposal 7 (Football equipment/contact levels.)	YES – 100	NO – 21	Passed

Amend §127-3-23 Football at 23.2.a.

23.2.a. The following table establishes for high school the ~~first date pads with no live contact, first date to use pads with total contact~~, equipment/contact level, earliest date for scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama, date for first contest, and date season must be completed.

Year	First Date Organized Practice Helmets Only No Contact	First Date ~~Pads No Live Contact~~ Helmet & Shoulder Pads Soft Equipment Contact (Bag, Shields, Sleds, Tackling Wheel, etc.)	First Date ~~Live Contact Allowed~~ Full Pads Soft Equipment Contact (Bag, Shields, Sleds, Tackling Wheel, etc.)	~~Earliest Date For Scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama~~ First Date Full Pads Full Contact	~~Date For First Contest~~ Earliest Scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama after 6:00 p.m.	~~Date Season Must Be Completed~~ First Contest	Date Season Must Be Completed
~~2020~~	~~Aug. 3~~	~~Aug. 7~~	~~Aug. 11~~	~~Aug. 15~~	~~Aug. 24~~	~~Nov. 7~~	
2021	Aug. 2 & 3	Aug. ~~6~~ 4 & 5	Aug. ~~10~~ 6	Aug. ~~14~~ 7	Aug. ~~23~~ 13	~~Nov. 6~~ Aug. 28	Nov. 6
2022	Aug. 1 & 2	Aug. ~~5~~ 3 & 4	Aug. ~~9~~ 5	Aug. ~~13~~ 6	Aug. ~~22~~ 12	~~Nov. 5~~ Aug. 22	Nov. 5
2023	July 31 & Aug. 1	Aug. ~~4~~ 2 & 3	Aug. ~~8~~ 4	Aug. ~~12~~ 5	Aug. ~~21~~ 11	~~Nov. 4~~ Aug. 21	Nov. 4
2024	Aug. 5 & 6	Aug. ~~9~~ 7 & 8	Aug. ~~13~~ 9	Aug. ~~17~~ 10	Aug. ~~26~~ 16	~~Nov. 3~~ Aug. 26	Nov. 3
2025	Aug. 4 & 5	Aug. 6 & 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 15	Aug. 25	Nov. 8

Proposal 8 (Football points rating system for playoffs.) **YES – 39** **NO – 83** **Failed**

Proposal 9 (Middle school swim season no longer than 12 weeks. YES – 69 No – 54 Passed

Amend §127-3-27 Swimming (Boys and Girls) at 27.8.b.

27.8.b. ~~Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 18 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 20.~~ There shall be one season for Middle School Swimming. Either winter or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 12 weeks.

Proposal 10 (Middle school volleyball playing dates.) YES – 99 No – 26 Passed

Amend §127-3-30 Volleyball (Girls) at 30.10.a.

30.10.a. Middle school teams will be permitted ~~19~~ 18 playing dates.

Proposal 11 (Participation for homeschool students.) YES – 76 NO – 40 Passed

Amend §127-2-3 Enrollment and Team Membership; addition of 3.11.

3.11. Homeschooled students receiving home instruction pursuant to W.Va. Code §18-8-1(c), shall be considered eligible for participating in interscholastic athletic events and other extracurricular activities of public secondary school serving the attendance zone in which the student lives who (1) has been homeschooled for at least one year immediately preceding interscholastic athletic participation; (2) has demonstrated satisfactory evidence of academic progress for the immediately preceding academic year; (3) is enrolled in at least one virtual instructional course per semester, consistent with the applicable virtual instruction policy of the county board in which the home schooled student lives and the applicable virtual instruction policy of the State Board of Education, and (4) is otherwise eligible to participate as a result of being subject to all other eligibility rules applicable to a non-homeschooled students.

Proposal 12 (Residence transfer for homeschooled students.) YES – 105 NO – 14 Passed

Amend §127-2-7 Resident-Transfer; addition of 7.2.k.

7.2.k. Any homeschooled students participating in interscholastic athletics pursuant to W. Va. Code §18-2-25(d) who leaves a member school during the school year is subject to the same rules protocols that apply to non-homeschool student transfers.

Proposal 13 YES – 108 NO – 11 Passed

Amend §127-2-15 Emergency Action Plan (EAP); addition of 15.2.e.

15.2.e. Requirement for Automated External Defibrillator (AED); Protocol for the use of AED. Each member school will have an AED on the school or event grounds during the duration of all athletic events and practices. The EAP must address how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for retrieving and using an AED in the event it is necessary. Each sports team must be instructed on the location of the nearest AED to any practice or event facility. The school shall provide proper training to any individual assigned responsibility for using an AED.

127CSR3

TITLE 127
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

SERIES 3
PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONTESTS

§127-3-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- These rules govern the conduct of athletic contests.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2, and W. Va. Code §§18-2-5, 18-2-25, 18-2-25a, and 18-2-25b.

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~July 9, 2020~~.

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~September 8, 2020~~.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. -- This legislative rule amends W. Va. 127CSR3, West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests, filed ~~July 11, 2019~~ July 9, 2020, and effective ~~September 9, 2019~~ September 8, 2020.

§127-3-2. Duties and Responsibilities of the Principal.

2.1. The principal of each member school is recognized as the school representative and as such is accountable to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC/Commission) for conduct of the athletic programs of that school.

2.2. The principal or designee shall notify coaches and faculty (§127-3-6) of the rules and regulations of this Commission. It shall be that individual's responsibility to notify those students participating in WVSSAC activities. Failure of the principal in performing this responsibility will not prevent the Commission from enforcing its rules and regulations.

2.3. The principal shall have the authority to delegate responsibilities or duties; however, such delegation shall not relieve the principal of responsibility for any infraction of the rules and regulations of this Commission by coaches and faculty.

2.4. The principal has the authority to designate a member of the faculty who must supervise all interscholastic activities.

2.5. The principal is responsible for adequate team and crowd control measures at home contests in which the school participates, assuring that the school's participants and fans conduct themselves in a proper manner, and assuring that all fans and officials are provided adequate protection. In situations where contests are played on neutral sites, the responsibilities will be shared by participating school principals.

2.6. The principal has the right to exclude a contestant who would not represent the school in an appropriate manner, a student who fails to maintain a satisfactory scholastic standing, or a student who has been excluded for a serious illness or injury.

2.7. The principal will be responsible for signing all game contracts, seeking sanctioning of necessary events, and signing all certificates of eligibility prior to student participation.

2.8. The principal may designate the assistant principal or other faculty member to provide representation and/or to participate in all voting matters at a Board of Control meeting which is further explained in the Constitution.

2.9. The principal shall have such other powers as will encourage the growth, development and expansion of the athletic program for the welfare of the students, the school, and the WVSSAC.

2.10. The principal, assistant principal, and athletic director of each member school shall be admitted to any WVSSAC sanctioned event. Vocational principals and assistant principals shall also be admitted. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy Card and a photo identification.

2.11. The principal and assistant principal of each member school, who upon retirement is a member in good standing with the WVSSAC, shall receive a WVSSAC permanent Courtesy and Identification Card. This card shall allow admittance to any WVSSAC sponsored event. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy Card and photo identification. Spouses of deceased principals and assistant principals shall have a WVSSAC permanent Courtesy and Identification Card with the same admittance stipulations transferred to them upon request to the WVSSAC.

2.12. WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Cards shall be honored at all events involving WVSSAC member schools with the exception of state tournaments.

§127-3-3. Physical Examination -- Parental Permission.

3.1. The Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form allows for annual updates rather than a complete physical examination.

3.2. A student shall not be permitted to engage in interscholastic practice or participate in an interscholastic contest until that student has filed with the principal a completed Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physician's Certificate Form. This form must be signed by all parties: student, parent(s), physician. Consent and approval for sport(s) in which a student is requesting participation must be approved by both parent and physician.

3.3. A physical examination form must be completed no earlier than May 1 for an upcoming year. The physical is valid until completion of the last WVSSAC state tournament during the next academic year.

§127-3-4. All-Star Participation.

4.1. Only a graduating senior, or any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current academic year because of age or completion of semesters of eligibility, may play in one All-Star game upon conclusion of each season without loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of that year.

§127-3-5. Awards.

5.1. Only a member school or a school sponsoring a sanctioned event may give the following awards to a student or team: medal, trophy, cup, certificate, ribbon, plaque, unattached letter, unattached chevron, or any similar award.

5.2. A student may accept on an individual or team basis the above specified awards in the following situations:

5.2.a. from a member school for participation;

5.2.b. in a sanctioned event;

5.2.c. in a non-sanctioned event, at any time in the following sports: cheerleading, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, or wrestling;

5.2.d. in a non-sanctioned event, but not during the school sports season for the following sports: football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, lacrosse, softball, or soccer.

5.3. A student may not receive the following awards with a retail value that exceeds $100.00:

5.3.a. Apparel - sweaters, jackets, jerseys, shoes, etc.

5.3.b. Equipment - radio, televisions, etc.

5.3.c. Athletic goods - batons, tennis rackets, bats, golf bag, tennis or golf balls, etc.

5.3.d. Money (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are exempted.)

5.4. Purchase of an item as identified in §127-3-5.3, whereby any portion is donated by a school, booster club, auxiliary agency, or any other group or organization is prohibited.

5.5. Nothing in §127-3-5 shall be interpreted to affect the recognition of scholarship or scholastic achievements.

§127-3-6. Coaches.

6.1. A member of a school faculty, substitute teacher, or student teacher, with West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Authorized Certification, shall be allowed to coach an athletic team. A member of a private/parochial school facility, substitute teacher, regardless of WVDE certification status, shall be allowed to coach an athletic team. An authorized certified individual may coach if they meet all of the requirements in §127-3-6.4.

6.2. A public school substitute teacher is defined as a person who has met the licensure requirements as specified by the West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) and has been approved as a substitute teacher of that county board of education. Private/parochial school substitutes must meet requirements of respective governing bodies.

6.3. A college student fulfilling teacher training responsibilities as a student teacher may be assigned certain coaching responsibilities during that period of training. This assignment will be administratively consistent with the student teacher's role in the classroom, and shall be approved by the county board of education or the governing body of a private/parochial school. The student teacher will work directly under the supervision of the appointed coach or assistant coach.

6.4. An authorized certified coach must meet the following requirements:

6.4.a. The coach is employed under a contract with a county board of education which specifies a rate of pay equivalent to the rate for professional educators who accept similar duties as extra duty assignments and which provides for liability insurance associated with the activity;

6.4.b. The coach has successfully completed approved training: NFHS Sport Science, Sport First Aid, and WV Component (14 hours of instruction and test) and has received WVDE Authorization;

6.4.c. The authorized certified coach may be contracted to coach only if an employed certified professional educator within the county has not applied for and accepted the coaching position;

6.4.d. Coaching authorizations are for one year. They may be reissued upon request if a certified professional educator within a county is not available to fill the coaching position.

6.5. The head coach shall be required to attend any sports rules clinic in the coaching assignment which is sponsored by this Commission. Schools failing to have a head coaching position filled at the time of the clinic will be required to have a school representative present at the rules clinic.

6.6. All coaches, athletic directors, and band directors of member schools who, upon retirement from a full time teaching, school service, or administrative position at a member school, have at least 20 years of service as a coach, athletic director, band director, or combination thereof shall receive a lifetime WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Card. This card shall allow admittance to any WVSSAC sponsored event. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy and Identification Card and photo identification. Spouses of deceased coaches, athletic directors, and band directors shall have a WVSSAC permanent Courtesy and Identification Card with the same admittance stipulations transferred to them upon request to the WVSSAC.

§127-3-7. Out-of-Season Coaching.

7.1. Philosophy -- A student should have the opportunity to engage voluntarily in school athletic activities provided that the student is eligible, that such activities do not interfere with the student's educational development and their activities do not conflict with the principles of wholesome amateur athletics. The WVSSAC discourages the exploitation of students by overzealous individuals and organizations who attempt to impose an obligation or pressure on the student. Athletic participation should be used for the pleasure and satisfaction that is derived from athletic competition in a variety of experiences.

7.2. School organized out-of-season practice or related activities shall be permitted with principal approval during three consecutive weeks established by each county board of education or by the governing body of a private/parochial school. These three consecutive weeks may begin on or after Monday of Week 49, and must conclude by Friday of Week 4 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar;

provided, there will be no out-of-season practice or related activities during the week of July 4th as determined by the NFHS Standardized Calendar (refer to handbook appendix). Participation 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 does not meet §127-2-13.4.

7.2.a. With principal approval, each sport program may use twelve "flex-days" from Monday of Week 49 through Friday of Week 48 of the next academic year. A flex-day is a day, outside the regular season and outside the three week practice window, when a coach may have sport-specific contact with student athletes. Flex-days shall not be used during the first week of each high or middle school sport season. Use of any part of a day for an activity will count as a full day of activity.

7.3. A coach or principal designee of each sport or activity may be present as an observer, lecture participant, staff member, [or in any capacity at any summer camp] during weeks established in §127-3-7.2 and §127-3-7.2.a.

7.4. A coach or designee shall not work with individuals in any form of drills or practice of the grade level coaching assignment and preceding grade level except during those dates specified as the season for that specific sport or as designated in §§127-3-7.2, 127-3-7.2.a, and 127-3-7.3 of this rule.

7.5. Coaches may participate in a formal development program of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) involving students of the same sport as their coaching assignments. The formal development program must be under the official guidance of the USOC through the National Governing Body (NGB) of the sport. The NGB must assure in writing to the WVSSAC that coaches will receive formal orientation and that strict supervision and monitoring of coaches will ensure that no recruitment or inappropriate influence will be exerted on students.

7.6. Conditioning/Recreation Programs -- Throughout the academic year, students who are not participating in a school's athletic program may voluntarily participate in an off-season conditioning program. This program also may occur during the summer, subject to county board of education or governing body approval and the following provisions:

7.6.a. Participation in the program must be open to all students enrolled in the school providing the program.

7.6.b. Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team.

7.6.c. Students will provide their own clothing (sweatsuit, shoes, etc.).

7.6.d. Activities will be limited to running, weight training, and stretching exercises. Agility drills that do not involve specific skills of a given sport are permitted.

7.6.e. Specific equipment pertaining to a given sport may not be used. This includes such items as footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, wrestling mats, discuses, etc.

7.6.f. In cases where schools schedule all students into the last period of the school day, the guidelines in §§127-3-7.6.c, 127-3-7.6.d, and 127-3-7.6.e shall apply unless the class is considered a part of the physical education program and credit is earned. There shall be no teaching of sport specific skills

in this case unless those same skills and course of study are taught in all physical education classes at this same time of the academic year.

7.6.g. The county board of education may choose to compensate the supervisor or director~~,~~ of conditioning/recreation programs.

7.7. Coaches may not promote, initiate, organize, supervise, or participate in out-of-season events involving students of the same sport as the grade level coaching assignment and preceding grade level except as specified in §§127-3-7.2, 127-3-7.2.a, and 127-3-7.3. The county board of education shall be authorized to approve a coach to organize and/or supervise a recreation program for students. However, this type assignment must be recreational in nature, include a variety of activities, and comprise no coaching or instruction of that same sport as the school coaching assignment. In addition to the above, gymnasiums or facilities opened for recreational activities must use the following requirements:

7.7.a. The gymnasium or field is open to all students for participation.

7.7.b. Various activities are available to students and are not limited to one sport or activity on a given day.

7.7.c. Supervisor or director must be approved by the county board of education or governing body.

7.7.d. There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and technique in any sport.

7.7.e. Comparable opportunities are provided both sexes.

7.7.f. Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team.

7.8. The principal is responsible for adherence to these requirements.

§127-3-8. Forfeit and Restitution.

8.1. A written request for investigation of an eligibility issue in any sport may be filed by a member school principal with the WVSSAC Executive Director. Individual and/or team awards will not be affected if the request is filed more than 42 calendar days past the conclusion of the State Championship in that sport.

8.2. When a student is declared ineligible subsequent to competing as an individual, or a penalty has been imposed or action taken by the WVSSAC, the student's performance shall be stricken from the records and the points contributed to the team total deleted. The team standings will be adjusted accordingly, and any awards received shall be returned.

8.3. When a student is declared ineligible subsequent to representing the school in team competition or a penalty has been imposed by the WVSSAC, the contest(s) may be forfeited. The team standing in the final standing will be adjusted, and the team awards and the ineligible student's awards may be returned.

8.4. If a team, or student participating in an individual contest, leaves the playing area in protest and

fails to complete the contest, the contest is forfeited and the school principal or designee and the violator may be required to appear before the WVSSAC Executive Director to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

8.5. If a coach is ejected from a contest and an assistant coach or assigned school representative is not available to continue as coach, the contest is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.

8.6. If a student is deemed ineligible under WVSSAC rules, but participates in interscholastic competition in accordance with the terms of a court order or injunction, and the order or injunction ultimately otherwise adjudicated so that injunctive relief is/was not warranted, any one of the following actions may be taken in the interest of fairness or restitution to the competing schools~~.~~:

8.6.a. Require that individual or team performance records achieved during participation by such ineligible student shall be vacated or stricken; or

8.6.b. Require that team or individual victories be forfeited to opponent(s); or

8.6.c. Require that team or individual awards earned by such individual or team be returned to the Commission.

§127-3-9. Game Officials.

9.1. All officials utilized in interscholastic games and contests in West Virginia must be registered with the WVSSAC, except in the case of emergency, §127-3-9.4 may be invoked. A game officials' registration plan shall be established by the WVSSAC Board of Directors (Board of Directors).

9.2. Officials for interscholastic contests shall be agreed upon mutually by the competing schools at least two weeks before the scheduled date of contest. Coaches or other persons connected with competing schools shall not officiate at the contest unless all competing consent.

9.3. The host school initiates the selection of game officials. It is highly recommended that the host school contract officials for all interscholastic contests. Contractual agreements are between the school and the official.

9.4. The WVSSSAC Executive Director shall be empowered to authorize the use of non-registered officials for athletic contests where registered officials are not available and scheduled athletic contests risk cancellation.

9.5. All officials registered with the WVSSAC are subject to and required to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in these rules and the "West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Officials' Handbook", which is revised and published yearly. WVSSAC registered officials are provided the same opportunity for appeal of any decisions as set forth in the rules.

9.6. The official shall:

9.6.a. Attend a state WVSSAC rules clinic in the sport for which the official is registered. Failure to comply will result in suspension for that year.

9.6.b. Attend four local Officials' Board meetings. Failure to comply will result in suspension for that year.

9.6.c. Take Part I and Part II NFHS Rules Examinations in the sports where specified. Failure to take Part I will result in a five 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.

9.6.d. Abstain from consuming intoxicating beverages on the day of the assigned contest prior to and during the contest, and after, in the vicinity of the playing area of the contest.

9.6.e. Abstain from the use of smokeless or any other forms of tobacco in the vicinity of the playing area of the contest.

9.6.f. Abstain from the use of illegal drugs.

9.6.g. Be fair, impartial, unbiased, professional, and competent in officiating.

9.6.h. Be in and maintain proper physical and mental condition as verified by the physical examination form submitted to the WVSSAC; dress and appearance must be appropriate.

9.6.i. Be at the site of the contest in adequate time to care for necessary pre-contest duties or as specified in the NFHS Rules.

9.6.j. Maintain self-control under all conditions.

9.6.k. Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play, game situation, or fellow official.

9.6.l. Conduct the game so as to enlist the cooperation of students, coaches, and spectators in the interest of good sportsmanship.

9.6.m. Comply with any WVSSAC rule, regulation, Constitution, or directive, and particularly those regulations pertaining to filing Special Reports and Official Ratings of Schools.

9.6.n. Honor all existing officiating contracts with member schools unless a valid reason is presented and accepted by the involved school. Accepting a game involving a higher level of competition is not a valid reason to cancel a contract.

9.6.o. Comply with local board rules as set forth in board regulations.

9.7. The WVSSAC Executive Director shall have the power to penalize for violations of these rules. Any official penalized under these rules shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Directors. The WVSSAC Executive Director shall inform fully a penalized official of appeal rights.

§127-3-10. Classification.

10.1. Excluding boys and girls basketball, each member high school shall be classified as either AAA, AA, or A based on the enrollment figures in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 at the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification.

10.2. Excluding boys and girls basketball, classification of member high schools shall be determined every four years on the even numbered years and will remain in effect for a four year period unless the school experiences a 20% change in enrollment using WVDE enrollment figures at the end of the second school month. Classification changes due to a 20% change in enrollment becomes effective next academic year.

10.3. A school may choose to compete in WVSSAC tournaments in any class above its classification providing proper notification is made to the WVSSAC prior to Friday of week 27 after classification has been approved by the Board of Directors. Approval of this option will be for a four year period and will be effective for individual sports sponsored by the school.

10.4. Excluding boys and girls basketball, the Board of Directors may structure the WVSSAC tournament series in each sport by classification (AAA-AA-A). Each sport will be structured according to the level of interest and accommodation for tournament alignment. The WVSSAC will conduct a survey of the membership prior to any change of structure of any given sport.

10.5. Excluding boys and girls basketball, if a consolidation of two or more member schools occurs during the classification period, the new member school will be reclassified based on the combined enrollment of 9, 10, 11, and 12 in the consolidating schools.

10.6. Each member high school shall be classified in boys and girls basketball as either AAAA, AAA, AA, or A based on a total score given by the classification model that considers the following factors: enrollment, location and economics. For an explanation of the classification model, and how scores are assigned, see Appendix 1.

10.7. Classification of member high schools in boys and girls basketball shall be determined in the next regular reclassification year and will remain in effect for a two year period unless the school experiences a 20% change in enrollment using WVDE enrollment figures at the end of the second school month and qualifies to be moved according to the classification model. Classification changes due to a 20% change in enrollment and the classification model become~~s~~ effective next academic year.

10.8. A school may choose to compete in WVSSAC tournaments in one class above its classification in boys and girls basketball providing proper notification is made to the WVSSAC prior to April 1 of a new classification year. Approval of this option will be for a two year period and will be effective for individual sports sponsored by the school.

10.9. In boys and girls basketball, the Board of Directors may structure the WVSSAC tournament series in each sport by classification (AAAA-AAA-AA-A). Each sport will be structured according to the level of interest and accommodation for tournament alignment. The WVSSAC will conduct a survey of the membership prior to any change of structure of any given sport.

10.10. If a consolidation of two or more member schools occurs during the two year period, the new member school will be reclassified in boys and girls basketball based on the classification applied to the newly classification model applied to the new consolidated school consolidated school.

10.11. No member school shall, based on the classification, be compelled to play more than one class up from where it would be classifieds in a four class system based strictly on enrollment.

§127-3-11. Exchange of Eligibility Certificates.

11.1. Commission approved eligibility certificates are required at the beginning of the season of each sport and prior to the first contest.

11.2. The principal is responsible for the proper completion of the certificate.

11.3. The names of the students on all middle school, 9th grade, junior varsity and varsity teams shall be submitted on the school's master eligibility.

11.4. Student additions to the team must be certified immediately on an eligibility certificate submitted to the WVSSAC.

11.5. Principals will verify student eligibility using birth certificates to confirm a student's age. Disputed cases shall be reviewed and approved by the WVSSAC Executive Director prior to participation.

11.6. Changes to a student's age, number of semesters of attendance or semester credits on an eligibility certificate must be reported to and approved by the WVSSAC prior to participation.

11.7. Schools that fail to send the required eligibility information to the WVSSAC prior to the first contest will be assessed a fine of $25.00 payable to the WVSSAC.

§127-3-12. Legal Opponents.

12.1. WVSSAC member schools shall not participate against any public, private, or parochial secondary school whose status has not been recognized by that group's governing body.

12.2. WVSSAC member schools shall not participate against schools that have been placed under a specified sanction, including member schools and out-of-state schools.

12.3. WVSSAC member schools shall not participate in any interscholastic contest or practice against non-school teams or involving alumni participants.

§127-3-13. Contracts.

13.1. All interscholastic contest contracts shall be prepared in duplicate on forms furnished by the WVSSAC. Contracts should include specific dates, financial guarantee provisions, adequate forfeiture stipulations, and all other items listed on the contract.

13.2. In order for a contract between two schools to be binding, it must be signed by the principal or designee of both schools.

13.3. Contracts between both schools may be canceled in the following situations:

13.3.a. If either principal or designee fails to sign the contract.

13.3.b. If either school is forced to suspend its school schedule.

13.3.c. If one school fails to return the signed contract to the other school within 30 days of receipt.

13.3.d. Upon written mutual consent of the contracting parties.

13.3.e. The Board of Directors may annul a contract when deemed necessary for the furtherance of interscholastic athletics in West Virginia, or when provisions of the contract are contrary to Commission rules.

13.4. Contracts executed by the principal are binding on the principal's successor.

13.5. A school will forfeit an athletic contest during regular season or scheduled tournament play if cancellation is caused by teachers, support personnel, or school patrons acting as a striking body. If both participating schools are affected by strike, cancellation shall be considered no contest. Regular season cancellation may be rescheduled during that same season by agreement of the involved parties and the Board of Directors.

§127-3-14. Sunday Contests.

14.1. WVSSAC member schools shall not engage in any practice, contest, meet, or tournament on Sunday. However, in case of emergency, State Championship finals may be played on Sunday after 1:00 p.m.

14.2. Sunday practice shall be defined as any team, group, or individual meeting to view films, hold shooting practice, or any other activity associated with the sport.

§127-3-15. Sports Rules -- Game Protests.

15.1. The current edition of official High School Rules published by the NFHS are the official rules used in contests, meets, and tournaments played by WVSSAC schools. The Board of Directors may modify such rules as provided by the NFHS. Any modified rules published in special bulletins or "The Interscholastic" shall apply.

15.2. In the absence of published NFHS rules, the Board of Directors may authorize competition under prevailing rules and regulations as modified for amateur competition.

15.3. Contests or ejections shall not be protested. Accordingly, the Board of Directors is not authorized to order contests replayed or ejections reconsidered.

§127-3-16. Sanctioning and Travel.

16.1. A member school shall not enter a contest/competition which requires sanctioning until it is approved by the WVSSAC.

16.2. All applications for sanctioning must be submitted to the WVSSAC 30 days prior to the event, with the exception of international events.

16.3. Events requiring NFHS approval are:

16.3.a. Co-sponsorship Sanction Requirement: Any interstate event involving two or more schools, which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community (e.g., a university, a theme park, a shoe company), in addition to being sponsored by a member school, an approved school, or a state association, shall require sanction of the NFHS office.

16.3.b. Non-bordering State Sanction Requirement: Each state association shall sanction through the NFHS office interstate competition by a member school involving either:

16.3.b.1. More than eight schools, at least one of which is from a state that does not border the host state; or

16.3.b.2. Five or more states, at least one of which does not border the host state.

16.3.c. International Event: Each member state association shall approve and receive NFHS approval for competition by a member school against a school from a foreign country, except for two school and three school competition with a school or schools from Canada or Mexico which necessitates a round trip of less than 600 miles.

16.3.d. International Event: Games against Canadian or Mexican schools involving travel of greater than 600 miles, or an event involving more than three schools, one or more of which are from Canada or Mexico, requires a request to the NFHS for international sanction and notice to and sanction by the appropriate National Governing Body.

16.4. Bordering state events requiring approval are:

16.4.a. Any interstate event in which four or more schools participate. (All schools from neighboring states.)

16.4.b. Any interstate event which involves schools from three or more state high school associations.

16.5. Intrastate events requiring approval are:

16.5.a. An event with more than four schools participating; or

16.5.b. Any event where awards are given.

16.6. The WVSSAC may assess a fine and/or other penalties against the participating school for violations of the sanction provisions.

16.7. A member school shall not enter an event that involves travel of more than 600 miles round trip unless it occurs on days when school is not in session. The WVSSAC must sanction the event.

§127-3-17. WVSSAC Tournaments.

17.1. Participation in Commission sponsored and directed sectional, regional and state tournaments

exclusively shall be limited to WVSSAC member schools.

17.2. The Board of Directors shall divide the state into sections and regions for the purpose of determining championships in Commission sponsored sports. The Board of Directors shall direct and arrange for tournaments, meets, and contests leading to and including state championships. The WVSSAC will provide member school principals the opportunity to review and comment on the alignment prior to the presentation to the Board of Directors. Principals will sign a form to verify receipt and return the form to the WVSSAC office within ten days from the date of the bulletin.

17.3. The Board of Directors shall have general control over sectional tournaments. The detailed management of these sectional tournaments, however, shall be under the control of the schools assigned to each respective section.

17.4. All net earnings from tournaments conducted under the supervision of the Board of Directors shall be turned over to the Commission unless otherwise specified by the Board of Control. Sectional or regional assessments may be charged to cover the cost of a tournament trophy furnished by the WVSSAC.

17.5. The Board of Directors may approve participation by member middle schools in county, league or conference tournament. Tournament play on the state level for member middle schools is prohibited.

17.6. State tournaments conclude only after all games, matches, or events are complete~~d~~.

§127-3-18. Season Regulations.

18.1. The Commission uses the NFHS standardized calendar to schedule all activities. Each sport season shall have an established beginning and ending date for practice and interscholastic contests based on a standardized calendar.

§127-3-19. Baseball.

19.1. Rules: Baseball rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

19.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

19.3. Length of Season: The baseball season ends for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

19.4. Maximum Team Contests: A baseball team is permitted to play no more than 32 games exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

19.5. Scrimmages: Teams may conduct two baseball scrimmages with another high school. (See Glossary.)

19.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

19.7. Student Participation:

19.7.a. A student may not play or practice on a non-school baseball team while a member of the school team.

19.7.b. A student shall not participate in more than 32 games in one season, exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests. Serving as a "courtesy or pinch runner" is not considered "participation" in a game.

19.8. During the sport season, a student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events. Awards must comply with §127-3-5. Outside the sport season, students may accept only compliant awards in non-sanctioned events.

19.9. Middle Schools -- The above will apply for middle schools with following adaptations:

19.9.a. Middle school teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

19.9.b. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

19.9.c. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

§127-3-20. Basketball (Boys and Girls).

20.1. Rules: Basketball rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

20.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice for girls will begin on Monday of Week 19 and Monday of Week 20 for boys. The first contest for girls may be played on Tuesday of Week 22 and Tuesday of Week 23 for boys.

20.3. Length of Season: The boys' and girls' basketball seasons will end for each team at tournament elimination.

20.4. Maximum Team Contests: A varsity or junior varsity basketball team will be permitted to play no more than 22 games in the regular season exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

20.4.a. The maximum number of quarters for a student in one season is 110 exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

20.4.b. A student can play only five quarters in one day.

20.4.c. Participation in a quarter, regardless of time, will be considered one quarter.

20.4.d. Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.

20.5. A high school basketball team is permitted to participate in a preview and a scrimmage or two scrimmage games. (See Glossary.)

20.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

20.7. A student may not play or practice on a non-school team while a member of the school team.

20.8. During the sport season a student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events Awards must comply with the §127-3-5. Outside the sport season, students may accept only compliant awards in non-sanctioned events.

20.9. Middle Schools -- The above rules will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

20.9.a. Girls may begin practice on Monday of Week 18 and boys on Monday of Week 19. The first contest for girls may be played on Wednesday of week 21 and Wednesday of week 22 for boys.

20.9.b. The girls basketball season will end on Saturday of Week 33 and Saturday of Week 34 for boys.

20.9.c. Tournament play on the state level shall be prohibited.

20.9.d. Boys and girls basketball teams will be permitted to play no more than 20 games. Tournament exception does not apply.

20.9.e. All middle students may play a maximum of 100 quarters for one season.

20.9.f. All middle students may play a maximum of five quarters per day.

20.9.g. A member school sponsoring games involving teams which combine students in 7th and 8th grades must play those games in quarters of six minutes.

20.9.h. Middle schools are not permitted to play an alumni game.

20.9.i. Scrimmages: Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

§127-3-21. Cheerleading.

21.1. Rules: Cheerleading rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

21.2. Organized Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5.

21.3. Length of Season: The high school spirit and competitive season will begin Monday of Week 5. The competitive season will end for each team at their cheer tournament elimination. The high school spirit season will end on the last day of the Girls' State Basketball Tournament or Boys' State Basketball Tournament.

21.4. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

21.5. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

21.6. Middle Schools -- The above rules will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

21.6.a. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6.

21.6.b. The middle school spirit and competitive cheer season will begin Monday of Week 6. The competitive season will end Saturday of Week 18. The middle school spirit season will end on the last day of the middle school girls' or boys' basketball season.

§127-3-22. Cross Country (Boys and Girls).

22.1. Rules: Cross country rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

22.2. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first meet may be held on Saturday of Week 7.

22.3. Length of Season: The cross country season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

22.4. Maximum Team Contests: A cross country team will be permitted 16 meets exclusive of regional and state contests.

22.5. Scrimmages: Schools may conduct two cross country scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

22.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

22.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the §127-3-5.

§127-3-23. Football.

23.1. Rules: Football rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

23.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played during Week 8.

23.2.a. The following table establishes for high school the ~~first date pads with no live contact, first date to use pads with total contact,~~ equipment/contact level, earliest date for scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama, date for first contest, and date season must be completed.

Year	First Date Organized Practice Helmets Only No Contact	First Date ~~Pads No Live Contact~~ Helmet & Shoulder Pads Soft Equipment Contact (Bag, Shields, Sleds, Tackling Wheel, etc.)	First Date ~~Live Contact Allowed~~ Full Pads Soft Equipment Contact (Bag, Shields, Sleds, Tackling Wheel, etc.)	~~Earliest Date For Scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama~~ First Date Full Pads Full Contact	~~Date For First Contest~~ Earliest Scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama after 4:00 p.m.	~~Date Season Must Be Completed~~ First Contest	Date Season Must Be Completed
~~2020~~	~~Aug. 3~~	~~Aug. 7~~	~~Aug. 11~~	~~Aug. 15~~	~~Aug. 24~~	~~Nov. 7~~	
2021	Aug. 2 & 3	Aug. ~~6~~ 4 & 5	Aug. ~~10~~ 6	Aug. ~~14~~ 7	Aug. ~~23~~ 13	~~Nov. 6~~ Aug. 23	Nov. 6
2022	Aug. 1 & 2	Aug. ~~5~~ 3 & 4	Aug. ~~9~~ 5	Aug. ~~13~~ 6	Aug. ~~22~~ 12	~~Nov. 5~~ Aug. 22	Nov. 5
2023	July 31 & Aug. 1	Aug. ~~4~~ 2 & 3	Aug. ~~8~~ 4	Aug. ~~12~~ 5	Aug. ~~21~~ 11	~~Nov. 4~~ Aug. 21	Nov. 4
2024	Aug. 5 & 6	Aug. ~~9~~ 7 & 8	Aug. ~~13~~ 9	Aug. ~~17~~ 10	Aug. ~~26~~ 16	~~Nov. 2~~ Aug. 26	Nov. 9
2025	Aug. 4 & 5	Aug. 6 & 7	Aug. 8	Aug. 9	Aug. 15.	Aug. 25	Nov. 8

23.2.b. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

23.2.c. In season football camps sponsored by a member school or by other school related organizations where football coaching and instruction are given are not permitted.

23.2.d. The use of football uniforms, protective equipment, tackling or blocking dummies, charging sleds, or similar devices are strictly prohibited during the conditioning program. During the date of pads no live contact, the use of sleds, shields, and blocking dummies is allowed to permit gradual adaptation of the students to carrying the weight of their pads and adjusting to temperature variation.

23.3. Length of Season: The football season will end for each team at the end of the regular season or by play-off elimination.

23.4. Maximum Team Contests: A football team will be permitted to play no more than 10 games exclusive of the play-off games.

23.4.a. The total number of quarters for a student in one season is 50 exclusive of the play-off games.

23.4.b. A student may only play four quarters in one day.

23.4.c. Any student who participated in one or more downs in one quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play. Downs in which the football teams are in a free kick formation, or the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation, as defined in the NFHS Football Rule Book, will not count as a down.

23.4.d. Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.

23.4.e. Interscholastic practice game in which teams representing a member school play against alumni or others is not be allowed.

23.5. A football team is permitted to participate in a Grid-O-Rama and one preseason scrimmage or two preseason scrimmages. (See Glossary for definitions of Grid-O-Rama and Scrimmage.)

23.6. Special Regulations:

23.6.a. All rules and regulations of these bylaws pertaining to football are also applicable to six-man and eight-man football.

23.6.b. Any member of a freshman team who plays in a varsity contest (scrimmage, Grid-o-Rama or game) is ineligible to return to the freshman team.

23.6.c. A student may not play or practice on a non-school football team while a member of the school team.

23.7. A student may accept awards for WVSSAC sanctioned and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the §127-3-5.

23.8. The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt a point rating system and overall procedure for determining a state champion in each class.

23.9. Middle Schools: The above rules will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

23.9.a. Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first game played during Week 9.

23.9.b. The following table establishes the first date for organized practice, the first date pads with no live contact, the first date for live contact, earliest date for a scrimmage, the date for first game and the date season must be completed.

Year	First Date Organized Practice	Pads No Live Contact	Contact Allowed Full Equip.	Date For Scrimmage	Earliest For First Game	Date Season Must Be Completed
~~2020~~	~~Aug. 10~~	~~Aug. 17~~	~~Aug. 20~~	~~Aug. 24~~	~~Week 9~~	~~Oct. 31~~
2021	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 19	Aug. 23	Week 9	Oct. 30
2022	Aug. 8	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 22	Week 9	Oct. 29
2023	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 16.	Aug. 20	Week 9	Oct. 28
2024	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 22	Aug. 26	Week 9	Nov. 2
2025	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 21	Sept. 1	Week 9	Nov. 1

23.9.c. The football season will end on Saturday of Week 17.

23.9.d. Not more than eight interscholastic football games shall be played, excepting one league playoff game. There shall be a nine game limit, even if league playoff games are used, and the extra game is limited to two teams. Leagues choosing to have the extra playoff game may participate in a two quarter Grid-O-Rama in place of a scrimmage game, if agreed to before the start of the season.

23.9.e. The total number of quarters for a middle school student in one season is 40, exclusive of the playoff game in §127-3-23.4.

23.9.f. A middle school football team is allowed one preseason scrimmage under the following conditions:

23.9.f.1. Scrimmage will not be played under game conditions.

23.9.f.2. Scrimmage must be played prior to first game of regular season.

23.9.f.3. Admission may be charged.

23.9.f.4. Registered officials may be used.

23.9.g. Middle school football teams may play overtime periods in regular season games. In season ending championship games, a tie breaking procedure shall be established and used if at the end of two overtime periods, the score remains tied. A maximum of two overtime periods are permitted in accordance with the NFHS Football Rules "20 yard line overtime procedure."

23.9.h. Middle school game ball: The football used involving only students in the 8th grade and below shall be the youth football. Modification of the rule is listed in the NFHS Rule Book, Rule 1-3-1.

23.9.i. Length of Quarters: For teams composed of students in any combination of 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, the length of quarters shall be eight minutes.

23.9.j. A 9th grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for high school.

§127-3-24. Golf (Boys and Girls).

24.1. Rules: Golf rules published by the United States Golf Association are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by WVSSAC modifications.

24.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played on any day after the first day of the season.

24.3. Length of Season: The golf season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

24.4. Maximum Team Contests: A high school golf team will be permitted to play no more than 18 varsity matches, 18 JV matches, and 18 girls' JV matches. A male or female participant may play no more than a total of 18 matches exclusive of regional and state tournament contests between the varsity, JV,

and girls' JV matches. Girls who participate on school teams who do not have a minimum of three female participants may participate as individuals in girls' JV matches as long as the total number of matches they play between varsity, JV, and girls' JV does not exceed 18. Each interscholastic contest counts as one, whether it is nine or 18 holes, and regardless of number of opponents.

24.5. Scrimmages: Not permitted.

24.6. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

24.7. Middle School Golf: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

24.7.a. Middle school teams are permitted to play no more than 14 matches.

24.7.b. There shall be one season for golf in middle school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than ten weeks.

§127-3-25. Soccer (Boys and Girls).

25.1. Rules: Soccer rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

25.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played on Friday of Week 7.

25.3. Length of Season: The soccer season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

25.4. Maximum Team Contests: A soccer team will be permitted to play no more than 20 matches exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournaments.

25.4.a. The maximum number of halves for a student in one season will be 50, exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournaments.

25.4.b. A student shall not be permitted to participate in more than three halves during any one day. Play in any part of a half counts as one half. In an overtime game, the overtime shall be considered an extension of the second half.

25.5. A high school soccer team is permitted to participate in a soccer-o-rama and one preseason scrimmage or two preseason scrimmages. (See Glossary.)

25.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

25.7. A student may not play or practice on a non-school soccer team while a member of the school team.

25.8. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport.

These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

25.9. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

25.9.a. Middle school teams may play 14 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

25.9.b. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first contest may be played on Monday of Week 9.

25.9.c. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

25.9.d. The maximum number of halves for a student in one season will be 28.

25.9.e. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.).

§127-3-26. Softball.

26.1. Rules: Softball rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

26.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

26.3. Length of Season: The softball season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

26.4. Maximum Team Contests: A softball team will be permitted to play no more than 32 contests exclusive of sectional, regional and state contests.

26.5. Scrimmages: Two softball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.).

26.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

26.7. Student Participation:

26.7.a. A student may not play or practice on a non-school softball team while a member of the school team.

26.7.b. A student shall not participate in more than 32 games in one season, exclusive of sectional, regional and state tournament contests. Serving as a "courtesy or pinch runner" is not considered "participation" in a game.

26.8. During the sport season, a student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events. These awards must be compliant with §127-3-5. Outside the sport season students may accept only compliant

awards in non-sanctioned events.

26.9. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

26.9.a. Middle school teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

26.9.b. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

26.9.c. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

§127-3-27. Swimming (Boys and Girls).

27.1. Rules: Swimming rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

27.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 17 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 19.

27.3. Length of Season: The swimming season will end for each team or individual by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

27.4. Maximum Team Contests: A swimming team will be permitted 16 contests exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

27.5. Scrimmages: Two swimming scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.).

27.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

27.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

27.8. The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

27.8.a. Middle school teams will be permitted 14 meets.

27.8.b. ~~Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 18 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 20~~ There shall be one season for middle school swimming, either winter or spring. However, the season selected shall be no longer than 12 weeks.

27.8.c. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 31.

27.8.d. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.).

§127-3-28. Tennis (Boys and Girls).

28.1. Rules: Tennis rules published by the United States Tennis Association are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

28.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.

28.3. Length of Season: The tennis season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

28.4. Maximum Team Contests: A tennis team will be permitted 22 matches exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

28.4.a. Dual, triangular and quadrangular matches count as one match. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two matches.

28.5. Scrimmages: Two tennis scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

28.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

28.7. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events or non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

28.8. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

28.8.a. Middle school teams may play 16 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

28.8.b. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

28.8.c. There shall be one season for tennis in middle school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 12 weeks.

§127-3-29. Track and Field (Boys and Girls).

29.1. Rules: Track and Field rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

29.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 37.

29.3. Length of Season: The track and field season will end for each team or individual by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

29.4. Maximum Team Contests: A track and field team will be permitted 16 meets exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

29.5. Participation Limitations: Maximum of four events per participant per meet.

29.6. Scrimmages: Not permitted.

29.7. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

29.8. A student may accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5.

29.9. Middle Schools -- The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

29.9.a. Middle school teams will be permitted 14 meets and only two meets per week.

29.9.b. Middle school season will be completed by Thursday of Week 46.

29.9.c. Participation limitation: Middle school students, regardless of grade levels (6, 7, or 8), may compete in a maximum of four events, of which only three may be running events, including relays.

§127-3-30. Volleyball (Girls).

30.1. Rules: Volleyball rules published by NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

30.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 8.

30.3. Length of Season: The volleyball season will end for each team by WVSSAC tournament elimination.

30.4. Maximum Team Contest: A volleyball team will be permitted no more than 22 playing dates exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.

30.4.a. Dual, triangular, and quadrangular matches count as one playing date. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two playing dates.

30.5. In dual competition, a student may participate in a maximum of four games against the same opponent if a match is two of three games and six games if the varsity match is three of five games.

30.6. Scrimmages: Two volleyball scrimmages with another high school or one scrimmage and one preview may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

30.7. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

30.8. A student may not play or practice on a non-school volleyball team while a member of the school team.

30.9. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

30.10. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

30.10.a. Middle school teams will be permitted ~~16~~ 18 playing dates.

30.10.b. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 7 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 10.

30.10.c. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

30.10.d. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

§127-3-31. Wrestling (Boys).

31.1. Rules: Wrestling rules published by the NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

31.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 20 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 22.

31.3. Length of Season: The wrestling season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.

31.4. Maximum Team Contest: A wrestling team will be permitted to have 18 weigh-ins exclusive of regional and state tournaments.

31.4.a. Triangular and quadrangular weigh-ins count as one weigh-in. Weigh-ins in which five or more schools participate count as two weigh-ins. A dual meet, in which only two teams compete, shall only count as one-half of a weigh-in point.

31.5. Scrimmages: Two wrestling scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

31.6. Individual students of a team must have practiced on 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.

31.7. A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in §127-3-5. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

31.8. Middle Schools: The above will apply for middle schools with the following adaptations:

31.8.a. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 19 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 22.

31.8.b. Middle school teams may have 16 weigh-ins excluding any conference tournament.

31.8.c. Middle school teams are permitted one scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

31.8.d. Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ALL-STAR GAME - a contest where all contestants on each team are students selected from four or more school teams. No more than three students from any one school may participate on the same team.

COACH - county board/governing body contracted or approved facilitator of any secondary school athletic team.

COMMISSION/WVSSAC - West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

CONTEST or GAME – one or more of the following conditions are present: previous agreement, advertisement, score and/or time kept, spectators present, regulation or modified rules used, coverage appearing in local media, sufficient number of students to form teams, admission charged, and/or contest officiated by registered officials.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - nonacademic activities such as interscholastic athletics, student government, class officers, marching band that is not a part of the curricular band, and clubs which are not closely related to identifiable programs/areas of study.

FACULTY MEMBER - one who has a full-time teacher permit as defined by W. Va. 126CSR136, WVBE Policy 5202, Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classification.

FEEDER SCHOOL - the school(s) designated by the county board of education/governing body as the school of attendance prior to entrance into the high school.

GRID-O-RAMA/SOCCER-O-RAMA – must adhere to rules of Preview and Scrimmage (see definitions).

MEMBER SCHOOL - a school that is a member of the WVSSAC.

PREVIEW - must be three or more teams; teams are only allowed to play the equivalent of one contest; all conditions of a scrimmage apply.

PRINCIPAL - the individual charged with supervision, management, and control of a secondary school.

SCRIMMAGE - after seven days of practice; prior to the first contest; without keeping score in a book or on a score board; not under game conditions (examples include basketball and soccer - quarters; three outs-baseball and softball); admission may be charged; free substitution; time-outs permitted; if officials are used, they must be West Virginia registered officials.

SEMESTER - a block of instructional time that is equivalent to at least one-half of the academic year. (See W. Va. 126CSR42, WVBE Policy 2510, Assuring the Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs.)

SECONDARY SCHOOL - a high school or middle school as registered with the WVDE.

STUDENT - a male or female participant in interscholastic athletics or band activities.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER - a person in a public school who has met the requirements as specified by the WVBE and has been approved as a substitute teacher of that county board of education, or a person who has met the requirements of the governing body of a private/parochial school.

VARSITY - primary representative team of a high school.

APPENDIX 1

This considers the following factors: enrollment, location and economics. These factors are given individual scores, which are then given a weighted aggregate total. All individual scores (scores for enrollment, location and economics) are normalized using maximum-minimum normalization using feature scaling, wherein their values fall between 0-1. Individual scores are calculated in the following ways:

- The **enrollment score** takes enrollment data and normalizes it on a scale from 0-1

- The **location score** is made up of two equally weighted pieces.
  - Part 1 is determined by taking the school county's population divided by the driving distance between the school and the county seat, that value is then normalized between 0-1.
  - Part 2 is calculated by finding the distance from the school to the closest city with a population of 10,000 or more, then normalized between 0-1. Each part is then multiplied by half of the location score weight.

- The **economic score** is determined by first calculating a county score where the z-score of the county's median household income is added to the z-score of the county's poverty rate and the sum is normalized between 0-1.
  - For all schools located within single high school counties, the county economic score serves as the school economic score.
  - For all schools located within multi-high school counties, Direct Certified numbers on students eligible for free or reduced lunch are used to scale the county economic score. The scaling is accomplished by comparing the Direct Certified numbers of each individual school with the county average.

Weights are applied to each score that are determined based on qualitative assessment by the WVSSAC Competition Balance Committee. All county data (population, median household income, and poverty rate) are from the most recent US Census American Community Survey's Five Year Estimates and the distances are determined using Google Maps.

West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC)
Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: June 14, 2021

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 3, Provisions Governing Contests. Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name:_____ Organization: _____

Title: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

- ☐ School System Superintendent
- ☐ Principal
- ☐ Professional Support Staff
- ☐ School System Staff
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Service Personnel
- ☐ Parent/Family
- ☐ Business/Industry
- ☐ Community Member

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
§127-3-23.2.a. Football.
§127-3-23.9.b. Football.
§127-3-27.8.b. Swimming (Boys and Girls).
§127-3-30.10.a. Volleyball (Girls).

Please direct all comments to:
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