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TITLE 127  
LEGISLATIVE RULES  
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. Code §18-2-25

1.3. Filing Date. -- August 31, 1984

1.4. Effective Date. -- September 30, 1984

§127-3-2. Competition limited to eligibles.

2.1. A member school of this Commission shall not enter any athletes or athletic teams in any contest whatsoever unless the athletes or athletic teams of such member school shall be eligible under series 2 of the regulations of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. This rule also applies to second or reserve teams.

2.2. When contests are held which are part of the intramural programs of schools, such contestants need not be certified as eligible under provisions of series 2 of these regulations.

2.3. A pupil shall not be allowed on the field of play in the athletic uniform of his school if he is not eligible to participate.

2.4. If a school maintains separate teams in the same or related sports (example: baseball or softball) for girls and boys during the school year, regardless of the sports season, girls may not participate on boys' teams and boys may not participate on girls' teams. However, should a school not maintain separate teams in the same or related sports for boys and girls, then boys and girls may participate on the same team except in contact sports such as football and wrestling.

§127-3-3. Responsibility of principal.

3.1. The principal of each school, in all matters pertaining to the interscholastic athletic relations of his school, is responsible to this Commission. He may delegate some of these powers but such delegation shall not relieve him of responsibility for any infraction, by his school, or these regulations.

3.2. A member of the faculty must accompany each team for its games away from home. He may be substituted for by a representative properly authorized by a written statement from his principal.

§127-3-4. Powers and duties of principal.

4.1. The principal shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) To have general local control over all interscholastic athletic relations and athletic contests in which his school participates. This applies to interscholastic athletics for both girls and boys.

(b) To exclude any contestant who, because of bad habits or improper conduct would not represent his or her school in a becoming manner, to exclude any contestant who fails to maintain satisfactory scholastic standing, as defined in series 2, subsection 8.1 of these regulations, while a sport season is in progress and also to exclude any contestant who has suffered serious illness or injury until that contestant is pronounced physically fit by the school physician or the attending physician and the parents or guardian of said contestant shall consent to the resumption of athletic participation. (Also see series 3, section 20 of these regulations.)

(c) To sanction all contests in which his school participates.

(d) To be responsible for the treatment of all visitors and officials attending contest conducted by his school. Penalties may be imposed upon a member school whose principal fails to provide reasonable protection for officials and visitors at home games. If a game is played at a neutral place, the principals of the participating schools shall be held jointly responsible for this protection. In such a case, penalties may be imposed upon either or both schools.

(e) To see that all contracts for athletic contests in which his school participates are in writing and bear his signature.

(f) The principal or his authorized representative shall accompany his team to all contests.

(g) To be responsible for certifying in writing the eligibility of all contestants in accordance with these regulations.

(h) The principal shall have such other powers concerning interscholastic athletics within his school as are in keeping with the growth and needs of the school and which are consistent with the provisions of the regulations of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.

#### §127-3-5. Contracts.

5.1. Arrangements for games between schools shall be governed and covered by a uniform contract of which this rule shall be a part.

5.2. The executive secretary shall furnish official forms to all principals belonging to this Commission.

5.3. All contracts shall be in writing and drawn up according to the official contract form. These should include specific dates, financial guarantee provisions and adequate forfeiture stipulations. Disputes arising from oral agreements will not be considered by the Board of Appeals.

5.4. The suspension of a school's schedule of athletic contest in a particular sport shall render its contracts with other schools in that sport null and void.

5.5. Contracts calling for two (2) games -- home and home games -- cannot be annulled unless by

agreement of both principals or by order of the Board of Appeals.

5.6. If school "c" delivers to school "d" a signed contract for a game to be played on a specific date and the contract is not returned by school "d" within thirty (30) days, then if school "c" should sign a new contract with another school for a game on the date specified in the contract sent to school "d", school "c" shall not be penalized for so doing.

5.7. The Board of Appeals, under the power granted in series 1, subsection 8.8 of these regulations, has the authority to annul a contract which has been signed by the official representatives of the two (2) schools which are parties to the contract, if it deems such action necessary for the furtherance of interscholastic athletics in the secondary schools in West Virginia, or if provisions of the contract are contrary to the rules of the Commission.

5.8. An athletic contest will be considered forfeited during regular season as per contracted or tournament play as per scheduled if contest stoppage is caused by a strike by teachers, support personnel, or school patrols acting as a striking body. In cases where both participating schools are on strike, it shall be considered no contest. Games or contests stopped during regular season may be rescheduled during that same season by agreement of the involved parties and the Board of Appeals.

#### §127-3-6. Exchange of eligibility certificates.

6.1. At the beginning of the season of each sport approved by this Commission, or prior to the first contest, the principal shall submit to all scheduled opponents and the executive secretary of the Commission a master eligibility certificate containing the names of all students to the squad or playing group then eligible for the sport under the provision of these regulations.

6.2. Names shall be written the same as those on the permanent record cards, initials or nicknames shall not be used.

6.3. At the beginning of the second semester the principal shall certify to all scheduled opponents and the executive secretary of all students of the squad who are eligible to represent his school in basketball

and wrestling during the second semester.

6.4. The names of the players on all junior high school teams and teams from the ninth (9th) grade of the four (4) year high school and seven (7), eight (8) and nine (9) of a six (6) year high school shall be submitted on the master eligibility certificate prepared for use by the junior high school.

6.5. Addition to the squad shall be certified at once to the executive secretary and competing schools in a similar manner on an additional master certificate.

6.6. Failure to send the required certificates to the opponents in accordance with the provisions above shall render the offending school liable to a fine of five dollars (\$5.00) to be paid to each opponent to whom such certificates was not sent.

6.7. Any school failing to send master eligibility certificates to the executive secretary at the required time shall, after two (2) weeks notice by the executive secretary, be subject to the penalties imposed by the Board of Appeals.

6.8. This rule shall apply to varsity or "a" teams, second or "b" teams or so called junior teams, junior high school teams, and teams from the ninth (9th) grade of a four (4) year high school. Should a school have teams other than those specifically mentioned, which represent said school in interscholastic athletics, this rule shall apply to those teams.

6.9. All athletic eligibility certificates shall be certified by the principals of competing schools. Certification shall be based on a birth certificate and complete information concerning the student's scholastic and athletic history. Questionable cases shall be approved by the executive secretary before privilege of participation is given.

6.10. Questionable cases may arise if a birth certificate is not filed near the time of birth. In such case it is usually customary to accept grade school records. If these records are at variance, the earliest date of birth will be used. Original records of attending physician(s), baptismal records and entries made in family Bibles, if made near the time of birth, are acceptable evidence. However, statements or affidavits made by "friends" or even parents ten (10) or more years after birth and based on memory are not acceptable if opposed by contrary written records. Furthermore, delayed birth certificates recorded after the

student has entered the seventh (7th) grade are not acceptable if opposed by contrary written records.

6.11. If a school knowingly or inadvertently permits an ineligible player to represent it in an interscholastic contest, all games in which such ineligible player participated shall be automatically forfeited. (Note: Should such violation occur during tournament play, the last team defeated would be named to proceed to subsequent games.)

6.12. The executive secretary shall furnish master eligibility forms to all member principals of this Commission.

6.13. The purpose of this section is to clarify eligibility in advance of contests rather than subsequently. The Commission will expect schools to check with care all certificates submitted and to report at once to the competing school any seemingly authentic information indicating the ineligibility of a player and will look with disfavor on protests made after games have been played unless it can be shown that evidence of ineligibility was not in hand or available before the contest.

6.14. When a change is made in the record of age, number of semesters of attendance, or semester credits from that which has previously appeared on eligibility certificates and when such a change would be to the advantage of the student concerned, it shall not be accepted as official until permission has been secured from the Board of Appeals.

6.15. If a student is ineligible at the time the eligibility certificate is due, his name may not be placed on the certificate. His promise to perform the required work before the hour of the game would not make him eligible because the eligibility statement is a pledge of what he has done rather than what he has promised to do.

#### §127-3-7. Coaches.

7.1. Only a member of a school faculty, a substitute teacher, or a student teacher within a public, private or parochial school system shall be allowed to coach an athletic team within that school system's public, private or parochial schools.

7.2. A member of a faculty shall be considered one who is a full time teacher as defined by the West Virginia State Department of Education. A member of a

faculty in one school may coach in another school in the same county upon the approval of the said county board of education.

7.3. A substitute teacher is defined as a person who has met the licensure requirements as specified by the West Virginia State Board of Education and has been approved as a substitute teacher of that county board of education, private or parochial school.

7.4. 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 their role in the classroom and shall be approved by the county board of education, private or parochial schools. Said student teacher will work directly under the supervision of the appointed coach or assistant coach.

7.5. Coaching shall be interpreted to mean instruction, direction or supervision of members of athletic teams, individually or as a group, for the purpose of developing ability or skill to perform in athletic contests.

#### §127-3-8. Officials.

8.1. Officials for interscholastic contests shall be mutually agreed upon by the competing schools at least two (2) weeks before the scheduled date of contest. Coaches or other persons connected with competing schools shall not officiate at the contest unless the consent of all competing schools is given.

8.2 Schools which take their teams off the field or floor on account of alleged poor officiating may not expect to collect their expenses and guarantees. When the game begins, each school waives all of its rights as far as objecting to the officials is concerned. Any school which takes its team off the field or floor on account of dissatisfaction with the officiating renders itself liable to severe discipline by the Commission. In most states the penalty for this is suspension.

8.3. The visiting school is responsible for selection of game officials to the extent that selection is made possibly by mutual agreement. The initiative is placed upon the host school by the rules. However, if names are not submitted in accordance with the rules, the visiting school should take steps to secure agreement upon satisfactory officials.

8.4. As the rules of this Commission do not give the Board of Appeals authority to order games replayed, protests arising from the decisions of officials will not be considered. Great care should be exercised to secure competent officials, then their decisions shall be accepted as final.

8.5. The executive secretary shall be empowered to authorize the use of nonregistered officials for athletic contests where work stoppages arising over wage disputes between registered officials and schools threatened the cancellation of said scheduled athletic contests.

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

#### §127-3-9. Game officials registration plan.

9.1. To improve athletic officiating and to secure acceptance of standard interpretations of rules and application of officiating techniques, a game officials registration plan shall be established by the Board of Appeals. Officials used in interscholastic games and contests played in West Virginia must be registered with the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, except in case of emergency. Subsection 8.5 of these regulations may be invoked. The use of at least one (1) such registered official in interscholastic games and contests among junior high member schools of said Commission is recommended.

#### §127-3-10. Football games and practice.

10.1. A high school football team shall not play a game of football until its school term has officially begun except as provided in subsection 10.2 of this regulation and it has had a practice session on at least fourteen (14) days prior to the first game. The one (1) pre-season interscholastic scrimmage permitted elsewhere in these rules may be counted as a practice session. The school term for any football team begins on that date set by its county board of education for the official opening of school.

10.2. The earliest playing date for football shall be

the weekend prior to the Labor Day weekend.

10.3. The following table establishes, for senior high schools, the earliest date organized football practice may begin, the first date to use pads with nonlive contact, the first date to use pads with total contact allowed, and the earliest date the first football game may be played for the years so specified. However, in areas where a playing field is used by more than one (1) high school to play its football games, upon written request, the Board of Appeals is authorized to grant permission for a football team to play its first game one (1) day earlier than the date so specified below: (See Table 127-3A at the end of this regulation.)

NOTE: This refers to no live contact between players; use of sleds, shields and blocking dummies will be allowed. The purpose is to permit gradual adaption of the players to carrying the weight of their pads prior to live contact with other players in humid temperatures.

The following table establishes, for junior high schools, the earliest date organized football practice may begin and the dates for first live-contact, first game and end of season. (See Table 127-3B at the end of this regulation.)

10.5. A member school of this Commission shall not engage in any form of out-of-season football practice.

10.6. No football camps shall be permitted for member schools of this Commission. Football camps are interpreted to mean camps sponsored by schools or by others where football coaching and instruction is given.

10.7. Not more than ten (10) interscholastic football games shall be played in any season by a senior high school team. However, a football team may be permitted to participate in not more than one (1) pre-season interscholastic scrimmage. Admission may be charged for such scrimmage. Such scrimmage shall not be conducted under game conditions. The use of registered officials to officiate such scrimmage shall not be considered a violation of the "game conditions" rule.

10.8. A high school football team is permitted to participated in a Grid-O-Rama and/or a pre-season football scrimmage. Admission may be charged. Teams desiring to participate would be allowed to

play two (2) quarters of football time. The current rules that are in effect in the present pre-season scrimmage would also apply to the football Grid-O-Rama. this Commission and directed by the Board of Appeals.

10.9. The total number of quarters, in any season, in which a senior high school player may play on his school's football teams shall not exceed forty (40), exclusive of state championship play-off games which are sponsored by this Commission and directed by the Board of Appeals.

10.10. Not more than eight (8) interscholastic football games shall be played by a junior high school team; and the total number of quarters, in any season, in which a player on a junior high school team may play, shall not exceed thirty-two (32). An interscholastic scrimmage may be substituted for one (1) of the allowable eight (8) interscholastic games.

10.11. Junior high school football teams may be permitted to play overtime periods in county or league playoffs or when advancement to finals must be determined during county or league championship playoffs. A maximum of two (2) overtime periods will be permitted in accordance with the National Federation Football Rule 10 yard line overtime procedure.

10.12. An organized or supervised conditioning program beginning on or after August 1 each year for senior high schools and August 8 each year for junior high schools, conducted by member schools for the purpose of preparing boys for the opening of football practice, shall not constitute a violation of this Commission's rules and regulations prohibiting out-of-season football practice. The use of football uniforms, protective equipment, tackling or blocking dummies, charging sleds, or similar devices, is strictly prohibited. Such conditioning program shall not be conducted on Sundays.

(See NOTE) at end of Chart in subsection 6.13 of these rules.

10.13. Interscholastic practice games or games in which teams representing a member school play against players or students who are not enrolled in said member school shall be counted in the maximum number of games a member school may play in any season.

10.14. Football practice means any organized or

supervised practice on the part of players or on the part of players and coaches or coaches' representatives. For instance, a group of three (3) boys passing and kicking a football would not be considered organized practice. A group of three (3) students following a definitely laid out plan of offensive and defensive line play, given them by a coach, would be considered as organized practice. Mapping out by a coach of a definite course of practice to be followed by small groups during the summer or spring would be considered as organized and supervised practice.

10.15. Football practice shall be considered any type of sport organized to promote efficiency in any one of the various aspects of football. Rugby and touch football featuring block, tackling, etc., shall be considered "organized football."

10.16. Football training, on the football field or on the gymnasium floor, shall not be held during the prohibited practice season. Rumors, sometimes confirmed, have circulated that football coaches have boys report, during the winter or spring, or to have a center and the backs report for passing and information drills. This produces dissatisfaction on the part of coaches who hear these reports, but who are not allowed to avoid the rules by such subterfuge.

10.17. The Commission intends by this rule to emphasize the desirability of participation in seasonal activities rather than in specialization on football at the expense of teaching such skills as tennis, golf, track, baseball, etc. The rule does not in any way interfere with the teaching of fundamental athletic skills in the regular physical education program of the school.

10.18. All of these rules and regulations pertaining to football are also applicable to six (6) man and eight (8) man football.

#### **§127-3-11. Basketball games and season.**

11.1. The maximum number of interscholastic basketball games played in any one (1) season by a member senior high school shall not exceed twenty (20), exclusive of games played in tournaments sponsored by this Commission. The total number of quarters in any season in which a senior high school player may participate on his or her school's basketball team shall not exceed eighty (80), exclusive of quarters played in tournaments sponsored by this Commission. A member of a school's basketball team

shall not be permitted to participate in more than four (4) quarters in any one (1) day. Any participation in a quarter, regardless of the length of time played, is to be considered one (1) quarter. However, in any overtime games, the extra period or periods are to be considered an extension of the fourth quarter.

11.2. A senior high basketball team may be permitted to participate in not more than two (2) pre-season interscholastic scrimmages. Such scrimmages shall not be conducted under game conditions. The use of registered officials to officiate such scrimmages shall not be considered a violation of the "game conditions" rule. An admission fee may be charged for such scrimmages.

11.3. A senior high school basketball team may participate in one (1) holiday tournament with no more than four (4) teams participating. A team may not play more than two (2) games in said tournament. The game(s) played shall count as one (1) game only in the team's regular schedule.

11.4. A senior high school basketball team for girls may begin organized practice for basketball on August 15. Said basketball team shall not play a regular season interscholastic basketball game until organized practice sessions have been held on each of at least fourteen (14) days prior to said first game. Organized practice sessions and play for basketball shall end at such time as said team is eliminated from sectional, regional or state tournament play. team shall not play a regular season interscholastic basketball game until organized practice sessions have been held for fourteen (14) days in December. Organized practice sessions and play for basketball shall end at such time as said team is eliminated from its sectional, regional or state tournament.

11.5. A senior high school basketball team for boys may begin organized practice on November 15. Said basketball team shall not play a regular session interscholastic basketball game until organized practice sessions have been held for fourteen (14) days in December. Organized practice sessions and play for basketball shall end at such time as said team is eliminated from its sectional, regional or state tournament.

11.6. The maximum number of interscholastic basketball games played in any one (1) season by a member junior high school shall not exceed twenty (20), including all tournament games. A member of a

school's basketball team shall not be permitted to participate in more than four (4) quarters in one (1) day. Any participation in a quarter, regardless of the length of time played, is to be considered one quarter. However, in any overtime game, the extra period or periods are to be considered an extension of the fourth (4th) quarter. A member of a school's basketball team shall not be permitted to participate in more than eighty (80) quarters in one (1) season, including all tournament games. All tournament participation involving awards must be approved by the WVSSAC at least thirty (30) days prior to the event.

11.7. A junior high school basketball team for girls may begin organized practice for basketball on the opening day of school. Said basketball team shall not play a regular season interscholastic basketball game until organized practice sessions for basketball have been held on each of at least fourteen days prior to said first game. Organized practice sessions and play shall end for said junior high school basketball team when its schedule has been completed or when it has been eliminated from a tournament approved by the Board of Appeals.

11.8. A junior high school basketball team for boys may begin organized practice for basketball on November 15. Said basketball team shall not play a regular season interscholastic basketball game until organized practice sessions have been held for fourteen (14) days in December. Organized practice sessions and play shall end for said junior high school basketball team when its schedule has been completed or when it has been eliminated from a tournament approved by the Board of Appeals.

11.9. Tournament play on the state level for member junior high schools shall be prohibited.

11.10. Interscholastic practice games or games in which teams representing a member school play against players or students who are enrolled in said member school shall be counted in the maximum number of games a member school may play in any season. Provided, however, That a team representing a member school and a team composed of alumni of that member school may meet in one (1) game each season and such game shall not be considered a violation of any provision of these rules and such game shall not be counted as one of the maximum number of games a member school is permitted to play in one (1) season.

11.11. A basketball game played between a team representing a member school and a team composed of members of the faculty of said school is permissible and such game shall not be counted as one of the maximum number of games a member school is permitted to play in any one (1) season.

11.12. A high school may have a complete schedule for the second team in any sport. Each school team shall be considered a representative of the high school and, as such, shall be governed by all of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission rules.

11.13. It is not permissible for an "A" team or "first" team to be designated as a "B" team and thus evade the spirit of the games limitation rule. The wording of the rule and the spirit of the rule are clear and binding.

**§127-3-12. Classification of Schools. (Football, wrestling, basketball, track and baseball.)**

12.1. There shall be three (3) classes of schools for football, basketball and baseball: Class AAA, Class AA and Class A. The Board of Appeals is authorized to determine the size of enrollment in each class and to establish regulations governing competition between classes.

12.2. Provisions for football, basketball and baseball as adopted by the Board of Appeals:

(a) There will be three (3) classes of football, basketball and baseball: Class AAA, Class AA and Class A.

(b) Classification shall be determined every two (2) years on the even number years. Such classification shall be based on the second (2nd) school month's enrollment of the immediately preceding odd numbered year. Such classification shall remain in effect for a two (2) year period.

(c) The enrollment standard for subsection 12.2(b) of this rule shall be the active enrollment of students in grades ten (10), eleven (11) and twelve (12) at the end of the second (2nd) month of the preceding odd numbered year.

**FOOTBALL-BASKETBALL  
BASEBALL-TRACK**

1. Class AAA -- Active enrollment of 619 or more

students

2. Class AA -- Active enrollment of 318 to 618 students inclusive

3. Class A -- Active enrollment of 317 students of less

(d) Options:

A Class AA school may choose to compete in Class AAA if so desires, in so doing it becomes AAA for all point calculations.

A Class A school may choose to compete in Class AA. If so, it becomes AA for all point calculations.

Any choice of classifications under the above regulations shall be made prior to April 1 of the even numbered years.

12.3. Provisions for Commission sponsored region and state track and field meets:

(a) There shall be two (2) classifications for competition in track and field for boys, Class AAA and Class AA. Schools classified as Class AAA in football shall comprise Class AAA in track and field. Schools classified Class AA and Class A in football shall comprise Class AA in track and field.

(b) There shall be two (2) classifications for competition in track and field for girls, Class AAA and Class AA. Schools classified as Class AAA in basketball shall comprise Class AAA in track and field. Schools classified AA and Class A in football shall comprise Class AA in track and field.

12.4. Classification of schools for wrestling.

(a) There shall be two (2) classes for competition in wrestling: Class AAA and Class AA. The Board of Appeals is authorized to determine the size of enrollment in each class and to establish regulations governing competition in and between the two (2) classes.

(b) Schools classified as AAA may compete only against AAA opponents in regional and state tournaments.

(b) Schools classified as AAA may compete only

against AAA opponents in regional and state tournaments.

(c) Schools classified as AA may compete only against AA opponents in regional and state tournaments. However, if any school classified as AA chooses to compete against AAA opponents in regional and state tournaments it may do so provided such choice is registered with the executive secretary prior to the school's first contest of the wrestling season.

(d) Class AAA -- Active enrollment of 619 or more students; Class AA -- Active enrollment of 618 or less students.

12.5. There shall be two (2) classifications for competition in cross country. The Board of Appeals is authorized to determine the size of enrollment in each class and to establish regulations governing competition in and between classes.

**§127-3-13. Football rating plan.**

13.1 The Board of Appeals is authorized to adopt a point rating system for football for the purpose of determining a state champion in all classes.

13.2. The point rating plan and an eight (8) team play-off plan as adopted by the Board of Appeals to determine the state football champion in each class will be found in a separate publication entitled: Football - Play-Off Manual.

13.3. The general authority to conceive and adopt said plans is granted by statute (March 11, 1967). The aforementioned publication is filed with the Secretary of State of the State of West Virginia in accordance with the provisions of chapter twenty-nine a of the West Virginia Code of 1931, as amended. Therefore, the provisions of said rating and play-off plans shall be considered as part of the basic rules and regulations and shall have the same force and effect as the rules and regulations found in these rules.

**ED. NOTE:** As permitted by West Virginia Code subsection (g), section seven, article two, chapter twenty-nine a, the Football Play-off Manual is not published in this Code. It is the 1984 issue filed August 31, 1984. It is available from the Secretary of State's office and relates to these rules and West Virginia Code section twenty-five, article two, chapter eighteen.

**§127-3-14. Legal Opponents.**

14.1. Member schools of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission shall not participate in any interscholastic athletic contest, meet or tournament with any West Virginia secondary school which is not a member of this Commission, except as provided in subsection 14.2 of this regulation.

14.2. Series 1, section 4 of these regulations defines membership in this Commission. Subsection 14.1 of this regulation applies only to a member school in interscholastic athletic contests with secondary schools of this state whose principal or headmaster is eligible for membership but who is not a member of this Commission.

14.3. With the exception of the restrictions in series 4, section 9 of these regulations governing interscholastic athletic contest, nothing in this rule shall be construed to prohibit interscholastic athletic contest between member schools of this Commission and public, private or parochial secondary schools in this state or in other states which are not eligible for membership in this Commission.

14.4. In an interstate contest, each school will play under its own rules of eligibility for players. All interstate contests should be contracted for on the National Federation Interstate Contract Forms, which may be obtained without cost from the executive secretary's office. West Virginia conferences that wish to admit schools from other states, who make formal application for membership, may require them to abide by the rules as set forth in series 2.

**§127-3-15. Participation limited to members.**

15.1. Participation in tournaments and meets, sponsored by this Commission and directed by the Board of Appeals, shall be limited exclusively to members of this Commission.

15.2. Member junior high schools may participate in county tournaments with schools which are not eligible for membership in this Commission, provided, such schools are members of a local county conference or league and such tournaments have been approved by the Board of Appeals.

**§127-3-16. State championships.**

16.1. The Board of Appeals may divide the state

into sections and regions for the purpose of determining championships in the sports sponsored by this Commission. The Board of Appeals shall have charge of directing and making necessary arrangements for tournaments, meets and contests leading to and including state championships. However, the principals of involved schools will be consulted and given the opportunity to participate in the alignment of schools for sectional and regional tournaments.

16.2. The Board of Appeals 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.

16.3. All net earnings from tournaments conducted under the supervision of the Board of Appeals shall be turned over to the Commission unless otherwise specified by the Board of Control. Sectional assessments, or fees, shall not exceed the cost of the tournament trophy.

16.4. The Board of Appeals may approve participation by member junior high schools in county, league or conference tournament. Tournament play on the state level for member junior high schools shall be prohibited.

16.5. The courtesy and identification cards issued by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission may be used for all tournament games prior to state tournament.

**§127-3-17. Sunday contests banned.**

17.1. Member schools of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission shall not engage in any contest, meet or tournament on Sunday. This rule shall also apply to Sunday practice. However, in case of emergency, state tournament baseball and softball games may be played on Sunday after one p.m.

**§127-3-18. Schools on Probation.**

18.1. A member school shall not compete in interscholastic athletics with another member school which has lost its privilege to participate in interscholastic athletics events as one of the provisions of having been placed on probation by the Board of Appeals. (See series 4, subsection 2.2(b) of these regulations.) Such restriction shall extend for the duration

of the probation period. Member schools failing to obey this rule shall be subject to the same penalty.

18.2. Member schools of this Commission shall not compete in interscholastic athletics with schools of other states which are under suspension or probation by their state association, if the West Virginia Commission has received and published notice of such suspension or probation. Members of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission may ascertain whether or not out-of-state schools are members of their state associations by writing to the office of the executive secretary.

**§127-3-19. Physical examination and parental permission.**

19.1. A student shall not be permitted to engage in practice for, or to play in an interscholastic contest, unless he shall have filed with his high school principal a certificate of physical fitness issued by a competent physician prior to the student's first practice or participation that school year.

19.2. The parent's consent for the student to participate in interscholastic athletic competition, likewise, shall be presented to the high school principal and kept of file. After any lapse in practice or participation because of injury or illness, the principal shall secure a new physical fitness and parental consent permit.

**§127-3-20. Official rules for sports.**

20.1. The interscholastic editions of official rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, or by committees thereof, shall be used in contests, meets and tournaments played by members of this Appeals as published in special bulletins or in THE INTERSCHOLASTIC shall apply.

20.2. In the absence of publishing interscholastic editions for golf, tennis and softball, and until such rules are published, the Board of Appeals may authorize competition under prevailing regulations and rules for amateur competition.

20.3. Member schools of this Commission shall not engage in interscholastic boxing.

**§127-3-21. Organized practice periods.**

21.1. (Table 127-3C is found at the end of this

rule.) The National Federation standardized calendar shall be used to schedule all activities sponsored by this Commission. Each sport season shall have established beginning and ending date for practice and interscholastic contests which will be based on a standardized calendar of numbered weeks so the length of each season will be consistent from year to year. to schedule all activities sponsored by this Commission. Each sport season shall have established beginning and ending date for practice and interscholastic contest which will be based on a standardized calendar of numbered weeks so the length of each season will be consistent from year to year.

21.2. A statement of philosophy on out-of-season participation is as follows:

(a) Students shall be encouraged and provided the opportunity to participate in a variety of interscholastic activities. Student athletic specialization is not a goal of interscholastics.

(b) Once a school team or squad in a sport has been determined, team members shall represent only that school during that particular sport season in that sport. Representing another team or individual participation other than on that school team during that season would be a violation. (See series 2, section 13 of these regulations.)

(c) The intent of rules and regulations regarding participation during summer and out-of-season activities is to provide students freedom of choice, without undue pressure.

21.3. No school organized out-of-season practice or school organized summer camps shall be permitted.

21.4. A coach (see subsection 7.5 of this regulation) or his surrogate shall not work with individuals in any form of drills or practice of his/her coaching appointment except during those dates specified by subsections 21.1 and 21.5 of this regulation or as set forth by the Board of Appeals.

21.5. No coach may be present as an observer, lecturer, participant, staff member or in any capacity, at any summer camp where the number of his/her athletes (students who would be under his/her coaching the next season in that sport) exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the number of persons designated as the starting line-up in a particular WVSSAC sponsored sport; i.e. basketball -- two (2) or less; football -- five

(5) or less; wrestling -- six (6) or less; baseball -- four (4) or less.

21.6. Students throughout the school year who are not participating in a school's athletic program may voluntarily participate in an off season conditioning program subject to the following provisions:

(a) Participation in the program must be open to all students enrolled in the school.

(b) Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school squad.

(c) Participants will furnish their own clothing (sweat suit, shoes, etc.)

(d) Activities will be limited to running, weight training and calisthenics. Agility drills that do not involve specific skills of a given sport are also permitted.

(e) Specific equipment pertaining to a given

sport may not be used. This includes such items as footballs, basketballs, volleyballs, wrestling mats, discus, etc.

(f) In those cases where schools schedule all athletes into the last period of the school day, the guidelines in subsections (c), (d) and (e) above shall apply unless the class is considered a part of the physical education program and credit is given. If this class is part of the school's physical education program, those athletes whose sport is not in season may receive instructions in a given sport or activity as long as the different periods in the daily schedule include the same instruction. The teaching units in this physical education class shall be varied and include those activities taught in other physical education classes.

21.7 Coaches may not promote, initiate, organize, supervise or participate in out-of-season event(s) involving his/her athletes of the same sport as their coaching assignment.

TABLE 127-3A

Year	First Date Organized Practice	First Date Live Contact Allowed	Earliest Date For Live Contact	Date For Scrimmage Or Rama Game Completed	First Date Football Season Must Be
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1984	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 24/25	Nov. 10
1985	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 14	Aug. 17	Aug. 23/24	Nov. 9
1986	Aug. 1	Aug. 11	Aug. 14	Aug. 18	Aug. 22/23	Nov. 8
1987	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 28/29	Nov. 7
1988	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 26/27	Nov. 5
1989	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 25/26	Nov. 4
1990	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 24/25	Nov. 3

PLAY-OFF DATES

Year	1st Round	2nd Round	Championship
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1984	Nov. 16/17	Nov. 23/24	Nov. 30-Dec. 1
1985	Nov. 15/16	Nov. 22/23	Nov. 29/30
1986	Nov. 14/15	Nov. 21/22	Nov. 27/29
1987	Nov. 13/14	Nov. 20/21	Nov. 27/28
1988	Nov. 11/12	Nov. 18/19	Nov. 25/26
1989	Nov. 10/11	Nov. 17/18	Nov. 24/25
1990	Nov. 9/10	Nov. 16/17	Nov. 23/24

TABLE 127-3B

Year	First Date Organized Practice	Date Live Contact Allowed	Date Full Equip. Game Completed	Season First Must Be
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1984	Aug. 8	Not Permitted	Aug. 24	Sept. 6	Nov. 3
1985	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 23	Sept. 12	Nov. 9
1986	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 23	Sept. 11	Nov. 8
1987	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 22	Sept. 10	Nov. 7
1988	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 24	Sept. 8	Nov. 5
1989	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 23	Sept. 7	Nov. 4
1990	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 23	Sept. 6	Nov. 3

TABLE 127-3A

Year	First Date Organized Practice	First Date Pads No Live Contact*	First Date Live Contact Allowed	Earliest Date For Scrimmage Or Grid-A Rama	Date For First Football Game	Date Season Must Be Completed
1984	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 24/25	Nov. 10
1985	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 14	Aug. 17	Aug. 23/24	Nov. 9
1986	Aug. 1	Aug. 11	Aug. 14	Aug. 18	Aug. 22/23	Nov. 8
1987	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 28/29	Nov. 7
1988	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 26/27	Nov. 5
1989	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 25/26	Nov. 4
1990	Aug. 1	Aug. 10	Aug. 15	Aug. 18	Aug. 24/25	Nov. 3

Year	PLAY-OFF DATES		
	1st Round	2nd Round	Championship
1984	Nov. 16/17	Nov. 23/24	Nov. 30-Dec. 1
1985	Nov. 15/16	Nov. 22/23	Nov. 29/30
1986	Nov. 14/15	Nov. 21/22	Nov. 27/29
1987	Nov. 13/14	Nov. 20/21	Nov. 27/28
1988	Nov. 11/12	Nov. 18/19	Nov. 25/26
1989	Nov. 10/11	Nov. 17/18	Nov. 24/25
1990	Nov. 9/10	Nov. 16/17	Nov. 23/24

TABLE 127-3B

Year	First Organized Practice	First Date Pads - No Live Contact	Date - Live Contact Allowed Full Equip.	Date for First Game	Date Season Must Be Completed
1984	Aug. 8	Not Permitted	Aug. 24	Sept. 6	Nov. 3
1985	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 23	Sept. 12	Nov. 9
1986	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 23	Sept. 11	Nov. 8
1987	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 22	Sept. 10	Nov. 7
1988	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 24	Sept. 8	Nov. 5
1989	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 23	Sept. 7	Nov. 4
1990	Aug. 8	N/P	Aug. 23	Sept. 6	Nov. 3

TABLE 127-3C

Sport	Date Season Begins <sup>1</sup>	Season Ends	Participation Limit (In Season)	
			Team	Individual
Cross Country	Week 7	State Finals	No Limit	No Limit
Football				
High School	Week 5 <sup>3</sup>	Play-Off	<sup>2</sup> 10 Games	<sup>2</sup> 40 Quarters
Jr. High	Week 6 <sup>4</sup>	(See Play- Off Manual)	8 Games	32 Quarters
Basketball				
Girls				
High School	Week 7	Tournament Elimination	<sup>2</sup> 21 Games	<sup>2</sup> 84 Quarters (4 Quarters/Day)
Jr. High School	Week 8	Week-End Prior to High School Sectional	20 Games	80 Quarters (4 Quarters/Day)
Boys				
High School	Week 20	Tournament Elimination	<sup>2</sup> 21 Games	<sup>2</sup> 84 Quarters (4 Quarters/Day)
Jr. High	Week 20	Week-End Prior to High School Sectional	20 Games	80 Quarters (4 Quarters/Day)
Wrestling	Week 20	State Finals	<sup>2</sup> 16 Matches	No Limit
Volleyball	Week 22	State Finals	No Limit	No Limit
Track	Week 35	State Finals	No Limit	No Limit (See Nat. Fed. Rule 4-2)
Swimming	Week 18	March 1 Elimination	No Limit	No Limit (See Pitching Rule)
Softball	Week 35	Tournament Elimination	<sup>2</sup> 25 Games	No Limit (See Pitching Rule)
Golf	Week 7	Tournament	No Limit	No Limit
Gymnastics	Not Established		No Limit	No Limit
Soccer	Week 7	Tournament	<sup>2</sup> 18 Matches	36 Halves
Rowing	Not Established		No Limit	No Limit
Riflery	Not Established		No Limit	No Limit

<sup>1</sup>Must have practiced 14 days before a contest (except golf)

<sup>2</sup>Does not include tournaments or play-offs sponsored by WVSSAC

<sup>3</sup>See subsection 10.1 of this regulation

<sup>4</sup>See subsection 10.4 of this regulation