

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

KEN HECHLER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5

Do Not Mark In This Box

FILED

JUN 11 3 07 PM '98

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

AGENCY: WV SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION TITLE NUMBER: 127

CITE AUTHORITY: WV CODE 18-2-25

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL _____ INTERPRETIVE _____

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE X

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

WV CODE 29-1-1-3 (B)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES X NO _____

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: III

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONTESTS

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING ADOPTED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING ADOPTED: _____

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS: Aug 15, 1998



\$6.20

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

POLICY NUMBER AND TITLE: Policy _____
West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission
Proposed Changes in Rules and Regulations

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: May 22, 1998 **ADOPTED:** _____

BACKGROUND

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

PURPOSE

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

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

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

CONTENT

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

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

1. Changes the number of administrative districts from five to eight. (Vote: Yes-87 No-24)
2. Limits the term of an elected Board of Appeals member to two years and limits number of successive terms to two terms. (Vote: Yes-110 No-07)
3. Bases election of Board of Appeals principal members on RESA districts; principals will only vote for members in their district. (Vote: Yes-91 No-16)
4. Limits the term of appointed Board of Appeals members to two regular two year terms and allows appointed member to serve as an officer. (Vote: Yes-105 No-4)
5. Allows the person who proposed a rule to present the proposal to the WV State Board of Education. (Vote: Yes-75 No-31)

6. Allows students in WV School for Deaf and WV School for Blind to participate in sports at either school. (Vote: Yes-123 No-0)
7. Clarifies means of establishing eligibility. (Vote: Yes-116 No-0)
8. Defines bona fide change of residency. (Vote: Yes-84 No-34)
9. Clarifies eligibility for transfers during the school year and grants eligibility to any student who transfers and enrolls on or before the eleventh instructional day beginning the school term. (Vote: Yes-68 No-25)
10. Defines eligibility of a student whose parents are divorced during the school term. (Vote: Yes-111 No-2)
11. Allows the WVSSAC to issue complimentary Courtesy and Identification cards to retired coaches with at least 20 years of coaching experience. (Vote: Yes-112 No-6)
12. Allows a coaching staff member to provide individual or group instruction for 10 separate days from June 1 to July 31. (Vote: Yes-91 No-22)
13. Allows for reclassification during the second year of the classification period for consolidated schools. (Vote: Yes-118 No-0)
14. Allows 31 baseball games if participating in a conference tournament. (Vote: Yes-108 No-3)
15. Allows for 21 basketball games if participating in a four team tournament and 22 games if participating in an eight team tournament. (Vote: Yes-110 No-0)
16. Clarifies junior high/middle school basketball number of quarters per day and clarifies no holiday tournaments or alumni games. (Vote: Yes-109 No-0)
17. Changes the end of the junior high/middle school cheer season to coincide with the last day of the junior high/middle school girls' or boys' basketball season. (Vote: Yes-118 No-0)
18. Defines overtime periods for junior high school football. (Vote: Yes-114 No-0)
19. Defines the number of quarters for a player for one soccer season. (Vote: Yes-100 No-0)
20. Allows 31 softball games if participating in a conference tournament. (Vote: Yes-117 No-0)
21. Determines the end of the junior high track season. (Vote: Yes-113 No-0)
22. Clarifies that alumni games are only allowed for high school volleyball teams. (Vote: Yes-110 No-0)
23. Changes the penalties for coach, player, or bench personnel who are ejected from a contest. (Vote: Yes-92 No-21)

IMPACT

Instruction

None

Leadership

The addition of a total of three Board of Appeals members would influence the leadership of the WVSSAC.

Financial

Two of the proposals would collectively result in increased expenses of \$19,500. Specific amount of increase for each of the proposals is explained on the Fiscal Note Worksheet.

Administrative

Athletic directors/principals 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 or cause extra administrative work at the school level.

FISCAL NOTE WORKSHEET

(Submit 4 copies)

HD NO. _____ DRAFT NO. _____ BILL NO. _____ RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUBJECT WV Secondary School Activities Commission FUND _____

SOURCE OF REVENUE: GENERAL FUND SPECIAL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

COST ESTIMATE BASED ON: AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BUDGET BILL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

INCOME ESTIMATE BASED ON: AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BUDGET BILL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

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

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL	ANNUAL		FISCAL YEAR		
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
1. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$ 19,500	\$	\$ 26,750	\$ 46,250	\$
PERSONAL SERVICES	\$ (1a) 3,000	\$	\$ (1a) 5,000	\$ (1a) 8,000	\$
CURRENT EXPENSES	(1b) 2,100		(1b) 3,500	(1b) 5,600	
REPAIRS /ALTERATIONS	(1c) 900		(1c) 1,500	(1c) 2,400	
EQUIPMENT	(1d) 10,500		(1d) 16,750	(1d) 27,250	
OTHER	(11) 3,000		(11) 0	(11) 3,000	
2. ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 0	\$	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$

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

Proposal 1

- a. If the number of administrative districts is raised from five to eight, the amount of annual student scholarships of \$1,000 each would increase from \$5,000 to \$8,000.
- b. If the number of administrative districts is raised from five to eight, three additional representatives would need to be added to each of the fourteen Sport Coaches' Committees. Currently, each representative's expenses is \$50.00 annually. The increase of 42 more representatives would be an additional expense of \$2,100.00.
- c. If the number of administrative districts is increased, the number of Board of Appeals members would increase from five to eight. There would be an increase of \$900 in personal services due to a \$300 honorarium received by each member.
- d. The current expense for each board member is \$3,350 annually. The additional three members would result in an increase expense of \$10,050.

Proposal 11

The issuance of additional courtesy and identification cards would impact the number of paid admissions at WVSSAC tournament contests. This would result in an estimated \$3,000 annual decrease in revenue.

4/8/98
DATE

WV Secondary School Activities Commission
AGENCY

Warren Carter

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

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** - WV Code §18-2-25
- 1.3 Filing Date** -
- 1.4 Effective Date** - July 1, 1987

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

JUN 11 3 07 PM '98

FILED

§ 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 Commission for conduct of the athletic program of that school.
- 2.2 The principal shall have the duty of seeing that all the members of the school staff who deal with athletics and all student athletes are made aware and are required to adhere to the rules and regulations of this Commission. Failure of the principal in performing this responsibility will not prevent the Commission from enforcing said rules.
- 2.3 The principal shall have the authority to delegate some of his responsibilities or duties; however, such delegation shall not relieve said principal of the responsibility of any infraction of the rules and regulations of this Commission by the members of his staff.
- 2.4 The principal has the authority to designate a member of the faculty who must accompany each team away from home. Said principal may also appoint a substitute member of the faculty in cases where deemed necessary.
- 2.5 The principal is responsible for providing adequate team and crowd control measures at all contests in which the school participates, assuring that the school's participants and fans conduct themselves in a proper manner, and assuring that all visiting fans and officials are provided adequate protection at home games. In situations where contests are played on neutral sites, it will be the responsibility of both participating school principals. Penalties may be imposed upon either or both schools in these situations.
- 2.6 The principal has the right to exclude a contestant who, because of bad habits or improper conduct, would not represent his school in a becoming manner, a student who fails to maintain a satisfactory scholastic standing, or a student who has been excluded for a serious illness or injury until a physician has pronounced him physically fit.
- 2.7 The principal will be responsible for signing all game contracts when necessary, seeking sanctioning of necessary events, and signing all certificates of eligibility prior to contestant participation.
- 2.8 The principal may designate his assistant principal or other faculty member to provide representation 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 West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.
- 2.10 The principal and vice-principal of each member school shall be allowed admittance to any West Virginia

Secondary School Activities Commission sponsored event. This admittance will be by presentation of the WVSSAC Courtesy Card and a photo identification.

- 2.11 The secondary 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.

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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 A physical examination must be given no earlier than June 1 for an upcoming year.

§127-3-4 All-Star Participation.

- 4.1 A graduating senior, or any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current school year because of age or completion of semesters of eligibility, may play in one All-Star game upon conclusion of the season without loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of that year.
- 4.2 All-Star game is defined as a contest where all contestants on each team are players selected from four or more school teams. No more than three players from any one school may participate on the same team.

§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:
- (a) from a member school for participation.
 - (b) in a sanctioned event.
 - (c) in a non-sanctioned event at any time in the following sports: cheerleading, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track, wrestling or gymnastics.
 - (d) in a non-sanctioned event but not during the school sports-season for the following sports: football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball or soccer.
- 5.3 A student may not receive the following awards from any source:
- (a) Wearing apparel - sweaters, jackets, jerseys, shoes, etc.
 - (b) Equipment - radio, televisions, etc.
 - (c) Athletic goods - batons, tennis rackets, bats, golf bag, tennis or golf balls, etc.
 - (d) Money - (scholarships to institutions of higher learning are exempted.)
- 5.4 Purchase of an item as mentioned in subsection 5.3 above whereby any portion is donated by a school, booster club, auxiliary agency or any other group or organization is prohibited.
- 5.5 Nothing in this Awards Rule 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 within a public, private, or parochial school

system shall be allowed to coach an athletic team. Also, an authorized certified individual may coach if he meets all of the requirements in 6.5 of this rule.

- 6.2 A member of a faculty shall be considered one who is a full-time teacher as defined by the West Virginia Department of Education. A member of a faculty in one school may coach in another school provided that it meets with the approval of the said County Board of Education or two different Boards of Education.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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 said student teacher's role in the classroom and shall be approved by the county board of education or the governing board of a private or parochial school. Said student teacher will work directly under the supervision of the appointed coach or assistant coach.
- 6.5 An authorized certified individual must meet the following requirements:
- (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 provided for liability insurance associated with the activity.
 - (b) The coach has completed approved training: NFICEP Sport Science and Sport First Aid (12 hours of instruction and test).
 - (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.
 - (d) Coaching authorizations are for one year. They may be re-issued upon request if a certified professional educator within a county is not available.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 The head coach shall be required to attend any sports rules clinic in his 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.
- 6.8 All coaches of member schools who upon retirement from coaching with at least 20 years of coaching experience 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 Card and photo identification.**

§127-3-7 Camps/Out-of-Season Coaching.

Philosophy:

Students should have the opportunity to engage voluntarily in school sponsored sports activities provided that the student is eligible, that such activities do not interfere with the students' educational development and the activities do not conflict with the principles of wholesome amateur athletics. The WVSSAC wishes to enhance that opportunity while at the same time discouraging the exploitation of student athletes by overzealous individuals and organizations who attempt to impose an obligation or pressure on the student-athlete. There has been growing evidence of commercialism and specialization of secondary school athletes. Experience has revealed that such occurrences tend to divide the allegiance of students, undermine their respect for coaches and officials, and encourage the type of adulation which gives students an exaggerated sense of importance

of their own athletic prowess. Rather, athletic participation should be used for the pleasure and satisfaction that is derived from athletic competition in a variety of experiences.

- 7.1 School-organized out-of-season practice or school-organized summer camps shall not be permitted.
- 7.2 A coach or surrogate may not be present as an observer, lecture participant, staff member, or in any capacity at any summer camp where the number of his athletes (students who would be under his supervision the next season in that sport) exceeds fifty percent of the number of persons designated as the starting line-up or cheerleading squad (i.e. basketball - two or less; football - five or less; wrestling - six or less; baseball - four or less; etc.). Nor may a school or related organization be involved in fund raising projects to subsidize student attendance at or in camps.
- 7.3 A coach or surrogate shall not work with individuals in any form of drills or practice of his coaching assignment except during those dates specified as the season for that specific sport.
- 7.4 Students throughout the school year who are not participating in a school's athletic program may voluntarily participate in an off season conditioning program. This program may also occur during the summer subject to Board of Education approval and the following provisions:
- (a) Participation in the program must be open to all students enrolled in school.
 - (b) Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school squad.
 - (c) Participants will provide their own clothing (sweatsuit, shoes, etc.).
 - (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.
 - (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 items (c), (d), and (e) shall apply unless the class is considered a part of the physical education program and credit is given. There shall be no teaching of sport specific skills taught in this case unless those same skills and course of study are taught in all physical education classes at this same time of the school year.
 - (g) The Board of Education may choose to compensate the supervisor or director.
- 7.5 Coaches may not promote, initiate, organize, supervise, or participate in out-of-season events involving athletes of the same sport as their coaching assignment. An exception to the above is where the Board of Education would approve a coach to organize and/or supervise a recreation program for youth. 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 his school coaching assignment. In addition to the above, gymnasiums or facilities opened for recreational activities must use the following guidelines:
- (a) The gymnasium or field is open to all students for participation.
 - (b) A variety of activities is available to students and is not limited to one sport or activity on a given day.
 - (c) Supervisor or director must be approved by the Board of Education.
 - (d) There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and technique in any sport.
 - (e) Comparable opportunities are provided both sexes.
 - (f) Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school squad.

The school administration assumes the responsibility for making certain that there is adherence to these guidelines.

- 7.6 Coaches may participate in a formal development program of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) involving athletes 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 players.

§127-3-8 Forfeit and Restitution.

- 8.1 When a student is declared ineligible subsequent to his competing as an individual or a penalty has been imposed or action taken by the WVSSAC, said student's performance shall be stricken from the records and the points he contributed to the team total deleted. The team standings will be adjusted accordingly and any awards involved shall be returned.
- 8.2 When a student is declared ineligible subsequent to representing his school in team competition or a penalty has been imposed by the WVSSAC, the contest(s) shall be forfeited. The team standing in the final standing will be adjusted, and the team awards and the ineligible student's awards shall be returned.
- 8.3 If a team or individual leaves the field or court in protest, the contest is forfeited and the school must appeal before the Executive Secretary to indicate why additional action should not be taken.
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 If a student is ineligible according to WVSSAC rules but is permitted to participate in inter-school competition contrary to such WVSSAC rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction and said order or injunction is subsequently vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is/was not justified, any one of the following actions may be taken in the interest of fairness or restitution to the competing schools:
- (a) Require that individual or team and performance records achieved during participation by such ineligible student shall be vacated or stricken.
 - (b) Require that team or individual victories shall be forfeited to opponent(s).
 - (c) Require that team or individual awards earned by such individual or team be returned to the Commission.

§127-3-9 Game Officials (Does Not Apply to Cheerleaders).

- 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 Section 9.4 may be invoked.
- 9.2 Officials for interscholastic contests shall be mutually agreed upon 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 the consent of all competing schools is given.
- 9.3 The visiting school is responsible for selection of game officials to the extent that selection is made possible 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.
- 9.4 The Executive Secretary shall be empowered to authorize the use of non-registered officials for athletic contests where registered officials are not available and schools threaten the cancellation of said scheduled athletic contests.

- 9.5 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 bylaws and the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Officials' Handbook, which is revised and published yearly. Also, the WVSSAC registered officials are provided the same opportunity for appeal of any decisions as set forth in these same bylaws.
- 9.6 The Executive Secretary 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 WVSSAC Board of Appeals. The Executive Secretary shall inform fully a penalized official of his appeal rights.

The official shall:

- (a) *Attend a state WVSSAC sponsored clinic in the sport for which he or she is registered.
- (b) +Attend four (4) local rules meetings.
- (c) +Take Part I and Part II National Federation Rules Examinations in the sports where specified.
- (d) Abstain from intoxicating beverages on the day of the contest he is to officiate prior to, during, and after in the vicinity of the playing area of the contest.
- (e) Abstain from the use of smokeless or any other forms of tobacco in the vicinity of the playing area of the contest.
- (f) Abstain from the use of illegal drugs.
- (g) Be fair, impartial, unbiased, professional, and competent in his officiating.
- (h) Be in and maintain proper physical and mental condition; dress and appearance must be appropriate.
- (i) Be at the site of the contest in adequate time to care for necessary pre-contest duties or as specified in the National Federation Rules.
- (j) Maintain self-control under all conditions.
- (k) Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play, game situation, or fellow official.
- (l) Conduct the game so as to enlist the cooperation of players, coaches, and spectators in the interest of good sportsmanship.
- (m) Shall comply with any WVSSAC rule, regulation, Constitution or directive, and particularly those regulations pertaining to filing Special Reports and Official Ratings of Schools.
- (n) Shall 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.
- (o) Shall comply with local board rules as set forth in board constitution.

* Suspension will be for current year.

+ Suspension will be for following year.

§127-3-10 Classification.

- 10.1 Classification of member high schools shall be determined every two years on the even number years. Such classification shall be based on the enrollment of grades 10-11-12 at the end of the second month of the odd numbered year preceding the reclassification. Such classification shall remain in effect for a two-year period.

- 10.2 Each member high school shall be classified as either AAA, AA, or A based on the enrollment figures as described in **subsection 10.1** above.
- 10.3 A school may choose to compete in WVSSAC tournaments in one class above its classification 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 all sports sponsored by the school.
- 10.4 The Board of Appeals 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. Prior to any change of structure of any given sport, a survey of the membership must be conducted by WVSSAC.
- 10.5 If a consolidation of two or more member schools occurs during the second year of a classification period, the new member school will be reclassified based on the enrollment of grades 10-11-12 in the consolidating schools.**

§127-3-11 Exchange of Eligibility Certificates.

- 11.1 Eligibility certificates, furnished by the Executive Secretary, will be required at the beginning of the season of each sport approved by this Commission and prior to the first contest.
- 11.2 The principal will be responsible for the proper completion of the certificate including signatures and the mailing of said certificate to the Executive Secretary. Certificates are to be mailed to scheduled opponents only upon written request from said opponents.
- 11.3 The names of the players on all junior high school teams and teams from the ninth grade of the four year high school and seven, eight and nine of a six year high school shall be submitted on the master eligibility certificate prepared for use by the junior high school.
- 11.4 At the beginning of the second semester the principal shall certify to the Executive Secretary the names of all students of the squad who are eligible to represent his school in basketball, swimming, and wrestling during the second semester. Certificates are to be mailed to scheduled opponents only upon request from said opponent.
- 11.5 Additions to the squad shall be certified at once on an eligibility certificate to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Additions are to be mailed to scheduled opponents only upon written request from said opponents.
- 11.6 Verification of student eligibility will be made by the principal. Birth certificates must be used to confirm a student's age. Questionable cases shall be approved by the Executive Secretary prior to participation.
- 11.7 If a change is made in the record of age, number of semesters of attendance or semester credits from that which has previously appeared on an eligibility certificate, it must be reported to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission and approved prior to participation.
- 11.8 Failure to send the required eligibility certificate to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission prior to the first contest shall render the offending school liable to a fine of \$25.00 payable to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission. Postmarked envelopes will be used to determine violators.

§127-3-12 Legal Opponents.

- 12.1 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 public or parochial secondary school which is not a member of this Commission.
- 12.2 Member schools of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission shall not participate against any public, private or parochial secondary school whose status has not been recognized by that group's governing body.

- 12.3 Member schools of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission shall not participate against those schools that have been placed under a specified sanction. This would include either member schools or out-of-state schools.
- 12.4 Member schools of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission shall not participate against non-school teams with the exception of that provision provided for member high schools against that school's alumni team in basketball and volleyball.

§127-3-13 Contracts (Does Not Apply to Cheerleaders).

- 13.1 It is recommended that contracts of games for all interscholastic contests be prepared in duplicate. Contract forms are furnished by the WVSSAC office. These 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 to be binding, it must be signed by the principal or his designee from both schools.
- 13.3 Contracts may be cancelled in the following situations:
- (a) If both principals or designee fail to sign the contract.
 - (b) If one of the two schools is forced to suspend its school schedule.
 - (c) If one school fails to return the signed contract to the other school within thirty (30) days.
 - (d) If there is mutual consent of the two parties of the contract.
 - (e) If the Board of Appeals annuls a contract when it deems such action necessary for the furtherance of interscholastic athletics in West Virginia or if provisions of the contract are contrary to the rules of the Commission.
- 13.4 Athletic contracts made by the principal are considered binding on his successor.
- 13.5 An athletic contest will be considered forfeited during regular season as per contracted or tournament play as per scheduled if contest cancellation is caused by a strike by teachers, support personnel, or school patrons acting as a striking body. In cases where both participating schools are on strike, it shall be considered no contest. Games or contests cancelled during regular season may be rescheduled during that same season by agreement of the involved parties and the Board of Appeals.

§127-3-14 Definition of a Game or Contest.

- 14.1 One or more of the following factors usually are present in a game or contest, any of which will serve to determine a game or contest:
- (a) Previous agreement
 - (b) Advertisement
 - (c) Score and/or time kept
 - (d) Spectators present
 - (e) Regulation or modified rules used
 - (f) Coverage appearing in local media
 - (g) Sufficient number of players to form teams
 - (h) Admission charged
 - (i) Contest officiated

§127-3-15 Sunday Contests.

- 15.1 Member schools of the WVSSAC 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 1:00 p.m.

15.2 Sunday practice shall be defined as any squad, group or individual meeting to view films, hold shooting practice, or any other activity associated with the activity of that season.

§127-3-16 Sports Rules - Game Protests.

16.1 The current edition of official High School Rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations will be the official rules used in contests, meets, and tournaments played by members of this Commission. The Board of Appeals may modify such rules as also provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations. In this case, the rules of the Board of Appeals as published in special bulletins or The Interscholastic shall apply.

16.2 In the absence of published National Federation rules, the Board of Appeals may authorize competition under prevailing rules and regulations as modified for amateur competition.

16.3 The protest of a game will not be allowed by the Board of Appeals when it is based on judgement decision on the part of an official or even a misinterpretation or misapplication of the rules.

16.4 As the rules of this Commission do not give the Board of Appeals authority to order games replayed, protests arising from decisions of officials will not be considered.

§127-3-17 Sanctioning and Travel.

17.1 A member school shall not enter an event which requires sanctioning until it is approved.

17.2 All applications for sanctioning must be submitted to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission 30 days prior to the event with the exception of international events.

17.3 Events requiring National Federation approval are:

- (a) Any interstate event in which four or more schools participate (any school from a non-neighboring state).
- (b) Any interstate event which involves schools from three or more state high school associations and any one of them does not border on the state of the sponsoring school.
- (c) Any international event, except competition with Canadian high schools, must be sanctioned and submitted 60 days prior to the event.

17.4 Bordering state events requiring approval are:

- (a) Any interstate event in which four or more schools participate. (All schools from neighboring states.)
- (b) Any interstate event which involves schools from three or more state high school associations.

17.5 Intrastate events requiring approval are:

- (a) An event with more than four schools participating or awards given.
- (b) Any event where awards are given.

17.6 The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission may assess a fine and/or other penalties against the participating school for violations of the sanction provisions.

17.7 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. However, sanctioning from the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission must be granted.

§127-3-18 State Championships.

18.1 Participation in sectional, regional and state tournaments sponsored by this Commission and directed by the Board of Appeals, shall be limited exclusively to members of this Commission.

- 18.2 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.
- 18.3 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.
- 18.4 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 or regional assessments may be charged to cover the cost of a tournament trophy furnished by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.
- 18.5 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.

§127-3-19 Season Regulations.

- 19.1 The National Federation standardized calendar shall be used to schedule all activities sponsored by this Commission. Each sport season shall have an 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.

§127-3-20 Baseball.

- 20.1 **Rules:** Baseball rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided herein.
- 20.2 **Organized Team Practice:** Organized team practice will begin Monday of Week 35 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 37.
- 20.3 **Length of Season:** The baseball season will end for each team upon the completion of the State Tournament.
- 20.4 **Maximum Team Contests:** A baseball team will be permitted to play no more than 31 games if participating in a conference tournament; otherwise, the regular season will be 30 games exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests. The conference tournament is to count as one (1) game.
- 20.5 **Scrimmages:** Two baseball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted with the following conditions: after 7 days of practice; prior to the first game; without keeping score in a book or on a scoreboard; free substitution; using some format other than 3 outs per inning; the use of registered officials would not be a violation of game conditions.
- 20.6 Individual players 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 baseball team while a member of his school team.
- 20.8 A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

- 20.9 The above will apply for junior high schools with following adaptations:

- (a) Junior high teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.
- (b) Junior High season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.
- (c) Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

§127-3-21 Basketball (Boys and Girls).

- 21.1 Rules:** Basketball rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.
- 21.2 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 23 and Tuesday of Week 24 for boys.
- 21.3 Length of Season:** The boys and girls basketball season will end for each team at tournament elimination.
- 21.4 Maximum Team Contests:** A basketball team will be permitted to play no more than 20 games in the regular season with the following exceptions: (1) If a team participates in a four team tournament and no more than 2 games played by each team, 21 games will be allowed in regular season. (2) If a team participates in an eight team tournament and no more than 3 games played by each team, 22 games will be allowed in regular season. Sectional, regional and state tournament contests are not included in the above number.
- (a) The maximum number of quarters for a player in one season is 100 exclusive of sectional, regional and state tournament contests. However, if participating in a holiday tournament, the limit will be 104 (4 team tournament) and 108 (8 team tournament).
 - (b) A player can play only 5 quarters in one day.
 - (c) Participation in a quarter, regardless of time, will be considered one quarter.
 - (d) Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.
 - (e) One alumni game may be played and not counted against the total number of games. The game must be a team representing a member school and a team composed of alumni of that school. This game may be played no earlier than the date specified for the first contest.
- 21.5** A high school basketball team is permitted to participate in a preview and a scrimmage or two scrimmage games with the following conditions:
1. Scrimmage:
 - (a) Not under game conditions
 - (b) Prior to the first game
 - (c) Admission may be charged
 - (d) Use of registered officials would not be a violation of the game conditions
 - (e) After seven (7) days of practice
 2. Preview:
 - (f) All of the above
 - (g) Must be 3 or more teams
 - (h) Teams desiring to participate would be allowed to play two quarters of the basketball time.
- 21.6** Individual players of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.
- 21.7** A student may not play or practice on a non-school team while a member of his school team.

- 21.8 A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned event outside the sport season.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

21.9 The above rules will apply for Junior High Schools with the following adaptations:

- (a) Girls may begin practice on Monday of Week 19 and boys on Monday of Week 20. The first contest for girls will be played on Wednesday of Week 21 and Wednesday of Week 22 for boys.
- (b) The girls basketball season will end on Saturday of Week 33 and Saturday of Week 34 for boys.
- (c) Tournament play on the state level shall be prohibited.
- (d) Boys and girls basketball teams will be permitted to play no more than 20 games. Tournament exception does not apply.
- (e) All junior high players may play a maximum of 80 quarters for one season.
- (f) All junior high players may play a maximum of 4 quarters per day.
- (g) Games involving only students below the 9th grade shall be played in 6-minute quarters. A member school sponsoring games involving teams which combine 9th grade students with students in the 8th and/or 7th grades may play those games in quarters of 8 minutes.
- (h) Junior highs are not permitted to play an alumni game.
- (i) Scrimmages: Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.
- (j) A ninth grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for junior high schools.

§127-3-22 Cheerleading.

- 22.1 **Rules:** Cheerleading rules established by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission will be used as the official rules for all interscholastic competition and regular season contests.
- 22.2 **Organized Practice:** Organized squad practice will begin on Monday of Week 5.
- 22.3 **Length of Season:** The high school cheerleading season will end on the last day of the Girls' State Basketball Tournament or Boys' State Basketball Tournament. The junior high/middle school cheerleading season will end on the last day of the junior high/middle school girls' or boys' basketball season.
- 22.4 Individual players of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.
- 22.5 A student may accept awards in West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule.

§127-3-23 Cross Country (Boys and Girls).

- 23.1 **Rules:** Cross Country rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

- 23.2 **Organized Team Practice:** Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 7 and the first meet may be held on Wednesday of Week 9.
- 23.3 **Length of Season:** The Cross Country season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.
- 23.4 **Maximum Team contests:** No limit.
- 23.5 **Scrimmages:** Not permitted.
- 23.6 Individual players of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.
- 23.7 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 mentioned in the Awards Rule.

§127-3-24 - Football.

- 24.1 **Rules:** Football rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.
- 24.2 **Organized Team Practice:** Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 5 and the first contest may be played on the Friday of Week 8.
- (a) The Board of Appeals, upon written request, may grant permission for a football team to play its first game one day earlier if the playing field is used by more than one high school.
- (b) The following table establishes for senior high school the first date pads with no live contact, first date to use pads with total contact, earliest date for scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama, date for first contest and date season must be completed.

<u>Year</u>	<u>First Date Organized Practice</u>	<u>First Date Pads No Live Contact</u>	<u>First Date Live Contact Allowed</u>	<u>Earliest Date For Scrimmage Or Grid-O-Rama</u>	<u>Date For First Contest</u>	<u>Date Season Must Be Completed</u>
1997	Aug. 4	Aug. 8	Aug. 12	Aug. 16	Aug. 29	Nov. 8
1998	Aug. 3	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug. 15	Aug. 28	Nov. 7
1999	Aug. 2	Aug. 6	Aug. 10	Aug. 14	Aug. 27	Nov. 6
2000	July 31	Aug. 4	Aug. 8	Aug. 12	Aug. 25	Oct. 28
2001	July 30	Aug. 3	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug. 24	Oct. 27
2002	Aug. 5	Aug. 9	Aug. 13	Aug. 17	Aug. 30	Nov. 2
2003	Aug 4	Aug. 8	Aug. 12	Aug. 16	Aug. 29	Nov. 1

- c. Individual players of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.
- d. No football camps sponsored by a member school or by other school related organizations where football coaching and instruction is given are permitted.
- e. The use of football uniforms, protective equipment, tackling or blocking dummies, charging sleds, or similar devices are strictly prohibited during the conditioning program. However, during the DATE OF PADS NO LIVE CONTACT, the use of sleds, shields and blocking dummies will be allowed. The purpose of this period is to permit gradual adaptation of the players to carrying the weight of their pads and adjusting to temperature variation.
- 24.3 **Length of Season:** The football season will end for each team by Saturday of Week 18 (**Week 17 in the year 2000**) or by play-off elimination.

- 24.4 **Maximum Team Contests:** A football team will be permitted to play no more than 10 games exclusive of the play-off games.
- (a) The total number of quarters for a player in one season is 40 exclusive of the play-off games.
 - (b) A player can only play 4 quarters in one day.
 - (c) Any player who participated in one or more downs in one quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play, except those 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 National Federation Football Rule 2-17-2, the down will not count as a down.
 - (d) Overtime is considered as an extension of the fourth quarter.
 - (e) Interscholastic practice game or games in which teams representing a member school play against alumni or other people shall not be allowed.
- 24.5 A football team is permitted to participate in a Grid-O-Rama and one (1) preseason scrimmage or two (2) preseason scrimmages with the following conditions:
- 1. Scrimmage:
 - (a) Not under game conditions
 - (b) Prior to the first game
 - (c) Admission may be charged
 - (d) Use of registered officials would not be a violation of the game conditions.
 - 2. Grid-O-Rama:
 - (e) All of the above
 - (f) Must be 3 or more teams
 - (g) Teams desiring to participate would be allowed to play two or four quarters of football time depending on what the coaches choose to play.
- 24.6 **Special Regulations:**
- (a) All rules and regulations of these Bylaws pertaining to football are also applicable to six-man and eight-man football.
 - (b) Any member of a freshman team in a 4-year high school that plays in a junior varsity or varsity contest (scrimmage, grid-o-rama or game) is ineligible to return to the freshman team.
 - (c) A student may not play or practice on a non-school football team while a member of his school team.
- 24.7 A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the school year. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned event during non-school months.
- 24.8 The Board of Appeals is authorized to adopt a point rating system and overall procedure for determining a state champion in each class.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

- 24.9 The above rules will apply for Junior High Schools with the following adaptations:

- (a) Organized team conditioning practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first game played during Week 10.
- (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.

<u>Year</u>	<u>First Date Organized Practice</u>	<u>First Date Pads No Live Contact</u>	<u>Date Live Contact Allowed Full Equip.</u>	<u>Earliest Date For Scrimmage</u>	<u>Date For First Game</u>	<u>Date Season Must Be Completed</u>
1997	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 25	Aug. 28	Week 10	Nov. 8
1998	Aug. 10	Aug. 17	Aug. 24	Aug. 27	Week 10	Nov. 7
1999	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 26	Week 10	Nov. 6
2000	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 21	Aug. 24	Week 10	Nov. 4
2001	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	Aug. 20	Aug. 23	Week 10	Nov. 3
2002	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 26	Aug. 29	Week 10	Nov. 9
2003	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 25	Aug. 28	Week 10	Nov. 8

- (c) The football season will end on Saturday of Week 18.
- (d) Not more than eight (8) interscholastic football games shall be played, with the exception of league playoff games in which one (1) game may be added for playoffs. There shall be a nine (9) game limit even if league playoff games are used, and the extra game would be limited to only two (2) teams in the league having the playoff. Leagues choosing to have the extra playoff game may participate in a 2 quarter Grid-O-Rama in place of a scrimmage game. This must be decided prior to the start of the season.
- (e) The total number of quarters for a player in one season is 32, exclusive of the playoff game in Rule 127-3-24(d)
- (f) A junior high school football team is allowed one preseason scrimmage under the following conditions:
- (1) Scrimmage will not be played under game conditions.
 - (2) Scrimmage must be played prior to first game of regular season.
 - (3) Admission may be charged.
 - (4) Registered officials may be used.
- (g) **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 2 overtime periods will be permitted in accordance with the National Federation Football Rules 20 yard line overtime procedure.**
- (h) Junior High game ball: The football used involving only players in the eighth grade and below shall be the youth football. Games involving players of a combination seventh, eighth, and ninth graders may use the youth football by mutual agreement. Modification of the rule is listed in Rule 1-3-1, National Federation Football Rule Book.
- (i) Length of Quarters: The maximum length of quarters for ninth grade teams shall be 10 minutes. For teams composed of students below the ninth grade, the length of quarters shall be 8 minutes. For teams involving a combination seventh, eighth, and ninth graders shall be 10 minutes. If a team which includes ninth graders plays a team of only seventh and eighth graders the maximum length of quarter will be 8 minutes.
- (j) A ninth grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for junior high school.

§127-3-25 Golf (Boys and Girls).

- 25.1 **Rules:** Golf rules published by the United States Golf Association are the official rules for all interscholastic competition except when local rules prevail.

- 25.2 **Organized Team Practice:** Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 7 and the first contest may be played on any day after the opening of practice.
- 25.3 **Length of Season:** The golf season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.
- 25.4 **Maximum Team Contests:** A golf team will be permitted to play no more than 18 matches exclusive of regional and state tournament contests. Each interscholastic contest counts as one, whether it is 9 or 18 holes, and regardless of number of opponents.
- 25.5 **Scrimmages:** Not permitted.
- 25.6 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 mentioned in the Awards Rule.

JUNIOR HIGH GOLF

- 25.7 The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:
- (a) Junior high teams are permitted to play no more than 14 matches.
 - (b) There shall be one season for golf in junior high school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 10 weeks.

§127-3-26 Soccer (Boys and Girls).

- 26.1 **Rules:** Soccer rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations 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 5 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 8.
- 26.3 **Length of Season:** The soccer season will end for each team at tournament elimination or the Saturday prior to the playoff competition.
- 26.4 **Maximum Team Contest:** A soccer team will be permitted to play no more than 18 matches exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournaments.
- (a) The maximum number of quarters for a player in one season will be 72, exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournaments.
 - (b) A player shall not be permitted to participate in more than four quarters during any one day. Any part of a quarter counts as one quarter. In an overtime game, the overtime shall be considered an extension of the fourth quarter.
- 26.5 **Scrimmages:** Two soccer scrimmages with another high school may be conducted with the following conditions: After 7 days of practice; prior to the first game; without keeping score in a book or on a scoreboard; using some format other than quarters; the use of registered officials would not be a violation of game conditions.
- 26.6 Individual players 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 A student may not play or practice on a non-school soccer team while a member of his school team.
- 26.8 A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

26.9 The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

- (a) Junior high teams may play 14 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.
- (b) Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 7 and the first contest may be played on Monday of Week 10.
- (c) Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.
- (d) The maximum number of quarters for a player in one season will be 56.
- (e) Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

§127-3-27 Softball.

- 27.1 Rules:** Softball rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided herein.
- 27.2 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.
- 27.3 Length of Season:** The softball season will end for each team upon the completion of the State Tournament.
- 27.4 Maximum Team Contests:** A softball team will be permitted to play no more than 31 games if participating in a conference tournament; otherwise, the regular season will be 30 games exclusive of sectional, regional and state contests. The conference tournament is to count as one (1) game.
- 27.5 Scrimmages:** Two softball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted with the following conditions: after 7 days of practice; prior to the first game; without keeping score in a book or on a scoreboard; free substitution; using some format other than 3 outs per inning; the use of registered officials would not be a violation of game conditions.
- 27.6** Individual players 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 not play or practice on a non-school softball team while a member of his school team.
- 27.8** A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned event outside the sport season.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

27.9 The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:

- (a) Junior high teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.
- (b) Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.
- (c) Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

§127-3-28 Swimming (Boys and Girls).

28.1 Rules: Swimming rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations 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 18 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 20.
- 28.3 **Length of Season:** The swimming season will end Saturday of Week 34.
- 28.4 **Maximum Team Contests:** A swimming team will be permitted 16 contests exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.
- 28.5 **Scrimmages:** Not permitted.
- 28.6 Individual players 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 and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule.

§127-3-29 Tennis (Boys and Girls).

- 29.1 **Rules:** Tennis rules published by the United States Tennis Association are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.
- 29.2 **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.
- 29.3 **Length of Season:** The tennis season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.
- 29.4 **Maximum Team Contests:** A tennis team will be permitted 22 matches exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.
- 29.5 **Scrimmages:** Two tennis scrimmages with another high school may be conducted with the following conditions: after 7 days of practice; prior to the first match; no team score is kept; players may be switched between singles and doubles at the discretion of the coaches.
- 29.6 Individual players of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.
- 29.7 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 mentioned in the Awards Rules.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

- 29.8 The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:
- (a) Junior high teams may play 16 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.
 - (b) Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.
 - (c) There shall be one season for tennis in junior high school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 12 weeks.

§127-3-30 Track and Field (Boys and Girls).

- 30.1 **Rules:** Track and Field rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations 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 35 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 37.
- 30.3 **Length of Season:** The track and field season will end with the State Finals on Saturday of Week 47.
- 30.4 **Maximum Team Contests:** A track and field team will be permitted 16 meets exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.
- 30.5 **Participation Limitations:** Maximum of 4 events per participant per meet.
- 30.6 **Scrimmages:** Not permitted.
- 30.7 Individual players 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 accept awards in WVSSAC sanctioned events and non-sanctioned events during the entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

- 30.9 **The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:**
- (a) Junior high teams will be permitted 14 meets and only 2 meets per week.
 - (b) Junior high season will be completed by Thursday of Week 46.
 - (c) **Participation limitation:** Junior high/middle school athletes, regardless of grade levels (7, 8, or 9), may compete in a maximum of four events, of which only three may be running events including relays.

§127-3-31 Volleyball (Girls).

- 31.1 **Rules:** Volleyball rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations 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 7 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 9.
- 31.3 **Length of Season:** The volleyball season will end for each team by tournament elimination.
- 31.4 **Maximum Team Contest:** A volleyball team will be permitted 22 matches exclusive of sectional, regional, and state contests.
- Dual, triangular and quadrangular matches count as one. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two.
- (a) One alumni game may be played and not counted against the total number of games. The game must be between a team representing a member school and a team composed of alumni of the member school and/or alumni of schools consolidated to form the member school. The game may be played no earlier than the date specified for the first contest.
- 31.5 In dual competition, a player may participate in a maximum of three (3) games against the same opponent if a match is 2 of 3 games and five (5) games if the varsity match is 3 of 5 games.
- 31.6 **Scrimmages:** Two volleyball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted with the following conditions: after 7 days of practice; prior to the first game; no score kept; free substitution; time outs are permitted; the use of registered officials would not be a violation of game conditions.

- 31.7 Individual players of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.
- 31.8 A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

- 31.9 The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:
- (a) Junior high teams will be permitted 16 matches.
 - (b) Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 8 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 10.
 - (c) Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 18.
 - (d) Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.
 - (e) Junior high teams are not permitted an alumni game.

§127-3-32 Wrestling (Boys).

- 32.1 **Rules:** Wrestling rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.
- 32.2 **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.
- 32.3 **Length of Season:** The wrestling season will end for each team or individual at tournament elimination.
- 32.4 **Maximum Team Contest:** A wrestling team will be permitted to have 16 matches exclusive of 1 (one) conference or county tournament, regional, and state tournaments.
- Dual, triangular and quadrangular matches count as one. Matches in which five or more schools participate count as two.
- 32.5 **Scrimmages:** Two wrestling scrimmages with another high school may be conducted with the following conditions: after 7 days of practice; prior to the first game; no score kept; some format other than used in regular season contests; the use of registered officials would not be a violation.
- 32.6 Individual players of a team must have practiced on 14 SEPARATE days, exclusive of the day of a contest, before participating in an interscholastic contest.
- 32.7 A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent with the items mentioned in the Awards Rule. Students may accept only this same type of award in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

- 32.8 The above will apply for junior high schools with the following adaptations:
- (a) Junior high school teams may have 14 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission.
 - (b) Junior high teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.
 - (c) Junior high season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.