



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

MAC WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

AGENCY: Secondary School Activities Commission TITLE-SERIES: 127-03
RULE TYPE: Legislative Exempt Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes Repeal of existing rule: No
RULE NAME: Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests
CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W. Va. Code §§29A-3B-1, et seq.; W. Va. Board of Education v. Hechler, 180 W. Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988); & W. Va. Board of Education and Steven L. Paine, Ed.D. v. Board of Education of the County of Nicholas, W. Va., 17-0767 (October 10, 2017)

COMMENTS LIMITED TO:

Written

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

LOCATION OF PUBLIC HEARING:

DATE WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: 07/16/2018 4:00 PM

COMMENTS MAY BE MAILED OR EMAILED TO:

NAME: Mr. Bernie Dolan, Executive Director, WVSSAC

ADDRESS: 2875 Staunton Turnpike
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26104

EMAIL: bernie.dolan@wvssac.org

PLEASE INDICATE IF THIS FILING INCLUDES:

RELEVANT FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS: No

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

INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: No

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

PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE RULE:

The proposed rule changes, approved by WVSSAC member schools, are brought forth to keep the WVSSAC current and updated on changes, trends and issues in the band and athletic programs.

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

Terminology has been amended as WV middle schools do not include 9th grade; allow physical exam to be completed earlier; schools may choose to play up to challenge their student-athletes and compete on more competitive playing field; ensure younger/inexperienced student athletes are able to get game experience; and, eligibility participation limits are no longer counted by matches but by weigh-ins. Series 3 was reviewed by WVDE staff for compliance with WVBE policy and amended accordingly.

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

A. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT:

No state costs or revenue will be impacted by the proposed amendment of WVSSAC Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests.

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

No state costs or revenue will be impacted by the proposed amendment of WVSSAC Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests.

C. FISCAL NOTE DETAIL:

Effect of Proposal	Fiscal Year		
	2018 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	2019 Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost	0	0	0
Personal Services	0	0	0
Current Expenses	0	0	0
Repairs and Alterations	0	0	0
Assets	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
2. Estimated Total Revenues	0	0	0

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

No state costs or revenue will be impacted by the proposed amendment of WVSSAC Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests.

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

Yes

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Series 1, Constitution
Series 2, Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility
Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests
Series 5, Band Activities
West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission
Proposed Changes in Rules and Regulations

BACKGROUND

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

PURPOSE

The proposed rule changes, approved by WVSSAC member schools, are brought forth to keep the WVSSAC current and updated on changes, trends and issues in the band and athletic programs.

Series 1, Series 2, Series 3, and Series 5, were reviewed by WVDE staff for compliance with WVBE policy and amended accordingly.

The WVSSAC Commission staff, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and Board of Control respectfully submit rule changes to WVSSAC Series 1, 2, 3, and 5 for the WVBE's consideration.

CONTENT

Twenty eight proposals are submitted to the WVBE by the WVSSAC for consideration. Following is a brief summary of the effect of each proposal:

Series 1, Constitution

1. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
2. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
3. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)

Series 2, Athletics, Provisions Governing Eligibility

4. Prevent acquiring temporary residence in another school zone for athletic eligibility. Solidifies Rule 127-2.2a (Vote: Yes-131 No 4)
5. To allow students coming from another sport to practice 2 less days. (Vote: Yes-137 No-0)
6. To add new Emergency Action Plan to the Rules & Regulation Handbook. (Vote: Yes-133 No-0)

Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests

7. To allow physical exam to be completed earlier. (Vote: Yes-134 No-1)
8. ~~To allow more of a competitive balance with those schools of same structure. (Vote: Yes 100 No-24)~~ NOTE: Proposal 8 was rejected by the WVBE.
9. Schools may choose to play up to challenge their student-athletes and compete on more competitive playing field. (Vote: Yes-108 No-16)
10. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
11. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
12. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
13. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
14. To ensure younger/inexperienced student athletes are able to get game experience. (Vote: Yes-127 No-2)
15. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
16. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
17. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
18. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
19. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
20. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
21. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
22. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
23. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
24. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
25. Eligibility participation limits are no longer counted by matches but by weigh-ins. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)

Series 5, Band Activities

26. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
27. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)
28. Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th Grade. (Vote: Yes-134 No-0)

IMPACT

Instruction

None

Leadership

None

Financial

None

Administrative

None

ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS, PRINCIPALS, AND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS WILL NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE CHANGES IN ORDER TO ADMINISTER THEIR SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT RULES.

THERE IS NO MAJOR CHANGE THAT WOULD IMPACT ADMINISTRATION NEGATIVELY.

WVSSAC
Rules and Regulations Handbook
2018-19 Proposed Rule Changes Passed by BOC

Proposal 1 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-1-4. Membership. (pg. 2) as follows:

4.2.8. A one time membership fee of \$1,500.00 will be afforded senior high schools, \$500.00 to ~~middle/Middle School/9th Grade~~, or \$2,000.00 to combined middle/senior high schools.
Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 2 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-1-9. Funds. (pg. 7) as follows:

9.1.5. A thirty (\$30.00) dollar fee is the ceiling for all regular Middle School/~~9th Grade~~.
Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 3 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

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

3.2.d. Students enrolled in the ninth grade of a four, five or six year high school may participate on the high school team. Also, ninth graders of a feeder school may participate on their high school team and sixth grade students of a K-6 elementary feeder school may participate on their middle school/~~9th grade~~ team if granted permission by the county board of education or governing body of a private/parochial school and the school principals involved. ~~Once a ninth grade student becomes a member of the high school team said student will be ineligible for the middle school/9th grade team in that sport.~~ Members of a 9th grade team may be grouped for practice with members of the varsity team. However, if a 9th grade student participates in a varsity scrimmage or game that student becomes ineligible for the 9th grade team. Participation is defined as dressing and being available to play in a game, regardless if said player enters the game.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 4 (Vote: Yes-131 No-4)

Amend §127-2-7. Residence-Transfer. (Pg. 20) by adding the following

7.2. Part B - Transfer.

7.2.a. If a student transfers during the school year from one secondary school to another secondary school, said student shall be ineligible for 365 days from date of enrollment, absent a bona fide change of residence. Determination of a bona fide change of residence depends upon the facts of each case and is defined as, but not limited to:

7.2.a.1. The original residence must be abandoned as a residence; that is sold, rented, or disposed of as a residence and must not be used as a residence by the immediate family;

7.2.a.2. The change is being made with the intent that the move is permanent;

7.2.a.3. The entire family must make the change;

7.2.a.4. Documentation of connection of utilities to the residence; power, water, waste, sewer

7.2.a.5. Change of voter's registration, driver's license, mailing address, etc.,

7.2.a.6. If a student returns to a previously abandoned residence, the student shall be ineligible for 365 days from the date of enrollment.

Mike Arbogast, Principal, South Charleston HS

Jeff Kelley, Principal, St. Albans HS

Rationale:

Prevents acquiring temporary residence in another school zone for athletic eligibility. Solidifies Rule 127-2.2.a.

Proposal 5 (Vote: Yes-137 No-0)

Amend §127-2-13. Practice. (Pg.24) as follows:

13.7. If a student has established eligibility in a sport requiring 14 separate days of practice and is continuing to participate in that sport or no school days have lapsed from one sport to another sport in a same season, the student may participate in another sport of the season after completing five ~~seven~~ separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.

13.8. Students participating in a sport(s) in one season must have practiced 14 separate days, exclusive of the day of a contest, to be eligible to participate in a sport in the next season with the following exception: the student has continued to practice or participate in tournament play without an interruption of school days. The student must complete five ~~seven~~ separate days of sport specific practice in the second sport.

Trent Sherman, Principal

Martinsburg High School

Rationale:

I believe students coming from another sport are conditioned enough to start the next sport quicker than 7 days. I believe more days encourages coaches and students to practice students in 2 sports at the same time which could be more detrimental to their health than starting the sport sooner than 7 days.

Proposal 6 (Vote: Yes-133 No-0)

Add New Rule §127-2-15. Emergency Action Plan. (Pg.25) as follows:

15.1. On or before December 31, 2017, each member school shall adopt and submit to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC) and to the County Board of Education an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for athletics, designed to respond to athletic injuries that occur on school property during school-sponsored athletic practices and events.

15.2. Each EAP shall include:

15.2.1. Implementation of the EAP for every sport at every level. The EAP shall discuss how it is to be implemented with the participation of the school's principal and athletic director (if any), coaches, and athletes.

15.2.2 Training. The EAP shall include any necessary training for any person designated as responsible for any portion of the implementation of the EAP. Training may be in person or online, as may be available to the school.

15.2.3. Protocol for summoning emergency medical assistance. The EAP shall discuss how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for summoning emergency medical assistance in the case of an emergency during a practice or event.

15.2.4. Protocol for beginning Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The EAP shall discuss how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for beginning CPR in the event it is necessary. Each sports team must have individuals trained in CPR. The school shall provide proper training to any individual assigned responsibility for performing CPR.

15.2.5. Protocol for the use of Automated External Defibrillator (AED). It is recommended that each school have an AED available. The EAP must address how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for retrieving and using an AED in the event it is necessary. Each sports team must be instructed on the location of the nearest AED to any practice or event facility (even if the closest one is not at the school). The school shall provide proper training to any individual assigned responsibility for using an AED.

15.2.6. Protocol for the treatment of heat stroke. The EAP must address how the school's sports teams will prepare for and treat heat stroke. Each sports team that practices outdoors is recommended to have available an emersion tub, and must have water, ice, and towels, to be used for the treatment of heat stroke. The EAP must address how the school's sports teams will assign responsibility for obtaining these items and preparing them before a practice or game begins.

15.2.7. Written records. The EAP shall require that each of the school's sports teams assign responsibility for the items discussed above at the beginning of each season, and record those assignments on a written record, which record shall be retained by the sports team and the school.

15.2.8. Symptoms and risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest. The EAP shall require that schools train athletes, coaches, and volunteers about the symptoms and risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest.

15.2.9. Coordination with local Emergency Medical Systems. The EAP shall require that schools coordinate with their local EMS personnel, notifying EMS personnel of the availability of AEDs at the school, and notifying EMS personnel of the EAP adopted by the school.

15.2.10. Follow up retraining. The EAP shall require that school sports teams that respond to an emergency incident meet to discuss their response after the incident has passed. Discussion shall center on the team's response to the incident, areas for improvement, and retraining that may be necessary, and any counseling that may be required for the individuals involved.

15.3. Schools may, but are not required to adopt the Anyone Can Save a Life Program (available at www.anyonecansavealife.org), which meets all of the requirements of this Rule, to be implemented as that schools EAP in compliance with this Rule.

15.4. Each EAP adopted pursuant to this Rule shall be provided to the County Board of Education, and shall be retained by the County Board of Education until the EAP is superseded by a revised EAP.

Emergency Rule

Proposal 7 (Vote: Yes-134 No-1)

Amend §127-3-3 Physical Examination – Parental Permission (Pg. 33) as follows:

3.3 A physical examination form must be completed no earlier than ~~June 1~~ May 1 for an upcoming year. The physical is valid until the completion of the last WVSSAC State Tournament during the said upcoming school year.

Kari Vicars, Principal
Summers County High School

Rationale:

With the trend of schools systems starting school earlier in August and finishing earlier in May, as well as the newer flexibility with the summer practice period including flex days, some school systems require sports physicals for their students for these post school date activities and need flexibility with the physical date. Moving up the date for eligible sports physicals would give school systems more flexibility and allow physicals to be scheduled while the students are still in attendance.

Proposal 8 was rejected by the West Virginia Board of Education.

~~Proposal 8 (Vote: Yes-100 No-24)~~

~~Amend §127-3-10 Classification. (Pg. 39) as follows:~~

~~10.1. Each member high school shall be classified as either AAA, AA, or A based on the enrollment figures in grades 9-10-11 and 12 at the end of the second school month of the odd-numbered year preceding the classification. All non-public high schools shall be classified as AP (all private) classification and shall compete against other schools in this classification for post-season tournaments.~~

~~Reva Sanders-Wallace, Principal
Tolsia High School~~

~~Rationale:~~

~~The non-public schools are unique in their structure and ability to limit enrollment while still having access to a larger number of prospective student athletes, this would be on more of a competitive balance with those schools of same structure.~~

Proposal 9 (Vote: Yes-108 No-16)

Amend §127-3-10 Classification. (Pg. 30) as follows:

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 four-year period and will be effective for ~~all~~ individual sports sponsored by the school.

Reva Sanders-Wallace, Principal
Tolsia High School

Rationale:

Schools may choose to play up to challenge their student-athletes and compete on a more competitive playing field in individual sports by own choosing. This is a return to the former rule of the same option.

Proposal 10 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-11. Exchange of Eligibility Certificates. (pg. 39) as follows:

11.3. The names of the students on all Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams and teams from the ninth grade of the four year high school and sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth of a six year high school shall be submitted on the master eligibility certificate prepared for use by the school.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 11 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-17. WVSSAC Tournaments. (pg. 42) as follows:

17.5. The Board of Directors may approve participation by member Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ in county, league or conference tournament. Tournament play on the state level for member Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ shall be prohibited.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 12 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-19. Baseball. (pg. 43) as follows:

19.9. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with following adaptations:

19.9.a. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

19.9.b. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

19.9.c. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 13 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-20. Basketball (Boys and Girls). (pg. 44) as follows:

20.9. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above rules will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

20.9.e. All middle school/~~9th grade~~ students may play a maximum of 80 quarters for one season.

20.9.f. All middle school/~~9th grade~~ students may play a maximum of 4 quarters per day.

20.9.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.~~

20.9.h. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ are not permitted to play an alumni game.

20.9.i. Scrimmages: Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage.- See Glossary.

20.9.j. A ninth grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for ~~Middle High School/9th Grade~~.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 14 (Vote: Yes-127 No-2)

Amend §127-3-20 Basketball. (Pg. 44) as follows:

20.9.e. All middle school/9th grade students may play a maximum of ~~80~~ 100 quarters for one season.

20.9.f. All middle school/9th grade students may play a maximum of ~~4~~ 5 quarters per day.

Paul C. Huston II, Principal
Long Drain School

Rationale:

Some middle school programs are experiencing lower participation numbers and are struggling to maintain a sufficient number teams to get younger/inexperienced student athletes playing experience. This will help to ensure that those schools are able to get student athletes game experience that they might not otherwise.

Proposal 15 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-20 Basketball. (Pg. 44) as follows:

20.9. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above rules will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

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

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

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

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

20.9.e. All middle school/~~9th grade~~ students may play a maximum of 80 quarters for one season.

20.9.f. All middle school/~~9th grade~~ students may play a maximum of 4 quarters per day.

20.9.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 with~~ 7th grades ~~may~~ must play those games in quarters of ~~8~~ 6 minutes.

20.9.h. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ are not permitted to play an alumni game.

20.9.i. Scrimmages: Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage.- See Glossary.

20.9.j. ~~A ninth grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for Middle School/9th Grade.~~

Kenny DeMoss, Principal
Parkersburg High School

Rationale:

To remove freshman from middle school rules for basketball and allow them to be governed by the high school rules for stand along freshman teams.

Proposal 16 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-21. Cheerleading. (pg. 45) as follows:

21.6. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above rules will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

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

21.6.b. The middle school/~~9th grade~~ spirit and competitive cheer season will begin Monday of Week 6. The competitive season will end Saturday of Week 18. The middle school/~~9th grade~~ spirit season will end on the last day of the middle school/~~9th grade~~ girls' or boys' basketball season.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 17 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-23. Football. (pg. 47) as follows:

23.9. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above rules will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

23.9.g. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ football teams may be permitted to play overtime periods in regular season games. Where conferences or counties are holding season ending championships, a tie breaking procedure shall be established if at the end of two overtime periods the score remains tied. A maximum of 2 overtime periods will be permitted in accordance with the National Federation Football Rules 20 yard line overtime procedure.

23.9.h. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ game ball: The football used involving only students in the eighth grade and below shall be the youth football. Games involving students of a combination seventh and 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.

23.9.i. Length of Quarters: The maximum length of quarters for ninth grade teams shall be 10 minutes. For teams composed of students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade, the length of quarters shall be 8 minutes.

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

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 18 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-24. Golf (Boys and Girls). (pg. 49) as follows:

24.7. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ ~~Golf~~ - The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

24.7.a. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams are permitted to play no more than 14 matches.

24.7.b. There shall be one season for golf in middle school/~~9th grade~~, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 10 weeks.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 19 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-25. Soccer (Boys and Girls). (pg. 49) as follows:

25.9. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

25.9.a. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ teams may play 14 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

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

25.9.c. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

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

25.9.e. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 20 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-26. Softball. (pg. 50) as follows:

26.9. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

26.9.a. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ teams may play 18 games including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

26.9.b. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

26.9.c. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 21 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-27. Swimming (Boys and Girls). (pg. 51) as follows:

27.8. The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

27.8.a. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ teams will be permitted 14 meets.

27.8.b. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 18 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 20.

27.8.c. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ season will be completed by Saturday of Week 31.

27.8.d. ~~Middle school/9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 22 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-28. Tennis (Boys and Girls). (pg. 52) as follows:

28.8. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

28.8.a. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams may play 16 matches including tournaments sanctioned by the WVSSAC.

28.8.b. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

28.8.c. There shall be one season for tennis in middle school/~~9th grade~~, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 12 weeks.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 23 ((Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-29. Track and Field (Boys and Girls). (pg. 52) as follows:

29.9. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

29.9.a. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams will be permitted 14 meets and only 2 meets per week.

29.9.b. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ season will be completed by Thursday of Week 46.

29.9.c. Participation limitation: Middle school/~~9th grade~~ students, regardless of grade levels (6, 7, 8, ~~or 9~~), may compete in a maximum of four events, of which only three may be running events including relays.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 24 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-30. Volleyball (Girls). (pg. 53) as follows:

30.10. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

30.10.a. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams will be permitted 16 playing dates.

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

30.10.c. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

30.10.d. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. See Glossary.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 25 (Vote: Yes- 133 No-0)

Amend §127-3-31 Wrestling. (Pg. 51) as follows:

31.1. 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.

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

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

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

31.4.a. Dual, triangular and quadrangular ~~matches~~ weigh-ins count as one. ~~Matches~~ weigh-ins in which five or more schools participate count as two.

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

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

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

31.8. *Middle School/9th Grade* - The above will apply for Middle School/9th Grade with the following adaptations:

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

31.8.b. Middle school/9th grade school teams may have 16 ~~matches~~ weigh-ins excluding any conference tournament.

31.8.c. Middle school/9th grade teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

31.8.d. Middle school/9th grade season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.

Constitution and By-Laws

Rationale:

Eligibility participation limits are no longer counted by matches but by weigh-ins.

Proposal 26 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-3-31. Wrestling (Boys). (pg. 54) as follows:

31.8. ~~Middle School/9th Grade~~ - The above will apply for Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ with the following adaptations:

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

31.8.b. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ school teams may have 16 matches excluding any conference tournament.

31.8.c. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

31.8.d. Middle school/~~9th grade~~ season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 27 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-5-2. Enrollment and Membership - Band. (pg. 61) as follows:

2.3. Instrumental music students in seventh and eighth grades of feeder elementary schools or any grade of a feeder middle school/~~9th grade~~ school who receive their instruction from the band director of the senior high band in which said students will eventually enroll and which feeder school does not have a band of its own shall be eligible to participate in the band directed by their instructor.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

Proposal 28 (Vote: Yes- 134 No-0)

Amend §127-5-7. Classification of Schools - Band. (pg. 64) as follows:

7.4. Member Middle School/~~9th Grade~~ and middle schools will not be given a classification.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

Middle Schools in WV do not include 9th grade.

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TITLE 127
LEGISLATIVE RULE
WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

SERIES 3
PROVISIONS GOVERNING CONTESTS

§127-3-1. General.

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

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

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~July 13, 2017.~~

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~September 11, 2017.~~

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. -- This legislative rule amends W. Va. 127CSR3, West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests, filed ~~July 14, 2016~~ July 13, 2017, and effective ~~September 12, 2016~~ September 11, 2017.

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

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

2.2. The principal ~~and/or his~~ designee shall notify ~~his staff faculty (as defined in Rule~~ coaches and faculty (§127-3-6) of the rules and regulations of this Commission. It shall be that individual's responsibility to notify those students participating in ~~West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC)~~ activities. Failure of the principal in performing this responsibility will not prevent the Commission from enforcing ~~said~~ its rules and regulations.

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

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

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

2.6. The principal has the right to exclude a contestant who would not represent ~~his~~ the school in an appropriate manner, a student who fails to maintain a satisfactory scholastic standing, or a student who

has been excluded for a serious illness or injury.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§127-3-4. All-Star Participation.

4.1. A graduating senior, or any student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current ~~school~~ academic 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.

§127-3-5. Awards.

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

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

5.2.a. from a member school for participation;

5.2.b. in a sanctioned event;

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

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

5.3. A student may not receive the following awards with a retail value that exceeds \$20.00:

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

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

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

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

5.4. Purchase of an item as ~~mentioned~~ identified in ~~subsection §127-3-5.3~~ 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, with ~~or without~~ West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Authorized Certification, ~~within a public, private, or parochial school system~~ shall be allowed to coach an athletic team. A member of a private/parochial school facility, substitute teacher, regardless of WVDE certification status, shall be allowed to coach an athletic team. ~~Also, a~~ An authorized certified individual may coach if they meets all of the requirements in subsection §127-3-6.5 of this rule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§127-3-7. Out-of-Season Coaching.

7.1. Philosophy -- ~~A~~ Students should have the opportunity to engage voluntarily in school athletic activities provided that the student is eligible, that such activities do not interfere with the student's educational development and their activities do not conflict with the principles of wholesome amateur athletics. The WVSSAC ~~wishes to enhance that opportunity while at the same time discourages~~ the exploitation of students by overzealous individuals and organizations who attempt to impose an obligation or pressure on the student. ~~There has been growing evidence of commercialism and specialization of secondary school students. Experience has revealed that such occurrences tend to divide the allegiance of students, undermine 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.

7.2. School organized out-of-season practice or related activities shall be permitted with principal approval during three consecutive weeks established by each county board of education or by the governing body of a ~~non-public member~~ private/parochial school. These three consecutive weeks may begin on or after Monday of Week 49, and must conclude by Friday of Week 4 of the ~~National Federation NFHS Standardized Calendar~~; provided, there will be no out-of-season practice or related activities during the week of July 4th as determined by the ~~National Federation NFHS Standardized Calendar~~ (refer to ~~handbook appendix in handbook for standardized calendar~~). Participation ~~by students~~ must be open to all students, voluntary, and not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school team. Participation by students during these weeks does not meet ~~Practice Rule §127-2-13.4~~.

7.2.a. With principal approval, each sport ~~specific~~ program may use six (6) "flex-days" from Monday of Week 49 through Friday of Week 48 of the next ~~school~~ academic year. A flex-day is a day, outside the regular season and outside the three (3) week practice window, when a coach may have sport-specific contact with student athletes. Flex-days shall not be used during the first week of each high or middle school sport season. Use of any part of a day for an activity will count as a full day of activity. ~~(A flex day is a day, outside the regular season and outside the three (3) week practice window, when a coach may have sport specific contact with student athletes.)~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.6.f. In ~~those~~ cases where schools schedule all students into the last period of the school day, the guidelines in ~~items (c), (d), and (e) §§127-3-7.6.c, 7.6.d, and 7.6.e~~ shall apply unless the class is considered a part of the physical education program and credit is given earned. There shall be no teaching of sport specific skills in this case unless those same skills and course of study are taught in all physical education classes at this same time of the ~~school~~ academic year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.7.e. Comparable opportunities are provided both sexes.

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

7.8. The principal ~~assumes the~~ is responsibility ~~for making certain that there is~~ adherence to these guidelines requirements.

§127-3-8. Forfeit and Restitution.

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

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

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

8.4. If a team, or student participating in an individual contest, leaves the playing area in protest and fails to complete the contest, the contest is forfeited and the school principal or ~~his~~ designee and the violator may be required to appear before the Executive Director of the WVSSAC to indicate why additional action should not be taken.

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

8.6. If a student is deemed ineligible ~~according to~~ under WVSSAC rules, but ~~is permitted to~~ participates in interscholastic competition ~~contrary to such WVSSAC rules but~~ in accordance with the terms of a court ~~restraining~~ order or injunction, and ~~said~~ the order or injunction ~~is subsequently vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts~~ ultimately otherwise adjudicated so that injunctive relief is/was not justified warranted, any one of the following actions may be taken in the interest of fairness or restitution to the competing schools:-;

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

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

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

§127-3-9. Game Officials.

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

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

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

9.4. The Executive Director of the WVSSAC 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 risk cancellation.

9.5. All officials registered with the WVSSAC are subject to and required to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in these ~~bylaws~~ rules 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~~ rules.

9.6. The official shall:

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

9.6.b. Attend four (4) local ~~e~~Officials’ Board meetings. Failure to comply will result in suspension for ~~the~~ current year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.7. The Executive Director of the WVSSAC 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 Directors. The Executive Director of the WVSSAC shall inform fully a penalized official of ~~his~~ appeal rights.

§127-3-10. Classification.

10.1. Each member public high school shall be classified as either AAA, AA, or A based on the enrollment figures in grades 9-~~7~~ 10-~~2~~ 11~~2~~ and 12 at the end of the second school month of the odd numbered year preceding the classification.

10.2. Classification of member high schools shall be determined every four years on the even numbered years and will remain in effect for a four year period unless the school experiences a 20% change in enrollment using ~~West Virginia Department of Education~~ WVDE enrollment figures at the end of the second school month. ~~Change of classification changes due to a 20% change in enrollment would not go into~~ becomes effective until the next ~~school~~ academic year.

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 four year period and will be effective for ~~all~~ individual sports sponsored by the school.

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

10.5. If a consolidation of two or more member schools occurs during the classification period, the new member school will be reclassified based on the combined enrollment of 9-~~7~~ 10-~~2~~ 11~~2~~ and 12 in the consolidating schools.

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

11.1. ~~Eligibility certificates will be required at~~ Commission approved eligibility certificates are 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 is~~ responsible for the proper completion of the certificate ~~and completion of said information as per WVSSAC policy.~~

11.3. The names of the students on all ~~junior high and middle school teams, and teams from the ninth~~ 9th grade, junior varsity and varsity teams of the four year high school and sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth ~~of a six year high school~~ shall be submitted on the school's master eligibility certificate ~~prepared for use~~

by the school.

11.4. Student Additions to the team ~~shall~~ must be certified ~~at once~~ immediately on an eligibility certificate submitted to the WVSSAC.

11.5. ~~Verification of Principals will verify~~ student eligibility ~~will be made by the principal. B using birth certificates must be used~~ to confirm a student's age. ~~Questionable~~ Disputed cases shall be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director of the WVSSAC prior to participation.

11.6. ~~If a~~ Changes is made in the record of to a student's age, number of semesters of attendance or semester credits ~~from that which has previously appeared~~ on an eligibility certificate, ~~it~~ must be reported to and approved by the WVSSAC ~~and approved~~ prior to participation.

11.7. Schools that ~~Failure to~~ send the required eligibility information to the WVSSAC prior to the first contest ~~shall render the offending school liable to~~ will be assessed a fine of \$25.00 payable to the WVSSAC.

§127-3-12. Legal Opponents.

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

12.2. ~~Member schools of the WVSSAC~~ member schools shall not participate against ~~those~~ schools that have been placed under a specified sanction, ~~—This would include~~ being either member schools ~~or~~ and out-of-state schools.

12.3. ~~Member schools of the WVSSAC~~ member schools shall not participate in any interscholastic contest or practice against non-school teams ~~or in any interscholastic contest or practice which involves or involving~~ alumni participants.

§127-3-13. Contracts.

13.1. ~~It is recommended that contracts of games for a~~ All interscholastic contest contracts shall be prepared in duplicate. ~~Contract on~~ forms are furnished by the WVSSAC ~~office~~. ~~These~~ Contracts should include specific dates, financial guarantee provisions, adequate forfeiture stipulations, and all other items listed on the contract.

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

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

13.3.a. If ~~both~~ either principals or designee ~~fails~~ to sign the contract.

13.3.b. If ~~one of the two~~ either schools is forced to suspend its school schedule.

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

13.3.d. ~~If there is~~ Upon written mutual consent of the ~~two parties of the~~ contracting parties.

13.3.e. ~~If~~ The Board of Directors may annuls a contract when it ~~deems~~ deems such action necessary for the furtherance of interscholastic athletics in West Virginia, ~~or if~~ when provisions of the contract are contrary to ~~the rules of the~~ Commission rules.

13.4. ~~Athletic~~ Contracts made executed by the principal are ~~considered~~ binding on ~~his~~ the principal's successor.

13.5. ~~An~~ school will forfeit an athletic contest ~~will be considered forfeited~~ during regular season ~~as per contracted or~~ scheduled 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~~ If both participating schools are ~~on~~ affected by strike, ~~it~~ cancellation shall be considered no contest. ~~Games or contests canceled during~~ Regular season cancellation may be rescheduled during that same season by agreement of the involved parties and the Board of Directors.

§127-3-14. Sunday Contests.

14.1. ~~Member schools of the WVSSAC~~ member schools shall not engage in any practice, contest, meet, or tournament on a Sunday. ~~This rule shall also apply to Sunday practice.~~ However, in case of emergency, State Championship finals may be played on Sunday after 1:00 p.m.

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

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

15.1. The current edition of official High School Rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS ~~will be~~ are the official rules used in contests, meets, and tournaments played by WVSSAC member schools of this Commission. The Board of Directors may modify such rules as ~~also provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS. ~~In this case, the~~ Any modified rules ~~of the Board of Directors~~ as published in special bulletins or "The Interscholastic" shall apply.

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

15.3. ~~The protest of a~~ Contests or ejections ~~will not be allowed~~ shall not be protested. Accordingly, the Board of Directors is not authorized to order contests ~~to be~~ replayed or ejections ~~to be~~ reconsidered.

§127-3-16. Sanctioning and Travel.

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

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

16.3. Events requiring ~~National Federation~~ NFHS approval are:

16.3.a. Co-sponsorship Sanction Requirement: Any interstate event involving two (2) or more schools, which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community (e.g., a university, a theme park, a shoe company), in addition to being sponsored by a member school, an approved school, or a state association, shall require sanction of the NFHS office.

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

16.3.b.1. More than eight (8) schools, at least one (1) of which is from a state that does not border the host state; or

16.3.b.2. Five (5) or more states, at least one (1) of which does not border the host state.

16.3.c. International Event: Each member state association shall approve and receive NFHS approval for competition by a member school against a school from a foreign country, except for two (2) school and three (3) school competition with a school or schools from Canada or Mexico which necessitates a round trip of less than 600 miles.

16.3.d. International Event: Games against Canadian or Mexican schools involving travel of greater than 600 miles, or an event involving more than three (3) schools, one or more of which are from Canada or Mexico, requires a request to the NFHS for international sanction and notice to and sanction by the appropriate National Governing Body.

16.4. Bordering state events requiring approval are:

16.4.a. Any interstate event in which four (4) or more schools participate. (All schools from neighboring states.)

16.4.b. Any interstate event which involves schools from three (3) or more state high school associations.

16.5. Intrastate events requiring approval are:

16.5.a. An event with more than four (4) schools participating; ~~or awards given.~~

16.5.b. Any event where awards are given.

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

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

§127-3-17. WVSSAC Tournaments.

17.1. Participation in Commission sponsored and directed sectional, regional and state tournaments ~~sponsored by this Commission and directed by the Board of Directors, exclusively~~ shall be limited exclusively to WVSSAC members of this Commission.

17.2. The Board of Directors shall divide the state into sections and regions for the purpose of determining championships in the Commission sponsored sports ~~sponsored by this Commission~~. The Board of Directors shall ~~have charge of directing and making necessary~~ arrangements for tournaments, meets, and contests leading to and including state championships. ~~Member school principals will receive the proposed tournament alignment from~~ The WVSSAC office and will provide member school principals ~~be given the opportunity to review and~~ comment on the alignment prior to the presentation to the Board of Directors. Principals will sign a form to verify receipt and return the form to the WVSSAC office within ten (10) days from the date of the bulletin.

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

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

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

17.6. ~~No s~~State tournaments ~~shall be concluded until all~~ only after all games, matches, or events at ~~the state tournament~~ are completed.

§127-3-18. Season Regulations.

18.1. The Commission uses the NFHS 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.~~

§127-3-19. Baseball.

19.1. Rules: Baseball rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

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

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

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

19.5. Scrimmages: Teams may conduct two (2) baseball scrimmages with another high school ~~may be conducted.~~ (See Glossary.)

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

19.7. Student Participation:

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

19.7.b. A student shall not participate in more than 32 games in one (1) season, exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests. Serving as a "courtesy or pinch runner" is not considered "participation" in a game.

19.8. During the sport season, a ~~A~~ student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events during the season of that sport. ~~These~~ awards must be consistent with the items specified in ~~comply with the Awards Rule.~~ Outside the sport season, ~~students may accept only this same type of an~~ compliant awards ~~in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season.~~

19.9. ~~Junior High~~ Middle Schools -- The above will apply for ~~junior high~~ middle schools with following adaptations:

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

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

19.9.c. ~~Junior high~~ Middle school teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

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

20.1. Rules: Basketball rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

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

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

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

contests are not included in the above number.

20.4.a. The maximum number of quarters for a student in one (1) season is 110 exclusive of sectional, regional, and state tournament contests.

20.4.b. A student can play only five (5) quarters in one (1) day.

20.4.c. Participation in a quarter, regardless of time, will be considered one (1) quarter.

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

20.5. A high school basketball team is permitted to participate in a preview and a scrimmage or two (2) scrimmage games. (See Glossary.)

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

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

20.8. ~~During the sport season a~~ A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events ~~during the season of that sport. These awards must be consistent~~ comply with the items specified in the Awards Rule. ~~Outside the sport season, students may accept only this same type of an~~ complaint awards in non-sanctioned events ~~outside the sport season.~~

20.9. ~~Junior High Middle Schools~~ -- The above rules will apply for ~~Junior High Middle Schools~~ with the following adaptations:

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

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

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

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

20.9.e. All ~~junior high middle~~ students may play a maximum of ~~80~~ 100 quarters for one (1) season.

20.9.f. All ~~junior high middle~~ students may play a maximum of four (4) quarters per day.

20.9.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 and 8th~~ grades ~~may~~ must play those games in quarters of six (6) ~~8~~ minutes.

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

20.9.i. Scrimmages: ~~junior-high~~ Middle school teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

~~20.9.j. A ninth grade team in a high school program will follow the rules provided for junior high schools.~~

§127-3-21. Cheerleading.

21.1. Rules: Cheerleading rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

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

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

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

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

21.6. ~~Junior High Middle~~ Schools -- The above rules will apply for ~~Junior High middle~~ Sschools with the following adaptations:

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

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

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

22.1. Rules: Cross country rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

§127-3-23. Football.

23.1. Rules: Football rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

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

23.2.a. The following table establishes for ~~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.

Year	First Date Organized Practice	First Date Pads No Live Contact	First Date Live Contact Allowed	Earliest Date For Scrimmage or Grid-O-Rama	Date For First Contest	Date Season Must Be Completed
2017	July 31	Aug. 4	Aug. 8	Aug. 12	Aug. 21	Nov. 4
2018	July 30	Aug. 3	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug. 20	Nov. 3
2019	Aug. 5	Aug. 9	Aug. 13	Aug. 17	Aug. 26	Nov. 9
2020	Aug. 3	Aug. 7	Aug. 11	Aug. 15	Aug. 24	Nov. 7
2021	Aug. 2	Aug. 6	Aug. 10	Aug. 14	Aug. 23	Nov. 6
<u>2022</u>	<u>Aug. 1</u>	<u>Aug. 5</u>	<u>Aug. 9</u>	<u>Aug. 13</u>	<u>Aug. 22</u>	<u>Nov. 5</u>

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

23.2.c. ~~No~~ in season football camps sponsored by a member school or by other school related organizations where football coaching and instruction are given are not permitted.

23.2.d. The use of football uniforms, protective equipment, tackling or blocking dummies, charging sleds, or similar devices are strictly prohibited during the conditioning program. ~~However,~~ during the ~~DATE OF PADS NO LIVE CONTACT~~ date of pads no live contact, the use of sleds, shields, and

blocking dummies ~~will be~~ is allowed. ~~The purpose of this period is~~ to permit gradual adaptation of the students to carrying the weight of their pads and adjusting to temperature variation.

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

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

23.4.a. The total number of quarters for a student in one (1) season is 50 exclusive of the play-off games.

23.4.b. A student may only play four (4) quarters in one (1) day.

23.4.c. Any student who participated in one or more downs in one quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play, ~~except those d~~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~~ NFHS Football Rule Book, ~~the down~~ will not count as a down.

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

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

23.5. A football team is permitted to participate in a Grid-O-Rama and one (1) preseason scrimmage or two (2) preseason scrimmages. (See Glossary for definitions of Grid-O-Rama and Scrimmage.)

23.6. Special Regulations:

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

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

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

23.7. A student may accept awards ~~only in for~~ only in for WVSSAC sanctioned and non-sanctioned events during the ~~school~~ entire year. These awards must be consistent with the items specified in the Awards Rule. ~~Students may accept only this same type of an award in non-sanctioned event during non-school months.~~

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

23.9. ~~Junior High~~ Middle Schools -- The above rules will apply for ~~Junior High~~ middle Schools with the following adaptations:

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

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

Year	First Date Organized Practice	Pads No Live Contact	Contact Allowed Full Equip.	Date For Scrimmage	Earliest For First Game	Date Season Must Be Completed
2017	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 17	Aug. 21	Week 9	Oct. 28
2018	Aug. 6	Aug. 13	Aug. 16	Aug. 20	Week 9	Oct. 27
2019	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 22	Aug. 26	Week 9	Nov. 2
2020	Aug. 10	Aug. 17	Aug. 20	Aug. 24	Week 9	Oct. 31
2021	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 19	Aug. 23	Week 9	Oct. 30
<u>2022</u>	<u>Aug. 8</u>	<u>Aug. 15</u>	<u>Aug. 18</u>	<u>Aug. 22</u>	<u>Week 9</u>	<u>Oct. 29</u>

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

23.9.d. Not more than eight (8) interscholastic football games shall be played, ~~with the exception of one (1) 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~~ is 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 if agreed to before the start of the season.~~

23.9.e. The total number of quarters for a middle school student in one (1) season is 40, exclusive of the playoff game in ~~Rule §127-3-23.4.~~

23.9.f. A ~~junior high~~ middle school football team is allowed one (1) preseason scrimmage under the following conditions:

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

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

23.9.f.3. Admission may be charged.

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

23.9.g. ~~Junior High/Middle School~~ football teams may ~~be permitted to~~ play overtime periods in regular season games. ~~Where conferences or counties are holding~~ In season ending championship games,

a tie breaking procedure shall be established and used if at the end of two (2) overtime periods, the score remains tied. A maximum of two (2) overtime periods ~~will be~~ are permitted in accordance with the ~~National Federation NFHS~~ Football Rules "20 yard line overtime procedure."

23.9.h. ~~Junior High Middle school~~ game ball: The football used involving only students in the ~~eighth 8th~~ grade and below shall be the youth football. ~~Games involving students of a combination seventh, eighth, and ninth graders may use the youth football by mutual agreement.~~ Modification of the rule is listed in ~~the NFHS Rule 1-3-1, National Federation~~ Football Rule Book, Rule 1-3-1.

23.9.i. Length of Quarters: ~~The maximum length of quarters for ninth grade teams shall be 10 minutes.~~ For teams composed of students in ~~the sixth, seventh and eighth~~ any combination of 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, the length of quarters shall be eight (8) minutes.

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

§127-3-24. Golf (Boys and Girls).

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

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

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

24.4. Maximum Team Contests: A high school golf team will be permitted to play no more than 18 varsity matches, 18 JV matches, and 18 girls' JV matches. A male or female participant may play no more than a total of 18 matches exclusive of regional and state tournament contests between the varsity, JV, and girls' JV matches. Girls who participate on school teams who do not have a minimum of three female participants may participate as individuals in girls' JV matches as long as the total number of matches they play between varsity, JV, and girls' JV does not exceed 18. Each interscholastic contest counts as one, whether it is 9 or 18 holes, and regardless of number of opponents.

24.5. Scrimmages: Not permitted.

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

24.7. ~~Junior High Middle School~~ Golf -- The above will apply for ~~junior-high middle~~ schools with the following adaptations:

24.7.a. ~~Junior-high Middle school~~ teams are permitted to play no more than 14 matches.

24.7.b. There shall be one season for golf in ~~junior-high middle~~ school, either fall or spring; however, the season selected shall be no longer than 10 weeks.

§127-3-25. Soccer (Boys and Girls).

25.1. Rules: Soccer rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

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

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

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

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

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

25.5. A high school soccer team is permitted to participate in a soccer-o-rama and one (1) preseason scrimmage or two (2) preseason scrimmages. (See Glossary.)

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

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

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

25.9. ~~Junior High~~ Middle Schools -- The above will apply for ~~junior high~~ middle schools with the following adaptations:

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

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

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

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

25.9.e. ~~Junior-high~~ Middle school teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

§127-3-26. Softball.

26.1. Rules: Softball rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modifications.

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

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

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

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

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

26.7. Student Participation:

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

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

26.8. ~~During the sport season, a~~ A student may accept awards only in WVSSAC sanctioned events ~~during the season of that sport~~. These awards must be ~~consistent~~ compliant with the ~~items specified in the Awards Rule~~. Outside the sport season students may accept only ~~this same type of an~~ compliant awards ~~in non-sanctioned events outside the sport season~~.

26.9. ~~Junior-High Middle Schools~~ -- The above will apply for ~~junior-high middle~~ schools with the following adaptations:

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

26.9.b. ~~Junior-high Middle school~~ season will be completed by Saturday of Week 45.

26.9.c. ~~Junior-high Middle school~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

§127-3-27. Swimming (Boys and Girls).

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27.1. Rules: Swimming rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

27.8. The above will apply for ~~junior-high~~ middle schools with the following adaptations:

27.8.a. ~~Junior-high~~ middle school teams will be permitted 14 meets.

27.8.b. Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 18 and the first contest may be on Wednesday of Week 20.

27.8.c. ~~Junior-high~~ Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 31.

27.8.d. ~~Junior-high~~ Middle school teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. (See Glossary.).

§127-3-28. Tennis (Boys and Girls).

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

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

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

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

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28.4.a. Dual, triangular and quadrangular matches count as one (1). Matches in which five (5) or more schools participate count as two (2) matches.

28.5. Scrimmages: Two (2) tennis scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

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

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

28.8. ~~Junior High Middle Schools~~ -- The above will apply for ~~junior high middle~~ schools with the following adaptations:

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

28.8.b. ~~Junior high Middle school~~ teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

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

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

29.1. Rules: Track and Field rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

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

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

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

29.5. Participation Limitations: Maximum of four (4) events per participant per meet.

29.6. Scrimmages: Not permitted.

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

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

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29.9. ~~Junior High~~ Middle Schools -- The above will apply for ~~junior high~~ middle schools with the following adaptations:

29.9.a. ~~Junior high~~ Middle school teams will be permitted 14 meets and only two (2) meets per week.

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

29.9.c. Participation limitation: ~~Junior high/m~~Middle school students, regardless of grade levels (6, 7, or 8, or 9), may compete in a maximum of four (4) events, of which only three (3) may be running events, including relays.

§127-3-30. Volleyball (Girls).

30.1. Rules: Volleyball rules published by ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

30.2. Organized Team Practice: Organized team practice will begin on Monday of Week 6 and the first contest may be played on Wednesday of Week 9.

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

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

30.4.a. Dual, triangular, and quadrangular matches count as one (1) playing date. Matches in which five (4) or more schools participate count as two (2) playing dates.

30.5. In dual competition, a student may participate in a maximum of four (4) games against the same opponent if a match is two (2) of three (3) games and six (6) games if the varsity match is three (3) of five (5) games.

30.6. Scrimmages: Two (2) volleyball scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

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

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

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

30.10. ~~Junior High~~ Middle Schools -- The above will apply for ~~junior high~~ middle schools with the

following adaptations:

30.10.a. ~~Junior-high~~ Middle school teams will be permitted 16 playing dates.

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

30.10.c. ~~Junior-high~~ Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 17.

30.10.d. ~~Junior-high~~ Middle school teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage. (See Glossary.)

§127-3-31. Wrestling (Boys).

31.1. Rules: Wrestling rules published by the ~~National Federation of State High School Associations~~ NFHS are the official rules for all interscholastic competition unless otherwise provided by Commission modification.

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

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

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

31.4.a. Dual, triangular and quadrangular ~~matches~~ weigh-ins count as one (1) weigh-in. ~~Matches~~ Weigh-ins in which five (5) or more schools participate count as two (2).

31.5. Scrimmages: Two (2) wrestling scrimmages with another high school may be conducted. (See Glossary.)

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

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

31.8. ~~Junior-High~~ Middle Schools -- The above will apply for ~~junior-high~~ middle schools with the following adaptations:

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

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

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31.8.c. ~~Junior-high~~ Middle School teams are permitted one (1) scrimmage under the same conditions as a high school.

31.8.d. ~~Junior-high~~ Middle school season will be completed by Saturday of Week 33.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ALL-STAR GAME - a contest where all contestants on each team are students selected from four (4) or more school teams. No more than three (3) students from any one (1) school may participate on the same team.

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

COMMISSION/WVSSAC - The West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (~~WVSSAC~~).

CONTEST or GAME – one (1) or more of the following conditions are present: previous agreement, advertisement, score and/or time kept, spectators present, regulation or modified rules used, coverage appearing in local media, sufficient number of students to form teams, admission charged, and/or contest officiated by registered officials.

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

FACULTY MEMBER - one (1) who has a full-time teacher permit as defined by ~~the West Virginia Department of Education~~ W. Va. 126CSR136, WVBE (Policy 5202), Minimum Requirements for the Licensure of Professional/ Paraprofessional Personnel and Advanced Salary Classification.

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

~~**FULL CREDIT COURSE** – one half credit for a semester or 4050 minutes as taken from the West Virginia Department of Education, “Graduation Requirements for West Virginia Public Schools: Adolescent Education (Grades 9-12)” (Policy 2510).~~

~~**FULL TIME STUDENT** – a student doing passing work in the equivalent of at least 20 periods per week. (Traditional Schedule – four subjects with full credit toward graduation; Block Schedule – two subjects with full credit toward graduation).~~

GRID-O-RAMA - See Preview and Scrimmage definitions.

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

PREVIEW - must be three (3) or more teams; teams are only allowed to play the equivalent of one contest; all conditions of a scrimmage apply.

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

SCRIMMAGE - after seven (7) days of practice; prior to the first contest; without keeping score in a book or on a score board; not under game conditions (examples include basketball and soccer - quarters; three (3) outs-baseball and softball); admission may be charged; free substitution; time-outs permitted; if

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officials are used, they must be West Virginia registered officials.

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL - a high school, ~~junior high school~~ or middle school as registered with the ~~West Virginia Department of Education~~ WVDE.

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

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

VARSITY - primary representative team of a high school.

West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC)

Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: July 16, 2018

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

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

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on WVSSAC Series 3, Provisions Governing Contests. Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Title: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

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



COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
Removal of "9 th grade" (inclusive of "junior high") throughout Series 3.
§127-3-3.3. (Allow physical exam to be completed earlier.)
§127-3-10.3. (Schools may choose to play up to challenge their student-athletes and compete on more competitive playing field.)
§127-3-20.9.3 and 20.9.f. (Ensure younger/inexperienced student athletes are able to get game experience.)

§127-3-31.4 and 34.4.a.

(Eligibility participation limits are no longer counted by matches but by weigh-ins.)

Other proposed changes to Series 3; please identify section associated with your comment(s).

Please direct all comments to:

Mr. Bernie Dolan

Executive Director

West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission

2875 Staunton Turnpike

Parkersburg, West Virginia 26104

Telephone No.: (304) 485-5494

Fax No.: (304) 428-5431