



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

KRIS WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

**NOTICE OF FINAL FILING AND ADOPTION OF A LEGISLATIVE EXEMPT, INTERPRETIVE OR
PROCEDURAL RULE**

AGENCY: Secondary School Activities Commission TITLE-SERIES: 127-06

RULE TYPE: Legislative Exempt Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes Repeal of existing rule: No

RULE NAME: VIOLATIONS OF THE RULES

CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W. Va. Constitution, Article XII, § 2 and W. Va. Code §18-2-5, 18-2-25, 18-2-25a, and 18-2-25b

This rule is filed with the Secretary of State. This rule becomes effective on the following date:

September 11, 2026

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

Yes

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

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**TITLE 127
LEGISLATIVE RULE**

WEST VIRGINIA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

**SERIES 6
VIOLATIONS OF THE RULES**

§127-6-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- These rules govern the procedures for protests, contested cases, and waiver of rules.

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

1.3. Filing Date. -- August 12, 2026.

1.4. Effective Date. -- September 11, 2026.

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 13, 2007, and effective September 11, 2007.

§127-6-2. Powers of the Board of Directors to Impose Penalties.

2.1. All violations of rules and questions of dispute are within the power of the Board of Directors to investigate, through the Executive Director, or other authorized person or persons, and to impose such penalties as are prescribed elsewhere in this Constitution and Bylaws and as listed below.

2.2. If the Board of Directors finds a school guilty of violating the provisions of this Constitution and Bylaws, said Board of Directors has the power to:

2.2.1. Declare the school ineligible for championship honors or other activities for the current year in the activity in which the offense occurred.

2.2.2. Place the school on probation for a period of time not to exceed 365 days from the date of such finding. Such probation may include the loss of voting rights for the member and/or the loss of the privilege of the member school to participate in any or all interscholastic events which are sanctioned, controlled or sponsored by this Commission, and/or the imposition of other restrictive measures as the Board of Directors may deem advisable.

2.2.3. Assess such fines as are deemed necessary and just.

2.2.4. Impose such other additional penalties as may seem justifiable in the particular case considered.

§127-6-3. Method for Protests - Deputies.

3.1. If charges against any member of the Commission cannot be satisfactorily resolved by the Deputy

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Board Member in the region in which such charges originate, then the charges shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC).

3.2. If the Executive Director is unable to resolve the charges in a manner satisfactory to the schools concerned, he shall submit the protest to the Board of Directors and the decision of said Board shall be final except as provided in §127-1-13.3.1 of the Constitution.

3.3. In no case shall a protest be heard by said Board unless the principal bringing the charges notifies in writing the principal of the school being protested. A copy of such notification shall accompany the protest sent to the Executive Director.

3.4. The principal of a school against which charges have been preferred shall be permitted to appear before the Board of Directors.

§127-6-4. Method of Protests - Executive Director.

4.1. If the Executive Director has reason to believe that any member of the WVSSAC has or is violating the rules of the Commission, he shall make such investigation as he deems necessary to determine the innocence or guilt of the suspected member.

4.2. The Executive Director shall then report his findings to the principal of the offending school and set a time and place for a meeting with the principal of the school, at which meeting the principal shall be permitted to submit any pertinent evidence in defense of his school.

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

4.2.a.1. Warning. A warning may be given by the Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director. It is official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanship action has occurred, is a matter of record, and that such an occurrence must not be repeated.

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

4.2.a.3. Suspension. A school/coach suspended from the WVSSAC may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a WVSSAC member school or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

4.2.a.4. Fine. A fine may be levied by the Executive Director.

4.2.a.5. Each of these sanctions (Warning, Probation, Suspension, and Fine) may be imposed or levied separately, or in a combination of one or more sanctions.

4.3. If the principal is not then satisfied with the decision of the Executive Director, a request may be

made for a hearing before the Board of Directors at such time and place as is convenient for both the principal and the Board.

4.4. In no case shall the Board of Directors hear charges and render a decision unless the principal is given an opportunity to appear in defense of his school. After all evidence has been submitted, the Board of Directors shall render a decision which shall be final except as provided in §127-1-13.3 of the Constitution.

§127-6-5. Method of Protests - Contested Cases.

5.1. Commencement of an appeal in a contested case by an aggrieved party, hereinafter named the petitioner, shall be instituted by the filing of a verified petition which shall contain:

- 5.1.1. The name and address of the petitioner.
- 5.1.2. The interest of the petitioner.
- 5.1.3. A statement of facts.
- 5.1.4. A statement of jurisdiction.
- 5.1.5. A designation of the applicable rule or rules involved.
- 5.1.6. An assignment of errors relied upon.
- 5.1.7. A statement of the relief requested.

5.2. Petitions for appeal shall be served upon the WVSSAC by registered or certified mail.

5.3. The Executive Director, or any other interested party, may file an answer, but failure to file an answer will be interpreted as a denial of the allegations contained in the petition. If they elect to file an answer, it shall contain the following:

- 5.3.1. Allegation of facts with denials, additional facts or other pertinent data.
- 5.3.2. A statement of other applicable rules and statutes.
- 5.3.3. A statement of objections, if any, to the parties or other portion of the petition.
- 5.3.4. Designation of other interested parties.

5.4. All answers shall be filed with the Board of Directors within five (5) days after receipt of the petition for appeal.

5.5. In the event that the parties are unable to dispose of the issues without a hearing or if the Board of Directors elects to proceed without a pre-hearing conference, the Executive Director shall notify all parties in writing of the date, time and place set for a hearing on the appeal. The notice shall be given at least seven (7) days in advance of the time set for the hearing and shall contain a short and plain statement

of the issues involved. Said hearing shall be conducted in conjunction with a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. In this event, costs for such a meeting shall not be taxed against the petitioner(s).

5.6. The matter may be heard at a special meeting of the Board of Directors provided the petitioner(s) agrees in writing to pay all costs incidental to such meeting. Such costs shall not exceed the actual expenses incurred. The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may require the petitioner(s) to post adequate security for such costs with the Executive Director.

5.7. If the petitioner(s)' appeal should prevail at the special meeting of the Board of Directors or at a subsequent hearing before the Review Board, the security deposit or the posted costs shall be returned to the petitioner(s).

5.8. All parties to any appeal may represent themselves or be represented by an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of West Virginia.

5.9. Irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence shall be excluded. Objections to evidentiary offers shall be noted in the record. Any party to any such hearings may vouch the record as to any excluded testimony or other evidence.

5.10. All evidence, including papers, records, Commission staff memoranda, and documents, in the possession of the Commission, of which it desires to avail itself, shall be offered and made a part of the record in the case. Documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies of excerpts or by incorporation by reference.

5.11. Every party shall have the right of cross-examination of witnesses who testify, and shall have the right to submit rebuttal evidence.

5.12. All of the testimony and evidence of any such hearing shall be reported by stenographic notes and characters or by mechanical means. All rulings on the admissibility of testimony and evidence shall also be reported. The Board of Directors shall prepare an official record, which shall include reported testimony and exhibits in each contested case, and all Commission staff memoranda and data used in consideration of the case, but it shall not be necessary to transcribe the reported testimony unless required for purpose of rehearing or review. Informal disposition may also be made of any contested case by stipulation, agreed settlement, consent order or default.

§127-6-6. Review Board.

6.1. Appeals taken on questions of law, fact or both, shall be heard upon assignment of error filed in the cause or set out in the briefs of the appellant. Errors not argued by brief may be disregarded, but the Review Board may consider and decide errors which are not assigned or argued.

6.2. The review shall be conducted by the Review Board without a jury and shall be upon the records made before the Commission, except that in cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the Commission not shown in the record, testimony thereon may be taken before the Review Board. The Review Board may hear oral arguments and require written briefs.

6.3. After hearing all evidence and arguments, the Review Board shall render a decision in one of

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three forms: (1) sustaining the ruling of the Board of Directors; (2) reversing the ruling of the Board of Directors; or (3) remanding the matter to the Board of Directors for further action. The Board of Review shall reverse, vacate or modify the order or decision of the Board of Directors if the substantial rights of the petitioner or petitioners have been prejudiced because of the administrative findings, inferences, conclusions, decisions or order are (1) in violation of constitutional or statutory provisions; or (2) in excess of the statutory authority or jurisdiction of the Commission; or (3) made upon unlawful procedures; or (4) affected by other error of law; or (5) clearly wrong in view of the reliable probative and substantial evidence on the whole record; or (6) arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted exercise of discretion.

6.4. Four members, present and voting, shall constitute a quorum for the Review Board to transact all business.

6.5. A majority vote of those members of the Review Board in attendance at any hearing shall be required to render a decision. A tie vote shall result in the decision of the Board of Directors being sustained. Such decision shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

6.6. Within thirty (30) days from the date of any hearing, the Review Board shall make a written report of its decision, stating briefly therein its reasons for such a decision. Copies of the report shall be mailed to the State Superintendent of Schools, the Executive Director of the WVSSAC, the aggrieved party bringing the said appeal and, upon written request, to other interested parties. The order may be transmitted by email.

6.7. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to limit the Board of Directors in performing its regular duties as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the WVSSAC; in making investigations and initiating proceedings against any member of said Commission; in making interpretations of the rules of eligibility of student athletes, cheerleaders or band members; or in imposing penalties for the violations of any rules, regulations, or Bylaws of said Commission.

6.8. To the extent the Constitution §§127-1-8.5 and Rules 127-6-2, 127-6-3.2 and 127-6-4.4 infer or state that decisions of the Board of Directors are final, such are hereby modified only to the extent that such final decision of the Board of Directors may be appealed within the time limit in the manner prescribed elsewhere in this Article and affirmed, reversed or remanded by the Board of Review.