

Regular Season- Rules & Regulations

SECTION 1 SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

1. Membership:

1.1. New Member Application Process-

- 1.1.1. Application Packet: In order to apply for NCISAA membership, please contact the NCISAA Business Office at 704-585-8686 or email info@ncisaa.org for information and the application packet.

1.2. Provisional Membership-

- 1.2.1. The Board of Advisors votes new schools into the NCISAA as provisional members.
- 1.2.2. Provisional members are not eligible for postseason play or awards.
- 1.2.3. Provisional membership is typically one year, but may be extended at the discretion of the Board of Advisors and/or the Executive Director.
- 1.2.4. The Board of Advisors will then review each provisional school for full membership at the next summer meeting.
- 1.2.5. Full membership is contingent on adhering to the following criteria:
 - 1.2.5.1. **Sponsored Sports:** Provisional members must field a varsity team for the entire season in at least one sport for each gender in each of the three sport seasons.
 - 1.2.5.2. **Competitive Schedule:** Provisional members must play a minimum of 15% of scheduled contests per season per sport vs. NCISAA full member schools.
 - 1.2.5.3. **School Accreditation:** Applying or reapplying schools must be accredited with one of the following associations:
 - 1.2.5.3.1. Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)
<http://www.sais.org>
 - 1.2.5.3.2. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
<http://www.sacs.org>
 - 1.2.5.3.3. Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
<https://www.acsi.org>
 - 1.2.5.3.4. North Carolina Christian School Association (NCCSA)
<http://www.nccsa.org>
 - 1.2.5.4. **Site Visit:** The purpose is to meet with leadership and evaluate facilities. A site visit is required and the Applying School will pay for expenses. Expenses are mileage, food and lodging. The visiting team will consist of the following:
 - 1.2.5.4.1. An NCISAA employee.
 - 1.2.5.4.2. A member of the Board of Advisors.
 - 1.2.5.4.3. Up to a maximum of four Directors of Athletics.
 - 1.2.5.4.4. Athletic Facilities: Applying schools must have access to safe, appropriate athletic facilities to host home contests.

- 1.2.5.4.5. The site visit will result in a written document that communicates any concerns and/or recommendations regarding facilities.
- 1.2.5.4.6. Fields, gymnasiums, courts, surfaces, etc. must meet NFHS requirements in order for full member schools to host state playoff contests.
- 1.2.5.4.7. Please note that failure to have access to fields that meet NFHS requirements will result in full member schools forfeiting their right to host state playoff events.
- 1.2.5.5. **Meetings:** Applying schools must have representation at the annual NCISAA Directors of Athletic and Athletic Trainers Conference during their provisional year. Failure to meet this requirement may prohibit provisional schools from becoming a full member of the NCISAA.

1.3. **Full Membership Participation-**

- 1.3.1. Provisional members will be reviewed by the Board of Advisors at the summer meeting following the provisional year. Full membership may be offered at that time.
- 1.3.2. If a school is unable to meet the minimum requirement of fielding a varsity team for the entire season in at least one sport for each gender in each of the three sports seasons, full membership may be revoked at the discretion of the Executive Director.

1.4. **Annual Fees and Information-**

- 1.4.1. Membership dues must be sent to the NCISAA Business Office at 5555 Concord Parkway, Concord, NC 28027 postmarked no later than September 15.
- 1.4.2. Dues will increase annually as established by the Board of Trustees.
- 1.4.3. Annual Dues:

TABLE 1:	
Classification	Annual Fee
1A	\$2150
2A	\$3650
3A	\$6560
3A-Single Gender	\$5150

1.4.4. **Membership Information-**

- 1.4.4.1. Forms below should be completed online. All forms and instructions can be found on the Action Guide/Forms page of the NCISAA website.
Required information includes:
 - 1.4.4.1.1. Member School's Financial Aid Policy
 - 1.4.4.1.2. Enrollment Roster
 - 1.4.4.1.3. Foreign Student Declaration Form(s)
 - 1.4.4.1.4. Membership Information Form
- 1.4.4.2. **Late Penalties-**
 - 1.4.4.2.1. Failure to submit fees, membership information, financial aid statements, enrollment rosters, and foreign student declarations

will be assessed at the rate of \$50 per day until all information and dues have been received by the NCISAA office.

- 1.4.4.2.2. Schools remaining delinquent may be subject to expulsion from the NCISAA for the academic year.

2. School Classification

- 2.1. **Classification Details-** For the purpose of providing equitable playoff competition among schools of varying size and geographic proximity, the NCISAA classifies all schools as 1A, 2A or 3A on or before October 1 every two years – applicable the following school year.

TABLE 2:	
Classification	Students in Grades 9-12
1A	0-135
2A	136-240
3A	241-Above
3A (single gender)	Enrollment in grades 9-12 will be doubled to determine classification placement.

- 2.1.1. Classification numbers are reviewed every three years. See 2.4 for the appeals process.
- 2.1.2. Enrollment must be declared according to the number of students enrolled as of September 1 each year.
- 2.1.3. Classification Review- The classification committee will meet and be implemented per Table 3.

TABLE 3:	
Review	Implementation
Fall 2019	2020-2021
Fall 2021	2022-2023
Fall 2023	2024-2025

- 2.2. **Classification Appeals-**
 - 2.2.1. Classification appeals may be made in writing to the Executive Director one week prior to the Fall Board of Trustees meeting.
 - 2.2.2. For classification issues, an Appeals Committee established by the NCISAA President of the Board of Trustees.
 - 2.2.3. The Appeals Committee will convene following scheduled Board of Trustees meetings. If a change in classification is approved by the Appeals Committee, this exception will be in effect for the existing classification period.
 - 2.2.4. For Football, appeals concerning divisional placement of teams will first be heard by the Executive Director. An adverse decision by the Executive Director concerning divisional alignment may be appealed to the Board of Advisors.

3. Athlete Recruitment & Financial Aid

- 3.1. **Athlete Recruitment Policy-** A member school shall not actively recruit athletes to play sports at their schools. In order to fully support the integrity of this premise, school

heads and athletic directors are to communicate directly with their counterparts at any school alleged to have violated the following best policies.

- 3.1.1. In order to report an alleged violation, please see the Recruiting Violation Form in the Action Guide/Forms section on the NCISAA website.
- 3.1.2. Heads and/or AD's are required to:
 - 3.1.2.1. meet with all coaches to outline admission policies and procedures for the school.
 - 3.1.2.2. ensure that when a prospective student athlete contacts a coach, the student and family will be immediately referred to the admission officers of the school.
 - 3.1.2.3. mandate that if any school employee is aware of a violation of the NCISAA recruitment policy that they shall immediately notify the administrators of the school.
 - 3.1.2.4. mandate that if a prospective student athlete is a member of a non-school team coached by a school employee that school administrators be informed.
 - 3.1.2.5. inform school staff and coaches that the NCISAA will impose consequences upon any school found in violation.
- 3.1.3. When illegal recruitment allegations are made to the NCISAA office, the burden of proof will rest with the accusing school.
- 3.2. **Recruiting Violation:**
 - 3.2.1. Student-Athlete: When a recruiting violation has been determined, the student athlete will be ineligible to participate in NCISAA games for one calendar year.
 - 3.2.2. School: Any member school found in violation will be placed on probation and will be ineligible to participate in NCISAA playoffs in any sport for one calendar year.
 - 3.2.2.1. The team involved will forfeit any previously played games in that sport.
 - 3.2.2.2. A second incident demonstrating blatant disregard of this rule may result in a school's expulsion from the NCISAA.
- 3.3. **Financial Aid/Scholarship Policy-** The NCISAA operates under the basic premise that student athletes do not receive preferential treatment in the awarding of financial aid from any member school. While the NCISAA understands that every school has individual criteria in the distribution of aid, no player may receive any form of financial aid for athletic participation.
 - 3.3.1. Schools may not require participation in athletics as a condition for the allotment of financial aid. Each member school is required to:
 - 3.3.1.1. Provide a written statement of its financial aid policy and any exception to that policy. This statement must accompany the annual enrollment declaration and NCISAA dues payment and should be signed by the head of the school.
 - 3.3.1.2. Offer financial aid to prospective student athletes based on needs consistent with the guidelines of the school's financial aid statement,
 - 3.3.1.3. Submit the roster and the foreign student declaration, and
 - 3.3.1.4. Support the NCISAA's position concerning athletic recruitment.