

SECTION 1

NCISAA Leadership Structure

1. NCISAA State Office

1.1. Management Team:

- 1.1.1. Objectives of the NCISAA Management Team include governance and leadership for interscholastic athletic programs, in the regular season and postseason, that support and enrich the educational experience of student-athletes.

1.2. Board of Trustees:

- 1.2.1. General Duties: The Board of Trustees serves as the final authority in all NCISAA matters pertaining to governance, finances, philosophy, operations and organizational structure.
- 1.2.2. Number:
 - 1.2.2.1. (7) Heads of Schools.
 - 1.2.2.2. May add up to (4) at-large members that are not heads of school.
- 1.2.3. Term:
 - 1.2.3.1. (3) years
 - 1.2.3.2. Trustees may be re-elected without limitation on the number of terms.
- 1.2.4. Qualifications:
 - 1.2.4.1. Only Heads of Schools from current member schools shall be eligible for election to the Board of Trustees.
 - 1.2.4.2. At-large members are not required to be Heads of Schools.
- 1.2.5. See ADMINISTRATION tab on ADMIN portal of the NCISAA website for current members and term expirations.

1.3. Board of Advisors:

- 1.3.1. All member schools are divided into 7 regions within the state of North Carolina.
- 1.3.2. The purpose of regions is to:
 - 1.3.2.1. Provide a representative on the Board of Advisors and
 - 1.3.2.2. Create structure for annual Regional Meetings.
- 1.3.3. General Duties:
 - 1.3.3.1. The Board of Advisors provide advice and counsel to the Executive Director in the areas of:
 - 1.3.3.1.1. rules and regulations,
 - 1.3.3.1.2. annual playoffs and championships.
- 1.3.4. Number:
 - 1.3.4.1. (7) Regional Representatives
 - 1.3.4.1.1. One rep per region
 - 1.3.4.2. (4) At-large Representatives
 - 1.3.4.2.1. Not regionally based.
 - 1.3.4.3. (1) Certified Athletic Trainer.
- 1.3.5. Term:
 - 1.3.5.1. Representatives serve a minimum of (1) three-year term on the Board of Advisors.
 - 1.3.5.2. Representatives are eligible to serve (2) consecutive three-year terms.
 - 1.3.5.3. After two consecutive terms, representatives must rotate off the board for (1) three-year term before seeking re-election.
 - 1.3.5.4. Representatives are accountable to the NCISAA Executive Director and Board of Advisors.
 - 1.3.5.5. Newly elected Board of Advisors term will begin on June 1. Terms end May 31st of each year.

- 1.3.6. Qualifications:
 - 1.3.6.1. Each regional representative must be a current athletic administrator at a member school.
 - 1.3.6.2. (1) At-large position must be a current certified athletic trainer at a member school.
 - 1.3.6.3. The (3) remaining at-large positions may be current athletic administrators at member schools.
- 1.3.7. Election:
 - 1.3.7.1. The NCISAA State Office will conduct all regional elections.
 - 1.3.7.2. Candidates must complete the Board of Advisor Application Form by April 1st.
 - 1.3.7.3. Applicants not selected as a regional representative will also be considered for an at-large position.
 - 1.3.7.4. At-large applications will be combined with remaining regional representative applications and are elected by a majority vote of current Board of Advisor members during the spring meeting.
- 1.4. **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee**
 - 1.4.1. The State Office works with each region to appoint an athletic trainer or first responder to represent their region.
 - 1.4.2. There are 3-4 meetings throughout the year, either in person or electronically.
 - 1.4.3. Appointees should be employees of an NCISAA member school.
 - 1.4.4. Appointees should have 3-5 years minimum of experience as an athletic trainer or first responder.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 1 (1.3.5.2)
 - **If a member of the Board of Advisors seeks to be re-elected, do they need to submit a new application?**
 - *No. Only new candidates need to submit a Board of Advisor Application Form. Current Board members only need to notify the State Office that they wish to be considered for re-election.*

SECTION 2

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

1. School Membership:

1.1. New Members -

- 1.1.1. Schools interested in NCISAA membership must contact the NCISAA State Office, request and complete the Membership Application and submit the \$1,000 application fee.
- 1.1.2. Once submitted, the NCISAA State Office will arrange for a campus site visit for the purpose of meeting with the Athletic Director, Head of School and evaluating facilities. The visiting team may consist of the following:
 - 1.1.2.1. An NCISAA employee.
 - 1.1.2.2. A member of the Board of Advisors.
 - 1.1.2.3. Up to a maximum of four Directors of Athletics.
- 1.1.3. The visiting team will submit a report at the summer Board of Advisors meeting and there will be a subsequent vote on accepting the applicant school.
- 1.1.4. If accepted, the applicant school will be invited for provisional membership.

1.1.5. Provisional Membership -

- 1.1.5.1. Provisional members must adhere to all NCISAA rules and policies.
- 1.1.5.2. Provisional members are not eligible for postseason play or awards.
- 1.1.5.3. The provisional membership term is two years but may be extended at the discretion of the Board of Advisors and/or the Executive Director.
- 1.1.5.4. The Board of Advisors will then review each provisional school for full membership.
- 1.1.5.5. Full membership is contingent on adhering to the following criteria:
 - 1.1.5.5.1. **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.
 - 1.1.5.5.2. **Competitive Schedule:** Provisional members should play a minimum of 15% of scheduled contests per season per sport vs. NCISAA full member schools.
 - 1.1.5.5.3. **School Accreditation/Quality Educational Institution:** Applying or reapplying schools must be accredited with an agency from the [approved accrediting agencies list](#), or demonstrate adherence to the [established standards](#) for Quality Educational Institutions.
 - 1.1.5.5.3.1. If your accrediting body is not on the approved list, contact the NCISAA State Office.
 - 1.1.5.5.4. **Athletic Facilities:** Fields, gymnasiums, courts, surfaces, etc. must meet NFHS requirements in order for full member schools to host state playoff contests.
 - 1.1.5.5.4.1. Failure to have access to fields that meet NFHS requirements will result in full member schools forfeiting their right to host state playoff events.
 - 1.1.5.5.5. **Meetings:** Provisional member schools must have representation at the annual NCISAA Athletic Director and Sports Medicine Conference and applicable Regional Meetings. Failure to meet this requirement may prevent provisional schools from becoming a full member of the NCISAA.

INTERPRETATION:

- SUB-SECTION 1 (1.1.5.4.1)
 - Is there a consequence or penalty for a member school who does not sponsor a girls team and a boys team each sport season?
 - *Fines and/or additional penalties are possible, depending on the circumstances. Schools may be granted a one-time exemption. When there is a consistent lack of compliance, it is likely that a school's full-time membership will be evaluated.*

1.2. **Annual Membership Participation -**1.2.1. **Annual Dues -**

- 1.2.1.1. Membership dues must be sent to the NCISAA State Office at 5555 Concord Parkway, Suite 408, Concord, NC 28027 postmarked no later than August 15.
- 1.2.1.2. Dues may increase annually as established by the Board of Trustees.
- 1.2.1.3. Annual Dues:

Table 1: Classification	Annual Fee	Single Gender
1A	\$3,325	N/A
2A	\$5,500	\$3,325
3A	\$7,525	\$5,500
4A	\$9,650	\$7,525

1.2.2. **Membership Information-**

- 1.2.2.1. **Annual Registration:** The following items must be completed and/or confirmed by **July 31st**:

- 1.2.2.1.1. School Information
- 1.2.2.1.2. Personnel Information
 - 1.2.2.1.2.1. Head of School
 - 1.2.2.1.2.2. Athletic Director(s)
 - 1.2.2.1.2.3. Sports Medicine Staff
 - 1.2.2.1.2.4. Administrative Assistants
 - 1.2.2.1.2.5. Varsity Head Coaches
- 1.2.2.1.3. Financial Aid Information
- 1.2.2.1.4. Booking Agents Information
- 1.2.2.1.5. Sports Medicine Compliance
 - 1.2.2.1.5.1. Consent to Participate & Release Form
 - 1.2.2.1.5.2. Educational Compliance
 - 1.2.2.1.5.3. Emergency Action Plans
 - 1.2.2.1.5.3.1. Upload document representing an emergency action plan for all facilities used for athletic programs.
 - 1.2.2.1.5.4. Concussion Education
- 1.2.2.1.6. When information on any of the above areas changes, administrators should edit and update as soon as possible. It is recommended that a review is done 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the winter and spring season.

1.2.2.2. An initial enrollment roster must be uploaded by 11:59pm on July 31st. Final enrollment rosters will be due by Sept. 15th.

1.2.2.3. This includes:

1.2.2.3.1. Student Enrollment

1.2.2.3.1.1. Enrollment for Season

1.2.2.3.1.2. Student Roster Upload

1.2.2.3.2. Criteria and upload Instructions can be found within each school's ADMIN dashboard

1.2.2.4. Annual Agreement must be signed and submitted by July 31.

1.3. Late Penalties

1.3.1. Failure to submit annual dues and complete the member registration process by due dates will result in suspension of the school ADMIN account.

1.3.1.1. To reactivate an ADMIN account, member school administrators must submit a request to the NCISAA State Office via email.

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

1.3.3. Delinquent schools are subject to expulsion from the NCISAA.

1.3.4. Any member school that fails to upload the initial enrollment roster by July 31st at 11:59pm will not be allowed to host any postseason contest in any sport.

1.3.5. If the initial enrollment roster is not uploaded by August 2 at 11:59pm, the member school will be relegated to provisional status in the Association and ineligible for postseason play in all sports.

1.3.6. Final enrollment rosters are due by Sept. 15th.

1.4. Annual Meetings-

1.4.1. Athletic Director & Sports Medicine Conference -

1.4.1.1. The NCISAA hosts an annual conference for athletic administrators and sports medicine professionals from member schools. The conference provides updates and important association information that impact the upcoming year. Additionally, there are a variety of professional development opportunities for those in attendance.

1.4.1.2. Attendance is mandatory. If the Head Athletic Director or Head Athletic Trainer cannot attend, they are expected to send a representative from their school. Failure to attend will result in a fine of \$500.

1.4.1.3. Assistant Athletic Directors, Assistant Athletic Trainers and Coaches within member school athletic departments are invited to attend but are not mandatory.

1.4.2. Regional/Classification Meetings -

1.4.2.1. The NCISAA State Office organizes meetings in each of the seven NCISAA Regions or by classifications in late January and early February. If needed, additional meetings will be scheduled throughout the year. They may be facilitated by teleconference, video conference or in-person meetings.

1.4.2.2. Attendance is mandatory. If the Head Athletic Director or Head Athletic Trainer cannot attend, they are expected to send a representative from their school. Failure to attend will result in a fine of \$500.

1.4.2.3. These meetings are designed to update member schools on relevant association topics. They also provide opportunities for administrators to ask questions and have dialogue with NCISAA staff and peers in other member schools.

1.5. Member in Good Standing

- 1.5.1. To qualify as an NCISAA Member in Good Standing, the following criteria should be met:
 - 1.5.1.1. Agree to and abide by all NCISAA policies and guidelines found in the Handbook.
 - 1.5.1.2. On-time payment of membership dues and/or any fines incurred.
 - 1.5.1.3. Respond to inquiries from the NCISAA State Office in a timely manner.
 - 1.5.1.4. Maintain accurate and complete school information on the NCISAA Admin Dashboard.
 - 1.5.1.5. Commit to and uphold the NCISAA mission of sportsmanship, integrity, and fair play.
- 1.5.2. Adherence to the NCISAA mission of sportsmanship, integrity, and fair play is demonstrated by:
 - 1.5.2.1. Maintaining respectful and professional relationships with other member schools.
 - 1.5.2.2. Exhibiting responsible and ethical behavior.
 - 1.5.2.3. Being supportive and maintaining a positive attitude.
 - 1.5.2.4. Showing respect for opponents, officials and spectators.
 - 1.5.2.5. Competing within the rules of the game.
 - 1.5.2.6. Winning and losing gracefully.

2. School Financial Aid Policy:**2.1. Financial Aid/Scholarship Policy -**

- 2.1.1. The NCISAA operates under the premise that student-athletes do not receive preferential treatment regarding financial aid. While the NCISAA understands that every school has its own policy, no player may receive any form of financial aid for athletic participation.
- 2.2. Schools may not require participation in athletics as a condition for the allotment of financial aid. Each member school is required to:
 - 2.2.1. Have a Financial Aid Policy and submit it in writing to the NCISAA State Office through the annual registration process,
 - 2.2.2. Offer financial aid to prospective student-athletes based on needs consistent with the guidelines of the school's financial aid policy.
 - 2.2.3. Completely support the NCISAA's position concerning athletic recruitment.

INTERPRETATIONS:

- Sub-Section 2 (2.1)
 - **May member schools utilize a marketing strategy through their admissions office to attract student-athletes to their school?**
 - *Yes. Member schools may naturally create opportunities within their communities that highlight the attributes of their school and the opportunities within. Note: A school may not offer special benefits to prospective student-athletes/families for the sole purpose of athletics.*

3. School Enrollment:

- 3.1. Final School Enrollment must be declared according to the number of students enrolled between September 7-15 each year. The **Enrollment for Season** number is locked for the remainder of the school year, even if a member school experiences increases or decreases in their enrollment.

3.1.1. School Enrollment Rosters:

3.1.1.1. **Traditional Students:** All traditional students should be included in the enrollment roster submitted to the NCISAA. The following details should be provided:

- 3.1.1.1.1. Student Name
- 3.1.1.1.2. Date of Birth
- 3.1.1.1.3. Grade

3.1.1.2. **International Students:** All international students should be included in the enrollment roster submitted to the NCISAA. The following data should be included:

- 3.1.1.2.1. Student Name
- 3.1.1.2.2. Date of Birth
- 3.1.1.2.3. Grade
- 3.1.1.2.4. Country of Citizenship
- 3.1.1.2.5. Name of Host Family
- 3.1.1.2.6. Contact Number of Host Family

3.1.1.3. Boarded Students

3.1.1.3.1. Beginning 2026-27, boarded students must be identified on the enrollment roster, and will count 2x towards enrollment.

- Sub-Section 3 (3.1.1.3)
 - What is the definition of a boarded student?
 - *A boarded student is any student who does not reside with their parent or legal guardian..*

4. School Classification:

4.1. **Classification Details** - For the purpose of providing equitable playoff competition among schools of varying size, the NCISAA classifies all schools as 1A, 2A, 3A or 4A on or before September 15 every two years – applicable the following school year.

TABLE 2: Classification	Students in Grades 9-12
1A	0-115
2A	116-185
3A	186-300
3A (single gender)	Enrollment in grades 9-12 will be doubled to determine classification placement.
4A	301-Above
4A (single gender)	Enrollment in grades 9-12 will be doubled to determine classification placement.

4.2. Classification appeals must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director by the third Friday in September.

4.3. Classification Review-

TABLE 3: Review	Implementation
Fall 2027	2028-2029

INTERPRETATION:

- SUB-SECTION 4 (4.2)
 - May schools appeal to participate in a larger classification than their actual enrollment allows?
 - *YES. Schools may “appeal up” to a larger classification. However, this appeal applies to all sports that a school sponsors. Schools may not appeal on an individual sport basis. Additionally, if a request to “appeal up” is granted, that school must maintain that classification for the remainder of the classification cycle.*

5. School Division:

- 5.1. **Divisional Details** - Divisions are created where a specific classification cannot support a championship. (See Table 4)

Table 4:	Fall	Winter	Spring
Sports with 1 Division	Field Hockey, 8-Man Football	Wrestling	
Sports with 2 Divisions	11-Man Football, Girls Golf	None	Boys Lacrosse Girls Lacrosse
Sports with 3 Divisions		Swimming	Boys Tennis, Track & Field, Softball

- 5.2. If a divisional sport grows in participation the State Office, with input from the Board of Advisors, will consider moving it to the classification model.

SECTION 3

STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

1. Student-Athlete Academic Eligibility:

- 1.1. To be eligible for any level of NCISAA competition, a student-athlete must be enrolled as a full-time student in a NCISAA member school. A full time student is defined as taking 60% or more of scheduled classes at the NCISAA member school at which they are enrolled.
- 1.2. No student-athlete who has graduated, received a high school diploma or equivalent will be eligible to participate in NCISAA activities.
- 1.3. **Reclassification** -
 - 1.3.1. Reclassification is to be used for academic purposes ONLY. Any student-athlete that reclassifies after entering a NCISAA school their 9th grade year is subject to the NCISAA Eight Semester Rule.

- 1.3.1.1. EXCEPTION: A student attending a NCISAA member school is eligible to reclassify after their Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior year at the **FIRST** NCISAA member school of attendance and maintain an additional year of athletic eligibility provided:
 - 1.3.1.1.1. They are in compliance with the age policy.
 - 1.3.1.1.2. They do not transfer to another member or non-member school after reclassifying. Any student that reclasses and then transfers to another NCISAA member school will lose the exception to the eight semester rule.
- 1.3.2. Eight Semester Rule
 - 1.3.2.1. A student-athlete may participate in athletics in no more than eight consecutive semesters after initially enrolling in 9th grade at any NCISAA school.
 - 1.3.2.2. Exception: A student attending a NCISAA member school is eligible to reclass at the FIRST NCISAA member school of attendance and maintain an additional year of athletic eligibility provided:
 - 1.3.2.2.1. They have not started the 12th grade.
 - 1.3.2.2.2. They are in compliance with the age policy. (No student-athlete shall reach his/her 19th birthday before Aug. 1 of the current school year)
 - 1.3.2.2.3. They do not transfer to another member or non-member school after reclassifying. Any student that reclasses and then transfers to another NCISAA member school will lose the exception to the eight semester rule.
- 1.4. **Grade Status -**
 - 1.4.1. Eligible student-athletes must be successfully progressing toward graduation with the expectation of meeting all graduation requirements.
 - 1.4.2. Under special circumstances, a student-athlete may also take college courses while pursuing his/her high school diploma.
- 1.5. **Date of Birth -**
 - 1.5.1. Any student-athlete that has his/her 19th birthday before Aug. 1 of the current school year is ineligible to participate in the NCISAA.
 - 1.5.2. Upon request of the NCISAA State Office, member schools will be expected to produce proof of the date of birth for student-athletes in grades 7-12 in the form of a certified copy of the birth certificate, military ID, or passport.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 1 (1.3)
 - **Does the NCISAA State Office approve the reclassification of a student-athlete at a member school?**
 - *NO. Reclassification of a student-athlete is the decision of the member school administration, not the NCISAA State Office.*
 - **Can a student attend NCISAA member school A their sophomore year, transfer to NCISAA member school B in the summer, and reclass as a Sophomore at school B?**
 - *NO. The student is locked in at school A as their FIRST NCISAA school and is only allowed the ability to reclassify and maintain an additional year of eligibility provided they remain at school A and are in compliance with the age requirement.*

- Can a student attend a NCISAA member school their Senior year and reclass?
 - **NO.** Once a student begins his/her Senior year, they only have two (2) semesters of athletic eligibility.
- Sub-Section 1 (1.5)
 - Is there an exception for student-athletes who turn 19 on July 31st?
 - **NO.** August 1st is a hard deadline and exceptions are not made for birthdays that are just hours prior to August 1st.

2. High School Student-Athletes:

- 2.1. All student-athletes are required to abide by NCISAA policies when participating in high school athletics.
- 2.2. Participating in high school athletics is defined as being on a roster **or** participating on a team with at least one high school student-athlete.
 - 2.2.1. **Varsity Student-Athletes -**
 - 2.2.1.1. To be eligible to participate in non-football **VARSITY** sports in the NCISAA, student-athletes must be enrolled in grades 7 through 12 and recorded on the official school enrollment roster.
 - 2.2.1.2. Student-athletes playing **VARSITY** football must be in grades 9 through 12.
 - 2.2.2. **Sub-varsity Student-Athletes -**
 - 2.2.2.1. To be eligible to participate in non-football sub-varsity sports in the NCISAA, student-athletes must be recorded on the official school enrollment roster.
 - 2.2.2.2. Sub-varsity student-athletes may be moved up to participate in NCISAA playoff competition provided they are:
 - 2.2.2.2.1. Listed on the school's enrollment roster by the deadline for each sport season. (see 4.1; Table 1)
 - 2.2.2.2.2. Added to the player roster on the MaxPreps team page no later than the Saturday before the respective seeding meeting.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 2 (2.2.2.1)
 - If a member school allows 6th graders to play on sub-varsity teams, should they now be submitted on the school's official enrollment roster?
 - **YES.**

3. Student-Athlete Transfer Policy:

- 3.1. A transfer is qualified by the enrollment of a student-athlete in a member school on or after **August 1**.
- 3.2. **Transfer Categories:**
 - 3.2.1. **From a Member School to another Member School -** When a student-athlete transfers from a member school, they must be released from the school they are exiting.
 - 3.2.1.1. **Step 1:** This is initiated by the entrance school administrator submitting the NCISAA Transfer of Eligibility Form.
 - 3.2.1.2. **Step 2:** Once submitted, the exit school administrator must approve the student-athlete's release by completing the second step of the Eligibility Form.
 - 3.2.1.3. **Step 3:** The third step includes final approval from the NCISAA State Office.

- 3.2.2. The transferring student-athlete may not participate in athletic activities at the entrance school until final approval has been confirmed by the NCISAA State Office. (Athletic activities include practice, strength training, preseason activities, scrimmages, games, contests, etc.)
- 3.2.3. Any student who transfers from one NCISAA member school to another NCISAA member school directly or at any time on or after August 1st will be ineligible to participate in athletics for 120 calendar days after the first day of attendance at the new school.
 - 3.2.3.1. A transfer student is prohibited from participating in any off-season workouts, open gyms, etc. during the 120-day period.
 - 3.2.3.2. Transfers taking place between June 1 and July 31 are exempt from this rule.
- 3.2.4. **From a Non-Member School to a Member School** - When a student-athlete transfers from a non-member school after Sept. 15th (including out-of-state schools), the member school should complete the next two steps:
 - 3.2.4.1. **Step 1:** This is initiated by the entrance school administrator submitting the NCISAA Transfer of Eligibility Form.
 - 3.2.4.2. **Step 2:** A confirmation email will be sent to the ENTRANCE SCHOOL. This will serve as confirmation that the transfer student is eligible for participation.
- 3.2.5. The date of student-athlete transfer will coincide with the first date of actual enrollment at the entering school.
- 3.3. **Senior Year -**
 - 3.3.1. A student who starts their twelfth grade year will not be eligible to reclassify and obtain an additional year of eligibility. (See *Eight Semester Rule - 4.3*)
- 3.4. A student-athlete may not participate in athletics if the student-athlete is transferring after undue influence.
 - 3.4.1. This prohibition of participation may be lifted following an investigation by the NCISAA State Office.
- 3.5. All transfers must be added to the entrance school's enrollment roster regardless of their intent to participate in athletics.
 - 3.5.1. The Transfer Form is found on the member schools ADMIN dashboard. The following data should be included:
 - 3.5.1.1. Name
 - 3.5.1.2. Grade
 - 3.5.1.3. Date of Birth
 - 3.5.1.4. Date of Enrollment
 - 3.5.1.5. School the student-athlete is transferring from
- 3.6. In order to participate in any Championships, a student-athlete who transfers after September 15th must be submitted and approved by the NCISAA State Office by the following deadlines:

TABLE 5: Season	Deadline
Fall	Third Friday in September
Winter	Third Friday in January
Spring	Third Friday in April

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 3 (3.1)
 - **If a student transfers from a member school to another member school during the summer, should the entrance school administrator submit a transfer form?**
 - *NO. A transfer form is not required between June 1 and July 31 for transfers that occur between years when school is not in session. A transfer form is required beginning August 1.*
- Sub-Section 3 (3.2.3)
 - **Beginning on Aug. 1st, if a student transfers from a member school to a non-member school, and then subsequently transfers to another member school are they immediately eligible to participate in athletics?**
 - *NO. Any student who transfers from a member school to another member school, directly or indirectly, is subject to the 120-day ineligibility rule.*

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 3 (3.5)
 - **If a transfer indicates no interest in playing sports upon transfer, is it necessary to submit their enrollment information?**
 - *YES. Member schools are responsible for keeping their official enrollment roster updated throughout the year. The official enrollment roster should reflect all students, not just those who indicate interest in or participate in a sport.*

4. Eight-Semester Rule:

- 4.1. A student-athlete may participate in athletics in no more than eight consecutive semesters or twelve trimesters after initially enrolling in the 9th grade of any NCISAA school.
- 4.2. A student-athlete may participate in athletics in no more than six consecutive semesters or nine trimesters after initially enrolling in the 10th grade of any NCISAA school.
- 4.3. A student-athlete may participate in athletics in no more than four consecutive semesters or six trimesters after initially enrolling in the 11th grade of any NCISAA school.
- 4.4. A student-athlete may participate in athletics in no more than two consecutive semesters or three consecutive trimesters after initially enrolling in the 12th grade at any school, regardless of whether he/she remains continuously enrolled.
- 4.5. A student-athlete transferring from one NCISAA school to another NCISAA school at any time during the school year and prior to January 1 would be considered to have used up one semester or two trimesters of athletic eligibility for that school year.
- 4.6. **EXCEPTION:** A student attending a NCISAA member school is eligible to reclassify after their Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior year at the FIRST NCISAA member school of attendance and maintain an additional year of athletic eligibility provided:
 - 4.6.1. They are in compliance with the age policy.
 - 4.6.2. They do not transfer to another member or non-member school after reclassifying. Any student that reclasses and then transfers to another NCISAA member school will lose the exception to the eight semester rule.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub Section 4 (4.1)
 - **Does the eight-semester rule pause when an NCISAA 9th grader transfers to a non-NCISAA school?**
 - *NO. The clock begins in the 9th grade and would continue without pause.*
- Sub Section 4

- May a student-athlete receive a “medical hardship” to include additional semesters of eligibility if they miss a season due to an injury or illness at any point?
 - **NO.** There are no provisions for medical hardships.
- Sub Section 4 (4.5)
 - Can a student attend NCISAA member school A their Sophomore year, transfer to NCISAA member school B in the summer and reclass as a Sophomore at school B?
 - **NO.** The student is locked in at school A as their FIRST NCISAA school and is only allowed the ability to reclassify and maintain an additional year of eligibility provided they remain at school A and are in compliance with the age requirement.

5. Homeschool Student-Athletes:

5.1. Definitions

- 5.1.1. Member schools may permit homeschool student-athletes to play sub-varsity sports.
 - 5.1.1.1. Homeschooled student-athletes are not eligible for NCISAA **VARSITY** competition.
 - **Exception** - Homeschool student-athletes are eligible to play Varsity Football only.
 - 5.1.1.2. A member school may permit homeschooled student-athletes to participate on non-football varsity teams, with the understanding that the entire varsity team utilizing homeschool student-athletes will not be eligible to compete in the postseason.
- 5.1.2. A homeschool is defined as a non-public school consisting of the children of not more than two families or households, where the parents or legal guardians or members of either household determine the scope and sequence of the academic instruction, provide academic instruction, and determine additional sources of academic instruction.

5.2. Eligibility Requirements

5.2.1. Student-Athlete:

- 5.2.1.1. Only a student enrolled in a homeschool conducted by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is eligible.
- 5.2.1.2. The participating homeschool student-athlete must have a legal residence within 30 miles of the member school in which he/she is applying for participation.
- 5.2.1.3. A homeschool student-athlete's eligibility will be established at the first member school with which the homeschool athlete participates.
- 5.2.1.4. A student-athlete cannot be enrolled/registered as a full-time student, working toward high school completion or a diploma with any other school, at the same time he/she is registered in a home education program.
- 5.2.1.5. The homeschool student-athlete must meet all other NCISAA Handbook eligibility requirements.
- 5.2.1.6. The homeschool student-athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other student-athletes.
- 5.2.1.7. A homeschool student-athlete that has been expelled from a previous academic institution (public or private) is **not** eligible to participate under this provision.

5.2.2. Homeschool:

- 5.2.2.1. A homeschool must register annually with the NCISAA. ([Homeschool Policy](#))
- 5.2.2.2. To be considered for NCISAA participation, a homeschool must be registered with the NC DOA and maintain compliance with said requirements. (For specific requirements, see <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/public/home-school-information/home-school-requirements-recommendations>)
- 5.2.2.3. **Registration Process:**
 - 5.2.2.3.1. Complete the NCISAA Homeschool Application.
 - 5.2.2.3.2. Submit the annual non-refundable registration fee of \$325.00.
 - 5.2.2.3.3. Submission Deadlines:

Table 6:	Deadline Date
Fall	September 1
Winter	November 1
Spring	March 1

- 5.2.2.3.4. Once the NCISAA State Office has approved the application, the homeschool must abide by all rules of the NCISAA Handbook.
- 5.2.2.3.5. The homeschool must provide proof of basic primary medical insurance coverage and liability insurance coverage which names the NCISAA as an insured party in the event the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to students enrolled in homeschool programs.
- 5.2.3. **Academic Criteria:**
 - 5.2.3.1. Verification of academic eligibility is to be submitted by the parent/guardian conducting the homeschool to the NCISAA State Office each semester or quarter.
 - 5.2.3.2. The NCISAA State Office has the authority to require additional information from the parent/guardian conducting the homeschool: to include, but not limited to:
 - 5.2.3.2.1. curriculum,
 - 5.2.3.2.2. scope and sequence,
 - 5.2.3.2.3. assessments,
 - 5.2.3.2.4. weekly lesson plans,
 - 5.2.3.2.5. grades and
 - 5.2.3.2.6. examples of student's work.
 - 5.2.3.3. The student-athlete must be taking a minimum of (5) academic subjects or the equivalent administered by the parent(s) or guardian(s) which count toward graduation.
 - 5.2.3.4. If a homeschool student-athlete's course of study does not include (5) academic subjects or the equivalent, which are being administered by the parent/guardian conducting the homeschool, then the parent/guardian conducting the homeschool shall develop an alternative measure of academic progress and submit it to the NCISAA State Office for approval **prior** to any form of participation.
 - 5.2.3.5. In no event shall a homeschool student-athlete be eligible who is not receiving the minimum (4) hours per day of instruction.
- 5.3. **NCISAA Member School:**
 - 5.3.1. The student-athlete will register with the member school per each member school's registration requirements.

- 5.3.2. Athletic Directors of member schools that do accept homeschool student-athletes will serve as the designated point of contact.
- 5.3.3. Member schools are not required to accept homeschool student-athletes.
- 5.4. **Communication Process:**
 - 5.4.1. The NCISAA State Office will notify the homeschool applicant and potential member school administrator of receipt of application.
 - 5.4.2. The NCISAA State Office will review the application and make a determination.
 - 5.4.3. A final decision will be communicated to the homeschool applicant and member school administrator.
- 5.5. **Homeschool Transfer Rules:**
 - 5.5.1. After eligibility has been established, homeschool student-athletes may not transfer for 365 days.
 - 5.5.2. Any student who withdraws from a regular school program, which for the purpose of this policy is defined as a member school, to enroll in a homeschool education program and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the regular school program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete as a homeschool participant for 120 days before the NCISAA State Office provides a ruling on future eligibility.

6. Student-Athlete Recruitment:

- 6.1. **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.
 - 6.1.1. Heads and/or AD's are required to:
 - 6.1.1.1. meet with all coaches to outline admission policies and procedures for the school.
 - 6.1.1.2. ensure that when a prospective student-athlete athlete contacts a coach, the student-athlete and family will be immediately referred to the admission officers of the school.
 - 6.1.1.3. 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.
 - 6.1.1.4. 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.
 - 6.1.1.5. inform school staff and coaches that the NCISAA State Office will impose consequences upon any school found in violation.
 - 6.1.2. In order to report an alleged violation, the Athletic Director or Head of School must contact the NCISAA State Office.
 - 6.1.2.1. When allegations of illegal recruiting are made to the NCISAA State Office, the burden of proof will rest with the accusing school.
- 6.2. **Recruiting Violation:**
 - 6.2.1. When a violation occurs, the NCISAA State Office will render a ruling and determine any and all penalties placed on the school found in violation of recruiting policies.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 6 (6.1.1.2)
 - Is it illegal for a family to contact the coach or athletic director of a member school for school information?
 - *It is not illegal for a family to contact a coach or athletic director of a member school. However, school representatives from the athletic program must direct*

that family to the admissions office of that school immediately and not discuss particulars about the athletic program until that occurs.

7. Student-Athlete Housing:

- 7.1. Non-family student-athletes may not reside with a coach of the sport in which they both participate during the school year.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 7 (7.1)
 - Does this policy apply to all coaches on staff or only the Head Coach?
 - This policy applies to all coaches, regardless of their position, paid or voluntary.

8. Name, Image, and Likeness

- 8.1 The NIL policy can be reviewed at the following link: [NIL](#)
- 8.2 NIL forms must be approved by the State Office.
- 8.2.1. NIL form must be completed with member school's athletic administrator.
- 8.2.2. Failure to conduct NIL activities in accordance with this policy may result in one or more of the following:
- Fines
 - Student athlete loss of eligibility
 - Contest forfeitures
 - Member School placed on probation
 - Member School being removed from the NCISAA

9. Student-Athlete Gender Policy:

- 9.1 Student-athletes are only allowed to participate on teams that coincide with the sex of the individual assigned at birth.
- 9.1.1.1. **Exceptions** - Girls are permitted to compete on football, baseball and/or wrestling teams.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 9 (9.1.2)
 - May a girl participate on a varsity boys soccer team if a school does not have a girls' soccer team?
 - No.

10. Ineligible Player Penalty -

- 10.1. Schools allowing an ineligible player to participate in any event will be assessed a minimum of \$1,000 for the first offense and a \$2,500 fine for each subsequent offense.
- 10.2. Additional penalties may be levied by the Executive Director.

11. Appeals -

- 11.1.1. Any decision or ruling may be appealed.
- 11.1.2. Appeals will only be heard from the Head Athletic Director or Heads of School.
- 11.1.3. To submit an appeal, administrators can find the Appeals Form on the ADMIN website under NCISAA RESOURCES.
- 11.1.4. An appeal will not be considered without receipt of the \$250 appeal fee.

SECTION 4

SEASONAL POLICIES & GUIDELINES

1. In-Season Activities:

1.1. Start of Season:

1.1.1.1.

TABLE 7: Year	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
2026-27	Monday, Aug. 3	Monday, Nov. 2	Monday, Feb. 15	May 16 - Aug 1
2027-28	Monday, Aug 2	Monday, Nov 1	Monday, Feb 21	May 21- July 30

1.2. Game Limits-

1.2.1. Games played during a member school's Christmas, Spring Break or Thanksgiving do not count toward the game limit.

1.2.1.1. For sports that have exceptions, the break officially begins AFTER the last school day prior to the holiday/break.

1.2.2. Game limits do not include contests that occur during conference tournaments.

TABLE 8: Sport	Contest/Date Maximum
Baseball	25 contests plus spring break
Basketball	25 contests plus Thanksgiving and Christmas
Cross Country	15 contests
Field Hockey	23 contests
Football	10 contests plus zero week
Golf	25 contests plus spring break
Lacrosse	21 contest plus spring break
Soccer - Boys	23 contests
Soccer - Girls	23 contests plus spring break
Softball	25 contests plus spring break
Swimming	13 contests plus Thanksgiving and Christmas
Tennis - Boys	23 contests plus spring
Tennis - Girls	23 contests
Track & Field	14 contests plus spring break
Volleyball	24 playing dates
Wrestling	23 dates plus Thanksgiving and Christmas

INTERPRETATIONS:

- Sub-Section 1 (1.2.1)
 - Do contests occurring on holidays such as President's Day, MLK Day, Good Friday, St. Patrick's Day, etc.. count toward a sport's game limit?
 - Yes. Only the holidays listed in 1.2.1 are exceptions.

2. Out-of-Season Activities-

Out-of-season activities are allowed, but are subject to the following:

- 2.1. Out of season applies to sports not in season
 - 2.1.1. All activities must be voluntary and open to all student-athletes with a current and valid physical examination.
 - 2.1.2. At no time may a coach require off-season activities as a measure of continued participation on a team.
 - 2.1.3. Any coach who promotes the idea that taking part in off-season activities is required, is out of compliance with the intent and purpose of this rule.
 - 2.1.4. Activities are not restricted in the number of participants on a daily basis.
 - 2.1.5. There is no restriction on the number of coaches who may work with the athletes.
 - 2.1.6. Activities are open only to student-athletes who are currently enrolled and attending that school as well as being listed on the member school's official enrollment roster.
 - 2.1.7. On a given day, an athlete is limited to 1.5 hours of activities during the academic school year calendar, inclusive of all weekends, holidays, work days, etc. Activities are not to exceed 1.5 hours in duration including flex time (stretching), meetings, video review, and breaks.
 - 2.1.7.1. NCISAA out-of-season policy prohibits member school teams from playing in interscholastic games or scrimmages.

INTERPRETATIONS:

- Sub-Section 2 (2.1.7.1)
 - Are student-athletes from a member school permitted to play in an out-of-season league?
 - If student-athletes from a member school want to play in an out-of-season league, the NCISAA has no opinion. Coaches, uniforms, travel, payment or anything that officially recognizes an outside group as a member school team is not permitted. Volunteer coaches are not permitted to coach, travel, organize, pay or do anything that officially recognizes an outside group as a member school team.

- 2.1.8. Activities in football are only permitted March - May, excluding the dead period.
 - 2.1.8.1. Helmets only during out of season activities.
- 2.1.9. Facilities may be used for out-of-season activities on a strictly voluntary basis, open to all student-athletes and required of none.
- 2.1.10. For safety purposes, school administrators or other school personnel should be present as supervisors during any activities session.
 - 2.1.10.1. Any individual who coaches at a NCISAA member school, head or assistant, paid or non-paid, faculty or non-faculty, parent volunteer, etc., must abide by the activities' out-of-season rules.

2.1.10.2. **Clarification:** AAU, club, travel, and/or specialty coaches who charge a fee for services are not subject to the NCISAA Out of Season Policy.

2.1.10.2.1. **Example:** You are the volleyball coach at NCISAA school X. Under the Out-of-Season Policy, you cannot have access to student-athletes at NCISAA school X during dead periods. You are also a paid volleyball coach at Club Spike. While fulfilling the role as a paid coach for your club team, you are not under the authority of the NCISAA Out-of-Season Policy. Therefore, you can coach any student-athlete at any time, from any school, provided that the student-athlete pays to be part of the outside team and/or receive instruction.

2.2. **Open Gyms/Open Fields-**

2.2.1. During any season, informal pick-up games with a school representative present - in any sport - are permitted.

2.2.2. During dead periods, a coach may not play and may not give verbal or physical instruction of any kind in the open gym or open field arena.

2.3. **Summer Practice-**

2.3.1. Summer is defined as the season beginning on the Sunday after the last spring championship and ending on the Sunday before the beginning of the Fall season.

2.3.2. During the summer, coaches are permitted to work with individuals or an entire team as long as:

2.3.2.1. This is not a requirement of participation on that team,

2.3.2.2. Attendance is voluntary and open.

2.3.3. Any coach who promotes the idea that participating in summer practice is required, is out of compliance with the intent, spirit, and purpose of these rules.

2.4. **Dead Periods:**

Table 9: Season	Period
Fall	Starts the first week of fall season through August 31st.
Winter	Oct. 26 through Nov. 22, 2026
Spring	Feb. 8 through Mar. 8, 2027
May	May 1 through May 15, 2027

SECTION 5

HOME GAME MANAGEMENT

1. Rules & Interpretations:

- 1.1. **National Federation of High Schools Rules (NFHS)**
 - 1.1.1. The NCISAA is an affiliate member of the NFHS.
 - 1.1.2. NFHS rules apply for the following sports when NCISAA rules do not cover a particular application: Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Softball, Soccer, Volleyball and Wrestling.
 - 1.1.2.1. The following sports apply rules from the corresponding associations:
 - 1.1.2.1.1. Golf-USGA
 - 1.1.2.1.2. Tennis-USTA and NFHS
 - 1.1.3. Visit www.nfhs.org to find sport specific rules and annual updates.
 - 1.1.4. Rule books are mandatory for all head coaches.
- 1.2. **NCISAA Rules-**
 - 1.2.1. NCISAA specific rules for each sport are found in the Sport section of the NCISAA website.
 - 1.2.2. Rule Interpretations-
 - 1.2.2.1. Heads of schools and athletic directors are responsible for seeing that these rules and concepts are understood and followed by their coaching staff without exception.
 - 1.2.2.2. Enforcement of all NCISAA rules is the responsibility of each school, each conference, the NCISAA Board of Advisors, the NCISAA Board of Trustees and the NCISAA State Office.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 1 (1.2.2.1)
 - **Are member schools required to purchase rule books annually?**
 - *Member schools are not **required** to purchase them annually. However, administrators and coaches are expected to know the rules and follow updates that may occur each year. It is highly recommended to have an updated set of rules available for all coaches.*

2. Regional Assignors/Booking Agents & Officials:

- 2.1. Regional Assignors/Booking Agents serving NCISAA member schools must be approved by the NCISAA State Office.
 - 2.1.1. A list of approved Regional Assignors/Booking Agents may be found on the Admin portal of the NCISAA website.
 - 2.1.2. Non-approved Regional Assignors/Booking Agents must contact the NCISAA State Office prior to contracting with member schools.
- 2.2. Officials must be certified by the Regional Assignors/Booking Agents. The certification criteria includes but not limited to:
 - 2.2.1. Background Check
 - 2.2.2. Concussion Protocol Training
 - 2.2.3. Pass the NFHS Test

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 2
 - Is it acceptable to use non-approved booking agents and/or officials for regular season competition?
 - *NO. Regardless of whether the competition occurs in regular or post season, booking agents and/or officials should be vetted by the NCISAA State Office before utilizing their services.*

3. Sportsmanship:

- 3.1. **Policy:** The NCISAA recognizes that independent school interscholastic athletic events must be conducted in such a manner that good sportsmanship prevails at all times. Every effort must be made to promote a climate of wholesome competition. It is necessary that administrators and coaches be individually and collectively responsible for taking steps to promote good sportsmanship at every interscholastic event. These steps must include:
 - 3.1.1. the provision of safe and adequate facilities for participants, spectators, and officials;
 - 3.1.2. the best possible officials for the events;
 - 3.1.3. and adequate control of spectators, players and pre/post game activities.
- 3.2. Failure to comply with any rules and regulations may result in players, coaches or schools:
 - 3.2.1. forfeiting an event,
 - 3.2.2. losing state tournament privilege,
 - 3.2.3. being fined,
 - 3.2.4. being suspended or expelled from the NCISAA.
- 3.3. Ejection/Disqualification Policy-
 - 3.3.1. A student-athlete must sit out the next 2 contests following an ejection. A student-athlete must sit 1 complete contest following a disqualification.
 - 3.3.1.1. Fighting:
 - 3.3.1.1.1. Any NCISAA player who is ejected/disqualified in any contest, **in any sport except football**, for fighting in any season will not be allowed to participate in the next (4) scheduled contests but may sit on the team bench.
 - 3.3.1.1.2. Any NCISAA player who is ejected/disqualified **in football**, for fighting, will not be allowed to participate in the next (2) scheduled contests but may sit on the team bench.
 - 3.3.1.1.3. Any student-athlete that pushes/grabs/slaps/punches an opponent during an altercation/fight/skirmish between teams may be suspended for a minimum of four (4) contests.
 - 3.3.1.1.4. Any student spectator that enters the playing court or field, pushes/grabs/slaps/punches an opponent or fan of an opponent during an altercation/fight/skirmish between teams may be suspended from participating in athletics in the NCISAA for up to one calendar year.
 - 3.3.1.1.5. Any parent/spectator that enters the playing court or field, pushes/grabs/slaps/punches an opponent or fan of an opponent during an altercation/fight/skirmish between teams may be suspended from attending any NCISAA activity for up to one calendar year.
 - 3.3.1.2. Others:
 - 3.3.1.2.1. Any NCISAA player disqualified for the scenarios listed below is eligible to participate in the next scheduled contest:

- 3.3.1.2.1.1. (5) fouls - Basketball
 - 3.3.1.2.1.2. (5) minutes in the penalty box - Lacrosse
 - 3.3.1.2.1.3. (2) yellows - Girls Lacrosse
 - 3.3.1.2.1.4. Green Card - Field Hockey
 - 3.3.1.2.1.5. If a wrong player is identified, a correction can be made.
 - 3.3.2. Ejections/disqualifications in the last game of a given season carry over to the next sport in which the individual participates that year.
 - 3.3.3. Penalties will carry over from one academic year to the next academic year.
 - 3.3.4. All ejections/disqualifications of players and coaches will be reported by the Director of Athletics of both schools involved, to the NCISAA State Office by 11:00 AM the day following the violation. The online form can be found on the ADMIN portal under the NCISAA RESOURCES tab. Failure to submit by 11:00 AM the day following the violation will result in a fine and further disciplinary actions.
 - 3.3.4.1. Additionally, administrators may see a current running list of ejections/disqualifications posted on the NCISAA RESOURCES tab.
 - 3.3.5. Athletes:
 - 3.3.5.1. Any NCISAA player who is ejected/disqualified in any contest, in any sport, in any season will not be allowed to participate in the next scheduled contest but may sit on the team bench.
 - 3.3.5.2. If the same player is ejected/disqualified a second time from any contest, in any sport, in any season he/she will not be allowed to participate in the next two scheduled contests but may sit on the team bench.
 - 3.3.5.3. If the same player is ejected/disqualified from any contest a third time, he or she will not be able to participate in any athletic event for one calendar year.
 - 3.3.5.4. No coach, player, spectator, or other team personnel shall act in an unsportsmanlike manner. Prior to, during, or after game officials assume authority for the game, any action deemed unsporting will result in a two-game suspension.
 - 3.3.5.5. A second incident of unsporting behavior will result in a four game suspension.
 - 3.3.5.5.1. Examples include but are not limited to: Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures, attempting to influence a decision by a game official, disrespectfully addressing a game official, opponent or opposing fans, or indicating objections to a game official's decision.
 - 3.3.5.6. In the event the same school, in the same sport, has a third incident of unsporting behavior, the Head Coach will be suspended for two games and the school fined \$1000.
 - 3.3.5.7. A fourth unsporting incident may result in the team being ineligible for the postseason and for any NCISAA awards, and will be subject to a fine of \$2500.
 - 3.3.5.8. Member Schools that have repeated incidents of unsporting behavior may be subject to removal from the NCISAA.
 - 3.3.5.9. An ejected player is ineligible to participate with any team until the ejection penalty has been served for the sport/level for which the player was penalized.
 - 3.3.6. Contact with Officials:
 - 3.3.6.1. Physical contact with game official(s) or game personnel is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Physical contact includes any attempt, threat of and/or actual physical contact. Violation of this policy will result in the following:

- 3.3.6.1.1. Individual is suspended from all NCISAA events for one calendar year
 - 3.3.6.1.2. Individual is defined as any: coach, player, parent, spectator or other person
 - 3.3.6.1.3. Individual must complete anger management class, at their expense, as assigned by the NCISAA in order to be reinstated
 - 3.3.6.1.4. Individual must meet, in person, with the NCISAA State Office in order to be reinstated
 - 3.3.6.1.5. Contest/game is forfeited
 - 3.3.6.1.6. School is fined \$2500
- 3.3.7. Coaches:
- 3.3.7.1. Coaching Continuance during an Athletic Event:
 - 3.3.7.1.1. The NCISAA mandates that all teams participating in NCISAA sanctioned athletic events be under the direct supervision and guidance of an adult coach at all times during the event.
 - 3.3.7.1.2. In the event that a head coach is ejected or becomes incapacitated, and there is no assistant coach to continue the reasonable and customary coaching duties, the game shall continue only if there is a school employee or an adult designated to assume the role of the coach.
 - 3.3.7.1.3. If a replacement coach is not available, the game shall immediately end by forfeit.
 - 3.3.7.2. Post-Ejection:
 - 3.3.7.2.1. If any NCISAA coach is ejected in any contest, in any sport, in any season, he or she may not attend the next two scheduled contests and will be fined according to the schedule below.
 - 3.3.7.2.2. No coach or other team personnel shall act in an unsportsmanlike manner. Prior to, during, or after game officials assume authority for the game, any action deemed unsporting will result in a two-game suspension.
 - 3.3.7.2.3. A second incident of unsporting behavior will result in a four game suspension.
 - 3.3.7.2.3.1. Examples include but are not limited to: Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures, attempting to influence a decision by a game official, disrespectfully addressing a game official, opponent or opposing fans, or indicating objections to a game official's decision.
 - 3.3.7.2.4. An ejected coach may not be present as a coach at any level until the penalty has been served for the level/sport for which the coach was ejected.
 - 3.3.7.2.5. If the same coach is ejected a second time in any contest, in any sport, in any season, he or she will not be allowed to attend the next three scheduled contests and will be fined.
 - 3.3.7.2.6. If the same coach is ejected a third time, in any contest, in any sport, in any season, he or she will not be able to participate in or attend any athletic event for one calendar year.
 - 3.3.7.3. Penalties/Fines for Coaching Ejections:
 - 3.3.7.3.1. A \$500 fine will be assessed should a coach be ejected from any contest.
 - 3.3.7.3.2. If the same coach receives a second ejection, they will be fined \$750.

- 3.3.7.3.3. If the same coach receives a third ejection, they will be fined \$1000.
- 3.3.7.3.4. Any coach who is ineligible due to an ejection will be fined \$2,500 if he/she attempts to coach or attend a subsequent game.
- 3.3.7.3.5. Fines must be received by the NCISAA State Office within two weeks of the ejection.
- 3.3.7.3.6. Unpaid fines will render the coach ineligible to participate in athletic events until the fine is paid.
- 3.3.8. Storming of the Court or Field
 - 3.3.8.1. Fans/parents or any non-game personnel are not permitted to enter the court or field immediately following a contest. Fans/parents or any non-game personnel must give both teams and all identifiable game personnel adequate time to leave the playing surface. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in a fine, forfeiture of the contest and/or loss of current and/or future postseason opportunities.
- 3.3.9. Sign Stealing
 - 3.3.9.1. Any sign stealing, initiated from outside the field of play is illegal. Infractions can result in a reduction of membership or expulsion from the Association.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 3 (3.1.3)
 - Is it the responsibility of the officials to manage spectators before, during and after competition?
 - *NO. Spectators should be managed by a host site administrator.*
- Sub-Section 4 (3.4.4)
 - Is the host site administrator the only party responsible for reporting an ejection to the NCISAA State Office?
 - *NO. Administrators from both participating schools are required to report each ejection.*

4. Appeals

- 4.1. Any decision or ruling may be appealed.
- 4.2. Appeals will only be heard from the Head Athletic Director or Heads of School.
- 4.3. To submit an appeal, administrators can find the Appeals Form on the ADMIN website under NCISAA RESOURCES.
 - 4.3.1. To appeal the ruling of an official, administrators should contact the NCISAA State Office within 24 hours of the incident. After evaluating the appeal, the State Office will follow up with the appropriate Regional Assignor/Booking Agent. All decisions will be finalized within 48 hours of the initial appeal. Athletic Directors and coaches should not contact the Assignor directly.
 - 4.3.2. The fee for any appeal is \$250, payable to the NCISAA State Office at the time the appeal is filed.
 - 4.3.2.1. An appeal will not be considered without receipt of the appeal fee.

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 4
 - May a school administrator overrule a Regional Assignor/Booking Agent if they have video footage of a missed call?
 - NO.

5. Pregame Meeting:

- 5.1. Before all contests begin, home game administrators, coaching staffs, officials and athletic trainers meet to discuss important protocols, should certain occasions arise. The meeting checklist may include:
 - 5.1.1. Weather related policies & emergency action plan
 - 5.1.2. Game delay/cancellation policy
 - 5.1.3. How ties are to be handled (Soccer)
 - 5.1.4. Pregame handshake between competing schools

INTERPRETATION:

- Sub-Section 5
 - May a coach from either team challenge the protocol presented in the pregame meeting?
 - No, the host site administrator is the authority over protocol at that site and will work with all parties to provide a safe environment for competition.

6. Game Delay or Cancellation Policy:

- 6.1. In the event conditions indicate a game should be delayed and potentially canceled, the following will be considered:
 - 6.1.1. One half of the contest has been completed.
 - 6.1.1.1. Game and school officials from each team must attempt to restart the game for a minimum of 30 minutes.
 - 6.1.1.2. At the conclusion of the agreed upon delay, both schools must agree to the declaration of game completion or rescheduling.
 - 6.1.1.3. In the event both schools' officials cannot agree, the game will be canceled.
 - 6.1.1.4. The decision to call the game completed may be modified by agreement of both schools' officials and may take place prior to the completion of one half of the game.
- 6.2. See the Sports Section on the NCISAA website for a sport-specific detailed process.
- 6.3. See the Health & Safety Section for weather-related policies and recommendations.

7. NCISAA Coaches Passes:

- 7.1. NCISAA Coaches Passes will be distributed each year at the NCISAA Annual Athletic Director & Sports Medicine Conference.
 - 7.1.1. Each member school will receive a quantity of passes based upon classification.
 - 7.1.2. Passes are intended for administrators and varsity head coaches.
 - 7.1.3. Additional passes will not be provided to replace lost or misplaced passes.
 - 7.1.4. NCISAA Coaches Passes are to be accepted at all NCISAA member schools for postseason events.

8. Health & Safety

- 8.1. NCISAA member schools should follow all policies and procedures stated in the NCISAA Health & Safety Policy. See the [Health & Safety page](#) on the NCISAA website.
 - 8.1.1. During the regular season, if a school is found to not meet the minimum medical standards required for Football, Wrestling, and/or Lacrosse, a resulting three-tiered penalty system would apply:
 - 8.1.1.1. 1st Offense - \$1500 fine, no further postseason play for that sport season
 - 8.1.1.2. 2nd Offense - Restricted from Postseason participation for one year
 - 8.1.1.3. 3rd Offense - Removal from the NCISAA
 - 8.1.2. During the postseason, if a school does not meet the minimum medical standards of care noted in the handbook for postseason medical coverage the following penalty would apply:
 - 8.1.2.1. \$1500 fine, forfeiture of contest.
- 8.2. NCISAA Statement on Appearance and Performance Enhancing Drugs and Substances:
 - 8.2.1. As educational institutions, it is imperative that our NCISAA Schools work to both educate and minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes as they relate to Appearance and Performance Enhancing Drugs and Substances (APEDS). Coaches and school personnel may never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes, and must maintain ethical standards and work to reduce liability risks.

9. Media:

- 9.1. The NCISAA member schools should follow all policies and procedures stated in the NCISAA Media Policy. See the [Media Policy](#) page on the NCISAA website.