Virginia High School League, Inc.

Handbook and Policy Manual 2026-27

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DIRECTIONS FOR CONTACTING THE VHSL OFFICE

The following guidelines have been prepared to assist member schools and the VHSL office to expedite matters by telephone. Each of our staff members handles certain general responsibilities, and you will save time by asking for that person when placing a call which involves any of the areas listed below.

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Meeting arrangements
Certificates of Insurance
Non-Faculty Coaches Exception Forms
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Sanctions, Benefit Games and Jamborees
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Mailings and Assistance with Sports Above
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Officials Handbook
Officials Program (Cheer, Gymnastics, Indoor Track, Outdoor Track)
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Officials Association Guide
Online Sports Rules Clinics
Calendar Committee
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Wrestling Weight Control
VIAAA Liaison
Strategic Plan
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Regional and State Awards
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Sports Participation Survey
Directory of District, Regional & State Events
Coaches Education
Arbiter

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Opportunities for Disabled Students

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GENERAL MANAGER VHSL PLAYFLY SPORTS PROPERTIES
Marketing
Corporate Sponsorships

DIRECTIONS FOR VISITING THE VHSL OFFICE

From the north: Take 29 south into Charlottesville to the 250-East Bypass toward Richmond. It is about four miles, over a river, past the Pantops shopping center and over Pantops mountain to State Farm Blvd. There is an BP gas station at the top of the mountain, pass the station and take the second right at a large white Union Bank. VHSL is the fourth building on the right.

From the east: Take the first Charlottesville exit off I-64 (Exit 124), the Shadwell exit, and turn right on 250 about three-quarters of a mile to State Farm Blvd. (a large white Union Bank on the corner). Turn left and VHSL is the fourth building on the right.

From the west or south: Take I-64 east to last Charlottesville exit off I-64 (Exit 124), the Shadwell exit, and turn left on 250 about three-quarters of a mile to State Farm Blvd. (a large white Union Bank on the corner). Turn left and VHSL is the fourth building on the right.

VHSL
SERVING YOUTH SINCE 1913

Preface

The Virginia High School League, Inc. is an organization of the public and non-boarding high schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia which join with the expressed written approval of their local school boards. Its organizational home is located in Charlottesville, Virginia. The League seeks to encourage student participation in desirable school activities by conducting or supporting programs of interscholastic activities in all fields.

This *Handbook* is the current League story. It is intended primarily for the use of member high school principals, coaches and sponsors in the administration of the school activities programs, but it should also prove valuable as a reference for all those concerned directly or indirectly with interscholastic activities relationships in Virginia.

The *Handbook* contains official information concerning League officers and administration, organization and membership, rules and regulations, and activities programs. It is distributed to all public and private secondary schools in the state, to all division superintendents and to many allied organizations and interested individuals and posted on the League's website (www.vhsl.org). Supplements to the *Handbook* are published regularly throughout the school year.

The League originated as a student activity of the Washington and Jefferson Societies at the University of Virginia. In 1913 debating was sponsored in some 20 nearby schools. The following year oral reading was added to the literary program. Thereafter, baseball, basketball and track competitions were undertaken, and a code of uniform rules was developed.

Membership in the League increased so rapidly that the Extension Division of the University of Virginia, and later the Division of Continuing Education, had to be assigned greater responsibility for the conduct of League affairs.

By 1926, the League realized that, in the interest of democracy, the legislative responsibilities of the League should be vested in representatives of member high schools. All activities were coordinated under one organization. Control of the composite program was charged to a body of principals known as the Legislative Council, assisted by a smaller Executive Committee. Governance was restructured in 1995 to make the Executive Committee the chief legislative body with its action subject to review by the membership.

In March 1946, the League was reorganized as the first step in a significant postwar program. Its name was changed from “The Virginia High School Literary and Athletic League” to “Virginia High School League” to suggest a wider field of League interests. Member schools were classified in three groups rather than four, and an all-inclusive district organization within groups was established. The reorganization attracted the membership of 350 of the 393 high schools in the state in 1946-47. In 1960, the League classifications were restructured with the district organization within each group extended to regional programs in each of four areas of the state.

During the 1951-52 school year, and continuing since, the League initiated a revised training program for football and basketball game officials which required registration and examination of all such officials, and has subsequently added similar programs for girls basketball, baseball, cheer, field hockey, soccer, softball, swim, track, volleyball, gymnastics and wrestling officials.

The growth of athletic programs for girls prompted the League, in 1968, to begin coordinating those activities. This control was further enhanced in 1972 by the League's adoption of a Girls' Sports Committee, the function of which was to assist in the leadership of the girls athletic programs.

Further enlargement of the League occurred in 1973, when the League realized its need for both an increase in its public relations program and more effective control of its program in publications. Each of these concerns was solidified into a League information program designed to increase the League's services to its member schools.

A desire for greater legislative autonomy and an increased awareness for fiscal independence convinced the League to seek further refinement of its program and on July 1, 1981, VHSL was incorporated, thus becoming the Virginia High School League, Inc.

In the Spring of 1989, the League staff moved into new headquarters. After vacating spaces it had long occupied in the University of Virginia's Zehmer Hall, the staff now operates out of an impressive 8,000-square-foot building on a scenic 1.97-acre lot on Pantops Mountain overlooking Charlottesville. These offices are a symbol of the VHSL's proud past and promising future.

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Officers and Administration

SECTION 1: LEAGUE OFFICERS.

1-1-1 The Executive Committee, Group Boards, Regional Councils and District Councils are the key legislative and executive organs of the League. The purpose and duties of each are given in Sections 12, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19. All officers are listed in the *League Directory*, available in October of each year.

SECTION 2: LEAGUE STAFF.

2-1-1 League staff includes an Executive Director; five Assistant Directors, one of whom shall be the Chief Financial Officer; a Director of Development; an Information and Communications Specialist; an Office Manager; and support staff as needed.

PM 2-1-2 Officiating Permitted (5-76)-VHSL staff members are permitted to serve as VHSL game officials.

SECTION 3: LEAGUE OFFICE.

3-1-1 League Office-A central League office, which serves as the organization's administrative headquarters, is located at 1642 State Farm Boulevard, Charlottesville, Virginia, with the Executive Director in charge. Superintendents, principals and members of school faculties are cordially invited to visit the office whenever opportunity permits.

3-1-2 Office hours - 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily except weekends.

3-1-3 Telephone-Charlottesville Area Code 434-977-8475. Fax - 434-977-5943.

3-1-4 Mail and Special Delivery Address-Virginia High School League, Inc., 1642 State Farm Boulevard, Charlottesville, Virginia 22911.

3-1-5 Internet-www.vhsl.org.

SECTION 4: SUPPLIES AND SERVICES.

4-1-1 A number of supplies and services are offered to member schools through the League Office, many of them without charge. As indicated in the summary below, some supplies are distributed automatically as needed; others should be ordered on forms provided on the VHSL website. Among the services and supplies provided are:

4-2-1 Publications:

4-2-2 *Handbook*: Published annually. To access this document refer to the VHSL website.

4-2-3 *The Leaguer*: An annual publication of the League which chronicles major events and state championships and recognizes outstanding achievements. Its contents are official. To access this document refer to the VHSL website.

4-2-4 *Directory*: A complete Directory of member schools, including non-public schools that are ineligible for League membership, and a list of commissioners of the various local officials organizations. The publication includes all League officers. To access this document refer to the VHSL website.

4-3-1 Activities Supplies:

4-3-2 *League Athletic Forms*: Required by League rules in the administration of the athletic program. Refer to VHSL website to obtain required forms (http://www.vhsl.org/forms).

4-3-3 *National Federation Athletic Forms*: Refer to VHSL website to obtain required forms:

a. Interscholastic Record Application.
b. Application for Sanction of Multiple Interstate Meet.

4-3-4 *Official Sports Rule Books*: One copy of the rule book governing each major sport in which the school plans to engage is supplied automatically. Limited additional supplies for sale at list prices.

4-3-5 *Creative Writing Contest Selections*: Booklet of winning selections in last year's contests, with critical appraisals by the contest judges, is supplied to all schools entering and upon request.

4-3-6 *State Event Guides*: These materials are posted on the VHSL website in the applicable sport's section.

4-3-7 *Speech and Drama Resource Guide*: These materials are provided on the VHSL website under the Speech and Drama section.

By-Laws

SECTION 5: NAME.

5-1-1 The name of this organization shall be Virginia High School League, Inc.

SECTION 6: MISSION AND VISION FOR RACIAL AND SOCIAL AWARENESS.

6-1-1 The Virginia High School League is an alliance of Virginia's public and approved non-boarding, non-public high schools that promotes education, leadership, sportsmanship, character and citizenship for students by establishing and maintaining high standards for school activities and competitions.

6-1-2 The Virginia High School League acknowledges that systemic and institutional inequities, especially in the matters of race, remain significant barriers for people and communities working to reach their full potential. The VHSL membership is committed to equity by requiring non-biased, fair, and non-discriminatory actions, decisions, and treatment of all people who interact in VHSL sponsored activities. The VHSL membership will provide an environment that respects every individual regardless of race, gender, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, gender expression, family configuration, ethnicity, age, and the language spoken in their home.

SECTION 7: BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

7-1-1 Membership-The Board of Directors shall be composed of the membership of the Executive Committee.

SECTION 8: MEMBERSHIP.

8-1-1 Eligibility-State public high schools in Virginia with the expressed written authority of their respective school boards, and non-boarding, non-public high schools which agree to follow VHSL By-Laws, Rules and Regulations as amended for them, shall be eligible for membership in the League.

PM 8-1-1 APPLICATION For VHSL Membership (5-92)-Shall require the school board chairman's signature.

8-1-2 Combined School-Subject to district, region, group board and Executive Committee approval, two accredited state public high schools in Virginia may combine their programs for competitive purposes under the following conditions:

(1) The two schools involved must be in the same school division with a combined enrollment (ADM) of 300 or less in grades 9-12;

(2) The schools must have written consent of their school board;

(3) The combined school status would be for a four-year period only, subject to renewal upon filing written application with the League office prior to September 1 in an even-numbered year;

(4) The combined schools would have only one vote in district, region and state matters.

8-1-3 Charter School-Virginia charter schools that field interscholastic athletic or academic teams for VHSL competition are eligible to become members of the League. Students who attend Virginia charter schools that do not field teams for VHSL interscholastic competition may participate at the VHSL member school of the attendance zone where their parents reside if they meet all other eligibility requirements; the ADM of the receiving school must be adjusted for all students attending the charter. Students who attend a Virginia charter school that does not field teams for VHSL interscholastic competition, where the charter campus is housed within a member school's facility and authorized by the same local education agency, shall participate for that member school. The ADM of the member school must be adjusted for all students attending the charter.

8-2-1 Structure-The League shall be organized by the principals of the member schools. The organization shall consist of the membership, an Executive Committee, a Group 1, a Group 2, a Group 3, a Group 4, a Group 5, and a Group 6 Board, a Group Committee for each group, a Regional Council for each region and a District Council and a District Committee for each district.

8-3-1 Application-Service fees are payable upon receipt of the membership application form in the League office. Payment of service fees and proper completion of the membership application form are required each year in order for members to maintain active membership.

8-4-1 Admission-Renewal for member schools shall be effective upon acceptance of application form and fee by the League Office. Admission for newly constructed or consolidated state public high schools and non-boarding, non-public high schools will notify the VHSL office no later than one year prior to the new school opening. All existing non-member schools wishing to join the League may become VHSL members following the same time line used in Classification (10-1-1) for alignment and mid-year adjustments. The school shall notify the VHSL office of their intent to join the League by March 31 on the odd-numbered school year (e.g., 2017-2018) that average daily membership figures are received from the Virginia Department of Education. At the first meeting of the next even-numbered school year, this school will be part of the alignment plan presented to the Executive Committee for approval and will become an active member the next odd-numbered school year when the new alignment plan becomes effective.

SECTION 9: FINANCES.

9-1-1 Revenue - The League shall be financed by membership fees, admissions and entry fees, interest on savings accounts and revenue received or derived from other sources. Monies shall be deposited in the name of the League in such checking and savings accounts as shall be approved by the Executive Committee. Funds in such accounts shall be used to meet such expenses as may be incurred by the League. Funds equal to the League's current annual operating budget may be held as reserve funds and placed in savings accounts.

PM 9-1-1 Finance Committee-The Finance Committee is the agent for administering the League's finances. It shall meet prior to the Executive Committee meetings for the purpose of reviewing various functional reports. It reports to the Executive Committee its findings and recommendations on reports. It refers the budget to the Executive Committee for adoption.

Expenditures from the Contingency Fund, short of designated funds authorized by the Executive Director to disburse, shall come to the attention of this committee.

PM 9-1-1 Audit (3-93)-Effective with FY93 the Finance Committee plans an external audit yearly. Audits will be conducted between July 1 and October meeting.

PM 9-1-1 Budget Report To Membership (9-74)-The final budget will be presented at the last Executive Committee meeting before July 1 of each year.

PM 9-1-1 Fines Collection (9-96)-All schools are expected to pay fines. If fines or other charges are not paid within 30 days, a second request will be sent to the appropriate superintendent for collection. Schools have 60 days from the initial billing to pay fines. A 10% fee may be assessed unpaid accounts. Collection of fines can include withholding team reimbursement and could result in loss of playoff privileges and loss of membership. Any hardship situation may be presented in writing to the executive director for consideration of waiver.

PM 9-1-1 Benefit Game Income (5-02)-Starting FY03 Benefit Game income may be earmarked for the VHSL Foundation.

PM 9-1-1 Payment of Event Personnel(3-00)-In response to discussions with IRS officials, the League developed policies to ensure that payment of VHSL event personnel is in compliance with IRS requirements.

9-1-2 No part of the net earnings of the Virginia High School League, Inc., shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, officers or other private persons, except that the Virginia High School League, Inc., shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the mission set forth in SECTION 6. No substantial part of the activities of the Virginia High School League, Inc., shall be the dissemination of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Virginia High School League, Inc., shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these sections, the Virginia High School League, Inc., shall not engage in any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation/organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or (b) by a corporation/organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

9-1-3 Upon the dissolution of the Virginia High School League, Inc., the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Virginia High School League, Inc., dispose of all of the assets of the Virginia High School League, Inc., exclusively for the purposes of Virginia High School League, Inc., in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as at the time shall qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Executive Committee shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Virginia High

School League, Inc., is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated for such purpose.

9-2-1 Service Fees-The annual service fees shall be established by the Executive Committee.

9-2-2 Payment of Renewal Service Fees-Membership for the ensuing year shall be renewed prior to August 1 of each year without penalty. After August 1, schools will be charged a 10 percent penalty. Member schools that do not pay their service fees or make arrangements for payment with the Executive Director prior to September 15 will be dropped from membership.

9-3-1 Contest Entry Fees-Fees sufficient to defray expenses incurred in the conduct of state, regional, and district championships may be authorized as an entrance requirement in such contests.

9-4-1 District, Regional and State Contest Funds-One hundred percent of the funds realized from district activities and 65 percent of the funds realized from regional activities, after authorized expenses, shall be utilized or distributed as directed by the appropriate District or Regional Council. Thirty-five percent of the net income from each regional contest and the entire net income from state contests shall be deposited into the League's treasury.

9-5-1 Budget-An annual budget reflecting the proposed income and expenditures for the succeeding fiscal year (July 1-June 30) shall be recommended by the Executive Director and approved by the Executive Committee no later than its May meeting each year.

PM 9-5-1 Budget (12-02)-Staff salary steps with pay bands were approved subject to a satisfactory evaluation and approval of the annual budget by the Executive Committee.

PM 9-5-1 TRAVEL PER DIEM (5-08)-Beginning FY09 VHSL will reimburse an authorized traveler 50 cents per mile round trip and up to $35 per day for meals (with receipts) for administrative and committee travel, and up to $40 per day for conference travel.

9-6-1 Financial Policies and Procedures-Specific financial policies and procedures for the VHSL may be obtained by accessing the VHSL Financial Policies and Procedures Manual on the VHSL website.

9-7-1 Corporate Sponsor Approval-The Finance Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee for approval of corporate sponsors. The Executive Committee shall approve all Corporate Sponsors.

Note: Executive Committee discussion regarding Corporate Sponsors contracts shall be held in closed session.

SECTION 10: CLASSIFICATION.

10-1-1 Classification-To equalize opportunities in competitive activities sponsored by the League, schools shall be classified into classification groups according to the following procedures: a VHSL Alignment Committee, made up of one representative appointed by each

region and a superintendent chairman appointed by the League chairman, shall develop a plan assigning all schools for a four-year period to a district, region and group classification. For classification purposes, the membership of a school shall be the March 31 average daily membership figures submitted by school divisions to the State Department of Education for grades 9, 10, and 11. Non-public member schools shall submit a form provided by the VHSL to report and certify their average daily membership figures for grades 9, 10, and 11, which form shall solicit attendance information and calculations comparable to the March 31 average daily membership figures that public divisions submit to the State Department of Education. The existing state daily attendance form will be used to the extent possible. The Alignment Committee shall use March 31 average daily membership figures from an odd-numbered school year (e.g., 2017-18) and shall present its plan to the Executive Committee for approval at the first meeting of the next even-numbered school year to go into effect in the next odd-numbered school year. A school may appeal its assignment by the Alignment Committee to a five person appeal hearing panel, approved by, but not members of, the Executive Committee. The five person panel shall conduct a hearing to evaluate each appeal during which one representative of the school shall be permitted to present evidence in support of the appeal. The five person panel shall render its decision in response to the appeal and shall inform the appellant school within 30 days. The panel also shall publish a summary report of all appeals, and its justification in each case, as an appendix to the recommended alignment plan, from the Alignment Committee when it is submitted to the Executive Committee.

A school may then appeal the Alignment Committee's decision to the Executive Committee. No hearing shall be conducted by the Executive Committee in response to the appeal. Instead, the Executive Committee's review of the appeal shall be limited to an evaluation of the written record of the original appeal as published in the appendix of the alignment plan. The Executive Committee shall then issue its decision in response to all such appeals as amendments to its final motion to approve the formal alignment plan. The VHSL's Executive Director shall inform each appellant school of the Executive Committee's decision. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

A school may appeal to the Alignment Committee to change its specific individual classification and to be realigned to another specific classification during the mid-point of the four-year alignment cycle. The Alignment Committee shall determine whether it recommends that a school should be classified, or a group of schools realigned, based on significant changes in school enrollment or other compelling reasons. After the committee obtains March 31 average daily membership figures from the odd-numbered school year for the mid-point of the four-year alignment cycle (e.g., 2017-18), it shall present any proposed changes to the Executive Committee for approval at the first meeting of the next even-numbered school year to go into effect in the next odd-numbered school year. Schools may file appeals as described in the section above.

The Alignment Committee can propose a revision to the Alignment Plan. The proposed plan would be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration. A region or school could appeal its alignment in writing to the Alignment Committee which will schedule a meeting to hear and act on such appeals. The Alignment Committee would then present its final recommended plan to the Executive Committee. A region or school could appeal the plan in writing to the Executive Committee. No hearing shall be conducted by the Executive Committee in response to the appeal, and the decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

PM SECTION 10: CLASSIFICATION (5-15)-At the mid-point of a four-year cycle a school will remain in its current classification if the school is no more than 5% above the highest school's previous ADM within the classification in which it had been assigned.

PM 10-1-1 ADM Changes (12-14): Any changes or corrections to the school's ADM must be corroborated by the school division superintendent and must be filed with the VHSL office in accordance with deadlines established by the Alignment Committee.

10-1-2 Any school which begins its initial year of operation shall be assigned by the Executive Director to its appropriate district and group according to its first year's projected membership but such assignment shall be subject to Executive Committee approval.

10-1-3 Single Gender Multiplier-The VHSL shall apply a 2.0 multiplier for classification purposes to any non-public member school that services students of one gender (e.g., an all-boys high school).

1**0-1-4 Attendance Zone Multipliers**:

(a) The VHSL shall not apply a multiplier to a non-public member school whose attendance zone is limited to the same public school zone in which the non-public school is located. See 28A-7-3 (9) (a).

(b) The VHSL shall apply a 1.5 multiplier for classification purposes to a non-public member school whose attendance zone is defined by 28A-7-3 (9) (b).

(c) The VHSL shall apply a 2.0 multiplier for classification purposes to a non-public member school whose attendance zone is defined by 28A-7-3 (9) (c).

10-1-5 Extension of Multipliers-The VHSL Executive Committee may evaluate whether multipliers are warranted for non-public member schools after the 2019-20 school year. Any application of such multipliers beyond that date must be done on a fair and equitable basis and further based on objective criteria that demonstrate the multiplier is necessary for fair competition. If the non-member private school disagrees with that determination, it may submit such disagreement to arbitration and the parties will abide by the arbitrator's decision.

SECTION 11: MEETINGS.

11-1-1 Meetings-The League membership shall meet twice annually at times and places to be set by the Executive Committee and shall meet in special session on call of the League Chairman or Executive Director. Meetings of the League, and any of its subparts, may be conducted electronically provided that simultaneous aural communication among all participating members equivalent to those of meeting held in one room or area are provided.

11-1-2 Voting Procedures-At any membership meeting, the principal of each member school and each non-principal voting member of the Executive Committee is entitled to one vote. Voting members who are unable to attend a meeting may appoint an alternate as follows to vote in their stead:

(1) The principal of a member school may appoint any member of the staff or faculty of his/her school.

(2) Executive Committee representatives may appoint alternates in accordance with provisions of 12-2-1 (3) through (8).

Voting members present shall be ascertained prior to each meeting. Voting alternates must be certified in writing to the Executive Director before or at the opening of the membership meeting. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Members or their alternates must be present in person to vote. In case of a tie vote, the chairman shall cast the deciding vote.

11-1-3 Quorum-A majority of the total membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 12: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

12-1-1 Membership-The Executive Committee shall be composed of 37 voting members including: 18 principals; one representative from the State Department of Education; eight division superintendents of schools; one representative from the Virginia School Boards Association; one Virginia citizen appointed by the Executive Committee from the PTA Board of Managers; six supervisors of athletics/activities at a member school, one from each group level (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6); and two members of the Virginia General Assembly. Terms for members of the Executive Committee are limited to a maximum of four consecutive years except (a) the term of a member shall be extended as necessary for the member to serve a full term on the National Federation of State High School Associations Board of Directors and the term of the chairman may be extended one year if necessary in order to serve as past chairman. The Executive Director of the League shall serve as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. Each individual member of the Executive Committee must be a current member of the group or organization they represent and must be selected in accordance with procedures set forth in 12-1-2 through 12-1-9.

Note: In order to guarantee a complete rotation within classifications there will be years where a classification's representation is two principals and two Directors of Student Activities.

12-1-2 Twelve principals of member schools shall be selected each year, with one principal chosen annually by his/her respective region. A principal may serve as long as he/she continues to be a principal of a member school belonging to the region that elects him/her and may be reelected by the region, but for no more than four consecutive years except as noted in 12-1-1.

12-1-3 One State Department of Education representative shall be appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and, at the discretion of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, may be reappointed, but for no more than four consecutive years.

12-1-4 Eight division superintendents of schools shall be selected each year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS) to represent each of the eight VASS regions. A division superintendent may serve as long as he/she continues to be a division superintendent of public schools and may be reelected by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, but for no more than four consecutive years.

12-1-5 One representative from the Virginia School Boards Association shall be appointed by the Virginia School Boards Association and shall serve for a term of two years beginning July 1 following appointment. A representative may serve as long as he/she remains an active member of his/her respective school board and may be reappointed by the Virginia School Boards Association, but for no more than one additional two-year term.

12-1-6 Six supervisors of athletics/activities one representing each classification, shall be elected for a term of four years beginning July 1 following the election. Every attempt will be made to guarantee staggered terms such that supervisors of athletics/activities rotate off the committee in a sequence. Representation from within each classification will alternate between regions within that classification.

12-1-7 One Virginia citizen shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from the PTA Board of Managers to serve a term of two years beginning July 1 following the selection. The citizen representative may be reappointed by the Executive Committee, but for no more than one additional two-year term.

12-1-8 Two members of the Virginia General Assembly shall be appointed by the respective chairmen of the Virginia General Assembly's House and Senate education committees to serve for a term of two years beginning July 1 following the appointment. At the discretion of the education committee chairman, the senator/delegate may be reappointed, but for no more than one additional two-year term.

12-1-9 Each vacancy on the Executive Committee shall be filled by the same authority that filled the position originally, except that a vacancy in the office of chairman shall be filled in the manner prescribed in 12-3-4 through 12-3-7.

12-2-1 Alternates-

(1) A principal may appoint the principal of any school in his/her region.

(2) The Executive Director may appoint any of the assistant directors.

(3) The State Department of Education representative may appoint any representative from the State Department of Education.

(4) Division superintendents may appoint any division superintendent from their region of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents.

(5) The Virginia School Boards Association representative may appoint any member from his/her association who is a member of a Virginia school board.

(6) The Executive Committee, in consultation with the PTA Board of Managers, may appoint alternate Virginia citizens.

(7) A supervisor of athletics/activities may appoint a supervisor of athletics/activities in his/her region whenever one of the supervisors of athletics/activities is unable to attend a meeting of the committee.

(8) A legislator may appoint any legislator from the same body of the Virginia Assembly.

12-3-1 Officers-The officers of the VHSL shall be a chairman and a chairman-elect, who shall be elected by the Executive Committee from among its principal members. The Executive Director shall serve as permanent secretary-treasurer and shall perform such duties as assigned by the Executive Committee.

PM 12-3-1 Standing Committees-The following committees will be standing committees of the Executive Committee:

(1) The Personnel Committee, at least three of whom will be principals, should include the League Chairman and two members from the Finance Committee.

(2) The Finance Committee should include at least three principals, each from a different classification; at least two superintendents; and others from the activities director, DOE, citizen, General Assembly mix.

(3) The Policy and Program Committee should include at least three principals; at least two superintendents; and others from the activities director, DOE, citizen, General Assembly mix.

(4) The Communications Committe should include at least three principals; at least one superintendent; and others from the activities director, DOE, citizen, General Assembly mix.

(5) The Crisis Management Committee shall be a standing committee to include the six Group Board chairmen, the League chairman, one athletics/activities director representative and three at-large members of the Executive Committee. The committee is empowered to act on behalf of the full Executive Committee to deal expeditiously with any potential crisis that may have statewide implications.

(6) The Equity and Diversity Committee shall be composed of at least 20 voting members including division level superintendents, principals, athletic/activity directors, athletic coaches, citizens (who represents the VPTA and former VHSL student-athletes), Equity Officers, members of the General Assembly, and the VSBA.

12-3-2 Duties of Officers-The chairman shall preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and Membership, and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be directed by the Executive Committee. The chairman-elect shall, in the chairman's absence, preside at meetings of the Executive Committee and Membership, and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be directed by the Executive Committee. The secretary-treasurer shall maintain the corporate records and the financial records of the VHSL; other duties of the secretary-treasurer are set forth in Section 15.

PM 12-3-2 Authority on Multi-Class Tournaments-Only the Executive Committee has the authority to set policy for multi-class tournaments.

12-3-3 Term of Office-The chairman and chairman-elect shall each serve a one-year term from July 1 of the year entering office until June 30 of the following year, except as noted in 12-3-5 and 12-3-6 below.

12-3-4 Ordinary Succession to Chairman-Upon expiration of the chairman's term, the chairman-elect shall succeed him/her.

12-3-5 Ordinary Succession to Chairman-elect-At the last regular meeting of the school year, the Executive Committee shall elect from among its principal members a chairman-elect of the League for a term of one year. Nominees for chairman-elect must have served on the Executive Committee for one year, must be eligible to serve on the Executive Committee for the subsequent two-year period and must secure the support for the position from their own region. Candidates for the position of chairman-elect must declare their intentions by the February Executive Committee meeting. In selecting the chairman-elect, the Executive Committee may consider a rotation among the classes subject to there being an eligible candidate from the appropriate group.

12-3-6 Extraordinary Succession to Chairman-If the office of chairman becomes vacant because of death, resignation, ineligibility or other emergency, the chairman-elect shall immediately succeed to the office of chairman for the remainder of the unexpired term and for the full following year's term.

12-3-7 Extraordinary Election of Chairman-elect-If the office of chairman-elect becomes vacant because of death, resignation, ineligibility or other emergency, or by extraordinary succession of the chairman-elect to chairman, then the Executive Committee, at its next regular or special meeting, shall elect a new chairman-elect from among the members of the Executive Committee with more than one (1) year remaining in his/her four-year term. In selecting the chairman-elect, the Executive Committee may consider a rotation among the classes subject to there being an eligible candidate from the appropriate group. If the new chairman-elect shall be eligible, he/she may be elected to a full term as chairman-elect.

12-3-8 Past Chairman-Upon expiration of his/her term, the chairman may remain a member of the Executive Committee, serving as past chairman, as a voting member if he/she remains eligible to represent his/her region, and as a non-voting member if he/she cannot represent his/her region.

12-4-1 Duties-The Executive Committee shall be empowered to initiate such action as it may deem necessary or advisable in the best interests of the League, including all legislative powers. An annual budget reflecting proposed income and expenditures for the succeeding fiscal year (July 1-June 30) shall be approved by the Executive Committee no later than May each year. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to establish all policies and procedures for all state level activities. It is specifically authorized to adjust the Rules and Regulations to equitably accommodate schools operating on a 12-month basis or to accommodate any student authorized by his/her school board to attend a magnet school. It is also authorized to make necessary exceptions to the Bona Fide Student Rule and the Enrollment Rule to permit compliance with state and Federal regulations governing the education of handicapped children and for students enrolled in vocational technical education and in special programs for the gifted and talented. It shall cooperate and counsel with the Executive Director in the discharge of his/her administrative duties. It shall be empowered to

appoint such advisory committees as it may deem necessary. Membership on such advisory committees shall not be restricted to League membership. The Executive Committee may take such emergency action that it deems necessary as a result of legal exigencies or other significant extenuating circumstances. This action must be approved by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee members present and voting. All such emergency actions by the Executive Committee shall be reported at the next regularly scheduled Annual Meeting of the League membership. Any emergency action taken by the Executive Committee shall pertain only to the instant matter and shall not be considered precedential.

PM 12-4-1 (Executive Committee Duties) Advisory Committees (12-08)-At the discretion of the Policy Committee chair, an advisory committee may make a presentation to the full Executive Committee.

12-4-2 The rules and regulations for which the Executive Committee shall be responsible, and for which it shall have full power and authority to enforce, include the By-laws, eligibility regulations and all rules found in this *Handbook.*

12-4-3 All appeals shall be processed in accordance with the provisions as stated in Appeals, Section 33 of this *Handbook*.

12-4-4 The chairman of the League shall be empowered to appoint interDistrict Committees to adjudicate interdistrict, intergroup or non-member disputes, or any dispute requiring prompt decision which a District Committee is unable to adjudicate. Each such interDistrict Committee shall consist of three members who shall be selected from member high school principals, division superintendents of schools and assistant superintendents, none of whom shall come from any district or school division involved in the dispute. Such interDistrict Committees shall be empowered with the authority of a District Committee in deciding cases, and the committees' decisions may be appealed in the same manner as a District Committee's decision may be appealed.

12-4-5 The Executive Committee shall be empowered as an editorial board in editing the VHSL, Inc. *Handbook* in regards to approving *Handbook* grammatical and codification changes. Under no circumstances may any statement in 12-4-5 be interpreted to mean that the Executive Committee is empowered to enact changes in meaning in any paragraph in the VHSL, Inc. *Handbook*, other than as may be within its powers to enact legislative amendments (see Section 21) or deal with emergency matters (see 12-3-1).

12-5-1 Meetings-The Executive Committee shall hold at least three meetings yearly. It shall meet in special session on call of the League chairman or Executive Director. Meetings of the League, and any of its subparts, may be conducted electronically provided that simultaneous communication among all participating members equivalent to those of meeting held in one room or area are provided. All items for consideration must be submitted, in writing, to the League office at least one month prior to the next scheduled Executive Committee meeting.

PM 12-5-1 Public Meetings (9-78)-The state Executive Committee is required to hold at least one announced public meeting each year to receive citizen input.

PM 12-5-1 Executive Committee Meeting/Public Notice (1-97)-The "Concerns of Public" agenda item is reserved for the purpose of receiving citizen input on the operation of the League and concerns from the public. The League Chair reserves the right to change the times listed on any VHSL Executive Committee agenda depending upon the time constraints during the meeting. The following guidelines shall be used.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
BEFORE THE VHSL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The VHSL Executive Committee is pleased to receive public comment at each of its regular meetings. In order to allow the Committee sufficient time for its other business, the total time allotted to public comments will generally be limited to thirty (30) minutes. (12-05) Individual speakers and/or groups will be limited to three minutes. There will be no discussion by the Executive Committee during this time. Individuals and/or groups will provide the VHSL with information regarding their presentation in advance in writing. Presentations will be included in the agenda.

2. Those wishing to speak to the Committee should contact the Executive Director or the Administrative Assistant for the Executive Director. Normally, speakers will be scheduled in the order that their requests are received until the entire allotted time slot has been used. Where issues involving a variety of views are presented, the Committee reserves the right to allocate the time available so as to ensure that the Committee hears from different points of view on any particular issue.

3. Speakers are urged to contact the Executive Director or the assistant to the Executive Director in advance of the meeting. Because of time limitations, those persons who have not previously registered to speak prior to the day of the Committee meeting cannot be assured that they will have an opportunity to appear before the Committee.

4. In order to make the limited time available most effective, speakers are urged to provide multiple written copies of their comments or other materials amplifying their views.

12-6-1 Executive Director to Attend Meetings-The Executive Director of the League or, in his/her absence or inability to attend, a person designated by him/her shall be present at all meetings of the Executive Committee except that on affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee, attendance of the Executive Director or his/her designee may be dispensed with during any part of a meeting of the Executive Committee. If matters pertaining to the Executive Director personally are under discussion at any such meeting, he/she shall remain subject to the call of the Executive Committee.

12-7-1 Voting Procedure-Each member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to one vote. The vote on all action items will be recorded for each committee member present and reported to the League membership. Voting by proxy shall be prohibited. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total membership of the committee.

12-8-1 Expenses for Committee Members-Travel expenses of members of the Executive Committee to meetings of the committee shall be paid by the League.

PM 12-8-1 TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT (3-95)-Members will be reimbursed for travel expenses only for the time spent for required duties.

SECTION 13: SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATION COMMITTEES.

13-1-1 Membership-The League Chairman shall appoint the Sportsmanship Violation Committee, as needed. None of the members of the Sportsmanship Violation Committee shall be members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall designate the VHSL staff member to serve as an ex officio member of the Sportsmanship Violation Committee.

13-1-2 The Academic Sportsmanship Violation Committee, appointed as needed, shall be composed of one principal with a background in speech activities to be appointed by the League chairman. Six other members -- representing theatre, speech, debate and Scholastic Bowl and each of the League's six enrollment groups -- will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall designate the VHSL staff member to serve as an ex officio member of the committee.

13-2-1 Duties-The Sportsmanship Violation Committee shall meet as needed by the League staff to hear cases involving an infraction of the Sportsmanship Rule as soon as practicable after each case is referred to committee. The committee shall have full power and authority to impose penalties to the extent allowable under the League's rules and regulations on violators of the Sportsmanship Rule. Penalties imposed by the Executive Committee shall supersede those imposed by the Sportsmanship Violation Committee and shall be limited in no way by the penalties originally imposed by the Sportsmanship Violation Committee.

13-3-1 Costs of Hearings-No costs shall be assessed against a school for its hearing before the Sportsmanship Violation Committee. Costs involving committee members' travel, lodging and meals and all other necessary expenses of the hearing shall be borne by the League.

13-4-1 Appeals-Decisions of the Sportsmanship Violation Committee may be appealed in accordance with Section 33 of this *Handbook*.

SECTION 14: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.

14-1-1 Rules of Order-The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Executive Committee and all other councils or committees of the Virginia High School League, Inc., and the League's Annual Meetings, in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the League may adopt.

SECTION 15: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

15-1-1 Appointment-The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Virginia High School League, Inc.

15-2-1 Duties-The duties of the Executive Director shall be:

(1) To serve as the administrative officer of the League and, with the counsel of the Executive Committee, provide guidance for League affairs.

(2) To operate and maintain a central League office.

(3) To prepare and distribute all League publications, including the official *Handbook*.

(4) To interpret the League program to the state as a whole through such field visitations as his/her duties will permit.

(5) To maintain pertinent records, including the minutes of the Annual Meetings and Executive Committee meetings.

(6) To administer League finances and collect and account for all League monies.

(7) To serve ex officio on all group boards and all committees appointed by the Executive Committee.

(8) To report annually to the membership.

(9) To correct master eligibility lists, sanction awards open competitively to students of more than one school and to sanction athletic meets or tournaments in which three or more schools participate.

(10) To assign to the appropriate region and group any school which begins its initial year of operation.

15-2-2 When an interDistrict Committee adjudicates an interdistrict, intergroup or non-member dispute involving the eligibility of a contestant, the Executive Director shall duplicate the committee secretary's report of the case and send copies to member schools in each district involved in the dispute and to each school against whom the student concerned, if declared eligible, will compete later in the school year.

15-2-3 The Executive Director shall be authorized and required to interpret, enforce and apply League rules and regulations and to impose such penalties as are specifically authorized and enacted by the Executive Committee, under the following conditions:

(1) Requests for interpretations must come from a principal of a member school.

(2) Interpretations by the Executive Director shall conform to League rules and precedents established by committee action, insofar as such precedents are known to the Executive Director.

(3) Oral interpretations by the Executive Director shall not be regarded as binding, but merely advisory, and shall not be considered official in any case presented to the District Committee or District Council. If later committed to writing, however, such interpretations shall have the same force and effect as other written interpretations.

(4) Written interpretations by the Executive Director shall be official and binding on member schools, unless and until they are appealed to and changed by the Executive Committee. When the Executive Director replies in writing to a request for an interpretation, he/she shall send a copy of his/her reply to the district chairman concerned, unless the request came from the chairman, in which case the chairman would receive the original reply.

(5) The Executive Director is authorized and required to impose penalties on member schools consistent with League rules and regulations and penalties specifically adopted by the Executive Committee. The penalties of suspension and probation may be imposed only by such committees as have been empowered with such authority (See 30-1-1 Imposition of Penalties).

(6) Upon request of the Executive Director, member schools shall submit to the League office without unnecessary delay information needed to decide a case.

SECTION 16: ASSISTANT DIRECTORS.

16-1-1 Appointment-Assistant directors shall be appointed by the Executive Director with the approval of the Executive Committee.

16-2-1 Duties-The assistant directors, under the direction of the Executive Director, shall have administrative authority and responsibility for programs of the League. They shall perform such other duties as may be assigned them by the Executive Director, including assistance on all League rules in the Executive Director's absence.

SECTION 17: GROUP BOARDS.

17-1-1 Boards-A general management board shall be organized for each group. These boards shall be known and called by the names Group 1 Board, Group 2 Board, Group 3 Board, Group 4 Board, Group 5 Board, and Group 6 Board, respectively. These group boards may also be known and called by the names 1 Board, 2 Board, 3 Board, 4 Board, 5 Board, and 6 Board.

17-2-1 Membership-Each board shall consist of the principals of all member schools in the group and the Executive Director, who shall serve ex officio. When a principal of the group is unable to attend a group board meeting, he/she may designate an alternate to represent his/her school at the meeting. Such alternate shall be chosen by the principal from among the members of the staff or faculty of his/her school. No alternate shall be an officer of the group.

17-3-1 Officers-Each board shall elect a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary (athletics/activities director) at the board's second regular meeting of the school year. They shall serve for one year beginning July 1 following their elections. The chairman and vice-chairman shall not be eligible to succeed themselves in the same office, and no group board officer shall serve for more than four consecutive years.

17-3-2 The vice-chairman of each group shall serve as chairman at meetings at which the chairman is absent. If the office of group chairman is vacated for any reason, the vice-chairman shall become chairman and may be elected to succeed himself/herself as chairman after the completion of the unexpired term.

17-3-3 If any other group office is vacated, the chairman of the group shall appoint a principal to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the group board when the position shall be filled by election.

17-3-4 A group officer shall be eligible to hold office only so long as he/she is the principal of a member school.

17-4-1 Duties-Group boards shall formulate and adopt such specific rules and regulations, in conformity with League rules and regulations, as shall be deemed necessary or desirable in the conduct of their group program. Changes in group board policies which are not included in the current VHSL *Handbook* shall, to the extent practicable, be made and approved prior to the school year in which the change is to become effective. Group boards shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee on matters pertaining to the welfare and conduct of the League as a whole. Action of group boards shall be approved by the Executive Committee before it becomes final.

17-5-1 Meetings-Each group board shall meet in conjunction with the annual meetings of the League's membership and at such other times as are deemed necessary by the chairman.

17-6-1 Voting Procedure-Each member of a group board shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy shall be prohibited. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total membership of the group board. By majority vote of a quorum present at any regular or special called meeting of a group board, a board may determine approval of group board adoption items.

17-7-1 Group Committee-The officers of the group board shall constitute an administrative committee for the group board, shall assist the Executive Director in carrying out the activities of the group board and may act for the group board subject to review and change at the next meeting of the group board.

SECTION 18: REGIONAL COUNCILS.

18-1-1 Purpose-A Regional Council shall be organized within each region to provide for the conduct of the League program within the region.

18-2-1 Membership-Each Regional Council shall be composed of the principals of the member schools within the region, or their alternates. When a principal of the region is unable to attend a meeting, he/she may designate a member of the staff or faculty of his/her school as an alternate to represent his/her school at the meeting.

18-2-2 Voting by proxy shall be prohibited. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total membership of the council.

18-3-1 Officers-At its last regular meeting of the school year, the Regional Council shall elect from its members for the succeeding term a regional chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. These officers shall be elected for terms of two years each, and the chairman and secretary shall serve concurrent terms.

18-3-2 At its last regular meeting preceding the spring group board meetings, each region shall elect a regional representative who will serve as an officer on the group board and a member of the Executive Committee. The representative shall represent region interests and concerns to the Executive Committee and report regularly to the Regional Council on the activities of the Executive Committee. The regional representative shall not serve more than four consecutive years.

18-3-3 In the event the office of regional chairman is vacated for any reason before the term has been completed, the following order of succession as acting chairman shall apply: vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer. The temporary succession shall prevail only until the next meeting of the Regional Council, which shall then fill the vacancy in any office or for the regional representative to the Executive Committee for the remainder of the unexpired term. If there is a vacancy in a regional office when action by the regional officers is necessary, the chairman or acting chairman shall appoint some other member of the Regional Council to serve temporarily until the vacancy can be filled.

18-3-4 Only principals shall be eligible to hold office on Regional Councils.

18-4-1 Duties-The Regional Council shall determine with such appropriate resource people as it deems advisable the regional sponsored events for each school year; shall formulate and adopt, in conformity with and not in contradiction to League and group board policies and rules, such specific regulations as are deemed necessary or desirable in the conduct of the regional sponsored events; shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee for group board or Executive Committee action; and shall regulate regional sponsored events.

PM 18-4-1 REGIONAL COUNCIL DUTIES/"Recognition" of VHSL Activity (2-91)-If a region holds a championship in a particular sport not covered by the *Handbook*, it may request *Handbook* provisions for that sport.

18-4-2 Regional Calendar of Events-Not later than September 1, November 1 and March 1 of each school year, each regional secretary shall send to the League office a report giving the dates of fall, winter and spring regional sponsored events, respectively. The report shall include the names of the places where the events are to be held and the names of the persons who should be contacted as directors or managers of the events.

18-4-3 Regional Council Minutes-Each Regional Council shall forward a complete copy of its minutes to all regional schools, its division superintendents and the Executive Director.

18-4-4 Optional Duties-Optional duties as determined by two-thirds support of the Regional Council may include: development of regional master sports schedules, negotiation and monitoring of sports officials' contracts, establishment of regional admission and pass policies and provision of financial assistance of teams advancing to state competition. A Regional Council may refuse permission to advance to regional competition for any school that does not abide by regional decisions.

18-4-5 Event Postponement Policy-It is recommended that each Regional Council set its postponement policy for make-up games/contests in each sponsored sport.

18-5-1 Meetings-The Regional Council shall meet on call of the regional chairman in August, September or October to establish the regional program for the year, and shall meet again not later than February to review the program at mid-year and to transact such other business as may properly come before it. The council may meet at other times on call of the regional officers.

PM 18-5-1 Public Meetings (9-78)-Each VHSL district and regional council is required to hold at least one announced public meeting each year to receive citizen input.

18-6-1 Finances-Regional Councils shall defray the expenses of conducting the regional program through the councils' portion of funds realized from those regional activities that are more than self sustaining. The Regional Council is authorized to distribute any designated surplus funds to the schools comprising the region.

SECTION 21: DISTRICT COUNCILS.

21-1-1 Purpose-A District Council shall be organized within each district to provide for the conduct of the League program within the district. In the case of combination districts that include schools of more than one classification, the combination district shall be responsible for developing policies and procedures that address membership duties, officers, meetings, voting procedures, finances, eligibility for competitive honors and district representation in regional competition. Such policies and procedures shall be subject to Executive Committee approval.

21-2-1 Membership-Each District Council shall be composed of the principals of the member schools within the district. When a principal of the district is unable to attend a District Council meeting, he/she may designate an alternate to represent his/her school at the meeting. Such alternate shall be chosen by the principal from among the members of the staff or faculty of his/her school. No alternate may be an officer of the district.

21-3-1 Duties-The District Council shall determine the district program for each school year; shall formulate and adopt, in conformity with and not in contradiction to League and group board policies and rules, such specific regulations as are deemed necessary or desirable in the conduct of the district program; shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee for group board or Executive Committee action; and shall generally regulate district affairs. Not later than September 1, November 1 and March 1 of each school year, each District Council shall send to the League office a report giving the dates of all fall, winter and spring district sponsored events, respectively. The report shall include the names of the places where the events are to be held and the names of the persons who should be contacted as directors or managers of the events. Each District Council shall forward a complete copy of its minutes to all district schools, its division superintendents and the Executive Director.

PM 21-3-1 Broadcast/Telecast Fees-Any fees for district broadcasts or telecasts of any event will be set by the appropriate district council.

PM 21-3-1 Discipline Against Individuals (1-71)-Since schools (not individuals) join the League, any punitive action taken shall be against the school rather than against an individual. On the other hand a member school can readily be advised that failure on its part to take action against employees or students can result in the entire school being penalized for the failure of one or more individuals.

PM 21-3-1 Crowd Control (5-72)-For district events, the appropriate district council has the same responsibility for crowd control as a school hosting a game during the regular season.

21-3-2 Under authority granted in 21-3-1, District Councils are authorized to establish policies which in effect make regulations governing the district more restrictive than the state regulations, but do not have the authority to alter the official game rules for any varsity sport except as provided in 54-1-1 of this *Handbook*. Within this authority, District Councils are authorized to set season dates which shorten established League policies in connection with the season dates but not to set dates which would either lengthen seasons or cause them to start earlier or close later.

21-3-3 It is recommended that each District Council set its postponement policy for make-up games/contests in each sponsored sport.

21-4-1 Officers-At its last regular meeting of the school year, the District Council shall elect from its members a district chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. The chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of each district, in addition to serving the council, shall constitute the District Committee. These officers shall be elected for terms of two years, and the chairman and secretary shall serve concurrent terms.

21-4-2 In the event the office of district chairman is vacated for any reason before the term has been completed, the following order of succession as acting chairman shall apply: vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer. The temporary successions shall prevail only until the next meeting of the District Council, which shall then fill the vacancy in any office for the remainder of the unexpired term. If there is a vacancy in a district office when action by the District Committee is necessary, the chairman or acting chairman shall appoint some other member of the District Council to serve temporarily until the vacancy can be filled.

21-4-3 No district officer may be elected to succeed himself/herself in a particular office for more than one additional term or a total of four consecutive years. The normal term of office for district officers shall begin July 1 and run through June 30 of the appropriate years.

21-5-1 Duties of District Officers-Duties of individual district officers shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

21-5-2 District Chairman-The district chairman shall be the executive officer of the district and shall exercise general supervision over the district program, with the advice and assistance of the other district officers and in accordance with the expressed wishes of the District Council. He/she shall call and preside over all meetings of the District Council and the District Committee. He/she shall serve as the liaison between the League office and the district and shall cooperate with the Executive Director in the administration of district affairs.

21-5-3 District Vice-Chairman-The district vice-chairman shall assist the chairman and in his/her absence or disability shall perform all the duties of the chairman.

21-5-4 District Secretary-The district secretary shall have the following duties:

(1) He/she shall take the minutes of all meetings of the District Council and the District Committee, and within five days after each such meeting he/she shall forward to all district

schools, all division superintendents of schools within that district and the Executive Director a complete copy of the minutes thereof, including results of elections and date and locations of subsequent meetings. He/she shall also be responsible for submitting to the League office all seasonal reports on district events as required under 21-3-1.

(2) He/she shall record and forward to the Executive Director the winners of all district championships.

(3) In the absence or disability of both the district chairman and the district vice-chairman, he/she shall perform their duties.

(4) He/she shall prepare a written report, including a digest of the pertinent facts of the decision of the District Committee (or District Council) in each case of a protest, rules violation or rules interpretation, and shall within 48 hours after such decision send copies of the report to all member schools in his/her district and to the Executive Director of the League. In each case in which disciplinary action is taken or a penalty is imposed, the district secretary shall also send copies to the state superintendent of public instruction and to the appropriate division superintendents of schools, as prescribed in Section 32-2-1 (2).

21-5-5 District Treasurer-He/she shall submit an annual report to the District Council at its September meeting and shall at that time, in the appropriate year, turn over to his/her successor all district funds in his/her custody.

21-6-1 Meetings-The District Council shall meet on call of the district chairman in August, September or October to establish the district program for the year and shall meet again not later than February to review the program at midyear and to transact such other business as may properly come before it. The council may meet at other times on call of the District Committee.

21-7-1 Voting Procedure-Each member school of the District Council shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy shall be prohibited. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the total membership of the council.

21-8-1 Finances-District Councils shall be empowered to assess member schools to defray the expenses of conducting the district program. All revenue generated by district activities shall be utilized or distributed as directed by the appropriate District Council.

21-9-1 Eligibility for Competitive Honors-Upon being assigned or transferred to a district for the first time, a school shall become immediately eligible for district competitive honors in all activities, provided that the school, for all activities sponsored by the school, has exerted all reasonable efforts to meet district requirements for championships, and provided further that the school is not under a current penalty imposed by the League.

SECTION 22: DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

22-1-1 Purpose-A District Committee shall be constituted within each district to exercise the executive and judicial functions of the District Council.

22-2-1 Membership-The District Committee shall consist of the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the District Council.

22-2-2 In case the District Committee is faced with a decision on a matter involving the school represented by a member of the committee, that particular member shall excuse himself/herself from service on the matter and the chairman shall appoint another member of the District Council to serve in place of that particular member. If the chairman's school is involved, he/she shall appoint another member of the District Council to serve in his/her place on the District Committee and the vice-chairman shall serve as chairman of the committee, and in case both the chairman and the vice-chairman are involved in the matter, the district chairman shall appoint two members of the District Council to serve in the two places and the secretary shall act as chairman.

22-3-1 Duties-The District Committee shall be responsible for the planning and supervising of the League program within the district, including meets and tournaments. It shall be charged with the enforcement, within the district, of League, group board and district policies, rules and regulations. The committee shall consult the Executive Director or, in his/her absence, an assistant director for counseling in interpreting League policies, rules and regulations for schools in the district. It shall adjudicate, insofar as possible, all disagreements and protests arising from the conduct of the district program. It shall refer those which relate to the Sportsmanship Rule and other districts or groups to the League office for disposition. It shall have authority to impose penalties for violations of League rules and regulations, including the penalties of warning, probation, suspension and payment of a fine, but may, if it so elects, refer violations to the District Council for action.

SECTION 23: AMENDMENTS.

23-1-1 Amendments-The Executive Committee may amend the By-Laws of the League and any other provision of the *Handbook* by means of the processes set forth in this section. The title pages, preface, table of contents, synopsis of changes, sections one through four and the index of the *Handbook* may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

(1) The full amendment process timeline can be found on the VHSL website (About VHSL/Executive Committee).

23-2-1 Proposing Amendments-Principals of member schools, District Committees, District Councils, Regional Councils, Group Boards, advisory committees, members of the Executive Committee and special study committees appointed by the chairman of the Executive Committee may propose amendments by presenting them in writing on the prescribed form, to the Executive Director, at least one month prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee. Proposed amendments may be delivered to the Executive Director before each meeting of the Executive Committee except the last meeting of the year for consideration for the following school year. Proposed amendments must state precisely and in the exact language the change proposed. The Executive Committee may propose amendments at any time.

23-3-1 Amending Processes-The Executive Committee may adopt proposed amendments to all sections of the *Handbook* other than the title pages, preface, table of contents, synopsis of changes, sections one through four and the index by the following two-vote process.

(1) The proposed amendment shall be considered and may be approved, with or without amendments, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at any meeting. Following its first vote, the Executive Committee shall present to the membership the recorded vote on each proposed amendment with a notation of (1) Recommended, (2) Not Recommended or (3) No Action, together with a statement of the Executive Committee's reasons for the notation, if necessary.

(2) To become effective, proposed amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds vote at the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee during the legislative year. Proposed amendments not approved on second vote shall be null and void. Following its second vote, the Executive Committee shall present to the membership the recorded vote on each proposed amendment with a notation of (1) Approved or (2) Defeated, together with a statement of the Executive Committee's reasons for the notation, if necessary. The final disposition of all proposed legislation will be reported to the membership at or before the Annual Meeting or special called meeting at which Executive Committee action may be reviewed.

23-4-1 Emergency Amendments-The Executive Committee may declare a proposed amendment to be an emergency amendment requiring prompt action. Such emergency amendments may be enacted by a three-fourths vote of approval by the Executive Committee at any meeting.

23-5-1 Effective Date-Proposed amendments that are finally adopted by the Executive Committee shall become effective on July 1 following their adoption, except that emergency amendments shall become effective immediately upon adoption unless the Executive Committee has incorporated into the legislation a later effective date.

23-6-1 Membership Review-By majority vote of those present at any regular or special called meeting of a group board, a group can initiate a review by the full membership of any legislative amendment adopted by the Executive Committee or of any legislative proposal submitted by members not on the Executive Committee and rejected by the Executive Committee. The membership can reverse the action of the Executive Committee by a favorable two-thirds vote of those attending the next membership meeting following Executive Committee action if there is a quorum of a majority of the total membership present. A favorable vote of one-fifth of those present may require a recorded vote.

SECTION BREAK

The following pages include information on rules and regulations. The following sections are included:

Section 26: Introduction

Section 27: School Regulations
- 27-1 All-Star Game
- 27-2 Coaches Rule
- 27-3 College Team Rule
- 27-4 Contest Limitations Rule
- 27-5 Interstate and International Competition Rule
- 27-6 Official's Rule
- 27-7 Out-of-Season Rule
- 27-8 Principal's Responsibility
- 27-9 Proselytizing Rule
- 27-10 Safety and Insurance
- 27-11 Sportsmanship Rule
- 27-12 Sports Season Rule
- 27-13 State Competition Rule
- 27-14 State Sanction Rule
- 27-15 Sunday Rule
- 27-16 Hate Speech, Ethnically or Racially Insensitive Expressions

Rules and Regulations

SECTION 26: INTRODUCTION.

26-1-1 Purpose-League rules and regulations have been developed by the principals of Virginia high schools for a period of 100 years. They establish standards for the conduct and control of desirable interscholastic activities in order to protect and preserve the educational values inherent in those activities. They provide a uniform code for individual eligibility for participation in order to equalize to some degree the opportunities for success in competition, to encourage the participation of representative students and to ensure maintenance of minimum essential standards by all school representatives.

26-2-1 Policy-League rules and regulations are published annually in the *Handbook*. The current *Handbook* is the official guide, and rules and regulations published herein supersede all previous publications. They may be amended in accordance with the provisions of Section 23.

26-2-2 Violators of the rules and regulations published in Sections 26 through 33 are subject to the penalties prescribed in Section 30, Penalties. Principals, coaches and sponsors are urged to study the rules carefully and to request an official interpretation from the District Committee or the Executive Director in cases of doubt.

26-3-1 Content-These sections cover two types of League regulations:

(1) School regulations dealing with responsibilities of the school administration, and (2) individual eligibility regulations governing student participation. The regulations are accompanied by exceptions, interpretations and explanatory notes.

26-3-2 There are thirteen individual eligibility regulations. Section A contains the first seven, which are applicable to all students who represent their schools in interscholastic contests. Section B, which contains the next six regulations, applies only to students who represent their schools in interscholastic athletic contests. Section C applies to all students.

26-3-3 Contest rules governing specific competitive activities appear in Sections 50 through 129, arranged as follows: athletic activities in Sections 50 through 99, dramatic activities in Sections 100 through 109, speech activities in Sections 110 through 119, and literary activities in Sections 120 through 129.

26-4-1 Guiding Principle-League member schools and their individual and team representatives are required to observe and comply implicitly with both the spirit and the letter of all League rules and regulations in those interscholastic activities regulated by Sections 50 through 129 of this *Handbook* and in those activities sponsored by a district or a region. These rules and regulations are applicable to all who represent their schools in VHSL, Inc. sponsored interscholastic competition, whether individual or team, whether varsity, junior varsity or reserve.

SECTION 27: SCHOOL REGULATIONS.

Member schools shall observe the following regulations in those interscholastic activities regulated by Sections 50 through 129 of this *Handbook* and in those activities sponsored by a district or a region:

27-1-1 ALL-STAR GAME RULE-*No official or representative of a member school shall participate, either directly or indirectly, in the promotion, management, supervision, player selection, coaching or officiating of any contest involving so-called all-star high school teams or squads; nor shall any member permit any personnel or expendable equipment under its control to be used in such a contest. Facilities may be used only under specific action of a school board. (See also 28B-1-1 through 28B-1-4)*

27-1-2 Exceptions:

(1) All-Star Contests conducted by the Virginia High School Coaches Association.

(2) The principal may grant permission for a member of the school staff to participate in an all-star contest when he/she determines that such participation is in the best interests of the high school athletes involved in the contest.

27-2-1 COACHES RULE-*All coaches and sponsors of League activities, both athletic and nonathletic, shall be certified teachers regularly employed by the school board and responsible to the school principal. They shall have not less than three regular periods of classes or study hall duty per day.*

27-2-2 Exceptions:

(1) Students in training at institutions of higher learning.

(2) Principals, assistant principals or other members of the school division's instructional or administrative staff with duties comparable to those of teachers carrying three regular periods of classes.

(3) Retired Virginia teachers or administrators as approved by the division superintendent.

(4) Persons approved by the Executive Director upon written certification from the principal and division superintendent. Approval shall be contingent upon written notification from the school principal that the non-faculty coach will be apprised of all VHSL eligibility requirements for participants and any League policies pertaining to his/her sport prior to assuming duties.

(5) Instructional or administrative aides employed full-time within the same school division.

27-2-3 Interpretations:

(1) This rule bars special coaches or sponsors of an activity who are not employed to serve in any other capacity or who are employed during the season in the activity only, unless they are exempted under 27-2-2 (4) of this rule. It is not intended to bar assistants for whose services no recompense is given, either directly or indirectly, from any source, provided that such services are rendered only at practice sessions under the supervision of a regular faculty member.

(2) Duties after school hours, such as athletic coaching, shall not be counted as one or more of the three regular periods of classes or study hall duty required per day.

PM 27-2-3 (3) COACHES RULE/Interpretation-A VHSL registered coach is one who (1) through a special request by the school principal and division superintendent has been registered with the VHSL Executive Director for one sport season; (2) has been apprised of the VHSL rules pertaining to the specific sport/activity; and (3) has full coaching status as determined by the local school board. A volunteer coach is one who (1) does not meet any of the VHSL Coaches Rule criteria; (2) is not registered with VHSL; (3) is not allowed to be on the team bench, sidelines, in the press box, in the locker room or involved in any way during any VHSL contest; and (4) is allowed to help the coach or team during practice sessions.

27-2-4 State Clinic Attendance Requirement-Any school sponsoring an interscholastic activity in any of the following sports or academic areas shall require the head coach of that activity's coaching staff to complete a VHSL sponsored rules clinic for that activity in each year that one is offered: Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheer, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Girls Gymnastics, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Softball, Boys Swim and Dive, Girls Swim and Dive, Boys Track, Girls Track, Boys Volleyball, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling, Theatre, Speech, Debate, Scholastic Bowl, Film Festival, Esports, Magazine, Newspaper/Newsmagazine, Yearbook, Broadcast and Online Newspaper. Failure to complete will result in a penalty as stated in 30-5-1.

PM 27-2-4 COACHES RULE/Cheerleading (3-05)-Head coaches of both sideline and competitive cheer squads are required to complete VHSL-sponsored rules clinics.

27-2-5 First-Time Coaches Education Requirement-All first-time athletic coaches (an athletic coach hired at a VHSL member school that has not previously coached at a member school) at a VHSL member school and those athletic coaches who are exempted through the VHSL Coaches Rule 27-2-2(4) have one year from the date of hire in which to meet the coach's education requirement. Evidence of completion shall be submitted to the school's Activities Director.

This requirement consists of:

1. Principles of Coaching:
   - VHSL: Foundations for Coaching in all Three Dimensions (3D Institute), or
   - Fundamentals of coaching (NFHS), or
   - Coaching Orientation (Human Kinetics).
2. State Knowledge Requirement: The VHSL Component familiarizes the coach with the Virginia High School League's expectations of coaches as well as basic rules and principles of the organization.
3. Local Knowledge Requirement: The local component that familiarizes the coach with rules, regulations, and expectations of the local school and/or school division. The local component shall be administered by the local school and/or school division.
4. Child Abuse Recognition and Prevention: A child abuse recognition and intervention course that meets Virginia Board of Education approved guidelines.
5. CPR and AED: Provides evidence of certification or training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED).
6. Emergency First Aid: Provides evidence of certification or training in emergency or sports first aid.
7. Concussion Education per the Code of Virginia.

27-2-6 Coaches Education Requirement for Established Coaches-An established coach is defined as one who has worked as a coach at a VHSL member school for at least one year AND has completed the requirements outlined for new coaches. An established coach must recertify every 10 years by completing 10 hours of continuing education. The 10-year period begins on the one-year anniversary of the date of hire. The VHSL website outlines acceptable/approved continuing education opportunities.

27-2-7 Every year prior to the first practice for all coaches of VHSL fall, winter and spring sports teams, these individuals must take a recognized course providing both education and prevention regarding concussion as it relates to high school activities.

27-2-8 All first-time academic activity coaches at a VHSL member school and those athletic coaches who are exempted through the VHSL Coaches Rule 27-2-2(4) have one year from the date of hire to complete the following requirements:

1. Child Abuse Recognition and Prevention
2. CPR and AED
3. Emergency First Aid

27-2-9 Penalty for not completing coaching education requirements:

1. $300 - The participation of a coach who does not complete the required coach's education, child abuse, CPR and AED in the prescribed time.
2. $100 - Failure to submit/update Coaches Eligibility Form (CEF) prior to deadline in rSchool.

27-2-9 Penalty-The participation of a coach who does not complete the required coaches education, child abuse, CPR and AED in the prescribed time shall constitute a $300.00 fine to the school.

27-3-1 COLLEGE TEAM RULE- *Member schools are permitted to schedule and play games or meets against college teams of below varsity level in sports other than football.*

27-4-1 CONTEST LIMITATION RULE-*No member school may permit its athletes or teams to compete in more than the total number of regular season interscholastic contests, meets or tournaments specified in 54-3-1 of this* Handbook *for each sport either on the varsity or subvarsity level. No athlete may participate on two levels of competition in any sport on the same day. A student participating in two levels of competition on the same day is ineligible in the second competition and appropriate penalties will be assessed. Students in the eighth grade may participate in competition of less than varsity level.*

27-4-2 Interpretation:

(1) The varsity squad is the selected first team or the one which represents the particular school when contests are arranged without designation as to the use of all eligibles.

(2) Players who engage in junior-varsity contests shall be included on eligibility lists and must be eligible in every respect. Players eligible only for junior-varsity competition shall be added to the eligibility list under a heading entitled: Eligible for junior-varsity only.

(3) Participation means actual play in a game and does not refer to the act of being "dressed" for the game or sitting on the bench.

27-5-1 INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND SANCTIONING RULE-*No member school shall engage in athletic competition:*

(1) With any school outside of the state which is not a regular or affiliated member in good standing of its home state high school association.

(2) In any interstate meet or tournament in which three or more schools participate unless such event has been sanctioned by all interested state high school associations.

(3) In any interstate meet or tournament in which four or more schools participate, in any interstate competition which involves schools from three or more state high school associations or in any interstate competition involving two or more schools which is sponsored by an individual or an organization other than a member school unless such event has been sanctioned by all interested state high school associations through the National Federation of State High School Associations.

(4) In international contest unless it has been sanctioned by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Note: Forms on which to make application for sanction of an interstate meet or tournament, or of a distant interstate game, will be supplied by the League Office upon request.

27-6-1 OFFICIALS RULE-*Officials for all League athletic contests shall be registered with the League. Officials for varsity and junior varsity baseball, basketball, cheer, field hockey, football, girls gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball, wrestling, and either the starter or the referee in outdoor track shall be on the authorized officials' list of the assistant director. Administrative details of officials registration, classification and other regulations are included in the Virginia High School League, Inc.* Official's Handbook*, available on request. This* Official's Handbook *is an extension of the VHSL* Handbook*, and its policies are binding upon member schools.*

Note: It is recommended that principals or their authorized representatives take steps to ensure that the most competent officials available are obtained. It is suggested that officials be especially requested to enforce the playing rules strictly and impartially, penalizing promptly all unnecessary roughness or unsportsmanlike conduct and administering the rules in an impersonal and effective manner. Officials must understand that the coach, if properly recognized, is entitled to question decisions based upon interpretations of playing rules.

(1) Districts and Regions may use associations serving three or more VHSL schools' varsity schedules. Only those associations serving six or more VHSL schools' varsity schedules may officiate state level contests.

(2) Districts shall meet with each of their officials' associations at least once every two years to review appropriate concerns and policies.

(3) Neither League districts nor local officials' associations may make regulations concerning fees, travel allowances or working conditions which change existing understandings until there has been an opportunity for mutual consultation and agreement. Districts and associations should appoint either mutual consultation committees or representatives to meet with the other when consideration is being given to problems affecting the two groups. Agreements on fees, procedures and policies should be made for a specific period of time (example-3 years). It is recommended that schools, districts and/or regions enter into written agreements (contracts) with chosen officials associations.

(4) Only officials associations recognized by the VHSL and listed in the VHSL Directory are eligible to work playoff or tournament contests at any level.

PM 27-6-1 OFFICIALS RULE/School Notification-A list of officials, by VHSL classification within each officials association, will be made available for each sport during that sport's season. An official's classification is based on registration, exam score and state rules clinic attendance.

27-6-2 Interpretations:

(1) A principal or principals may request prior to the season that certain officials be eliminated (scratched) from working his/her contests provided that he/she makes his/her "scratches" by the procedures agreed upon by the local officials associations and the schools or districts involved. Additional "scratches" after the season begins will be permitted only if requested by the principal of one of the schools involved.

(2) A coach or student may not officiate in contests in which students from his/her school may be participants except by mutual consent in writing and signed by all coaches concerned. This interpretation does not apply to track.

(3) A member school principal or their designee may in an emergency employ a non-registered official provided that a registered official was employed and failed to be present or when, in the judgment of the home school administrator, no registered official is available and the emergency official is mutually acceptable to all teams involved, and the home school principal or their designee writes a full explanation of the case and within three days after the contest sends the explanation to the Executive Director and to the district chairman.

(4) Complaints by officials regarding sportsmanship or other incidents must be filed within two business days in a report to the schools involved, the officials' association commissioner and the League office.

27-6-3 Use of non-registered officials will result in a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

PM 27-6-4 OFFICIALS RULE/Registration Fees (5-02)-Fees include liability insurance protection. Please see the VHSL website for a listing of approved fees.

27-7-1 OUT-OF-SEASON PRACTICE RULE-*All VHSL member school sponsored athletic teams are restricted from organized activities during designated "dead periods." Out-of-season dead periods shall be 15-day periods beginning with the first permissible practice date of a sports season as published in the VHSL Calendar. A summer "dead period" for all athletic*

teams shall be for two weeks from Sunday through Saturday, beginning with the week prior (Week 51 or Week 52 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar) to the week containing July 4th (Week 52 or Week 1 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar). During dead periods, no coaching, observing or contact between a coach(s) or player(s) may occur in the VHSL member school sponsored athletic team or activity involved. There may be no VHSL member school sponsored practice, open facilities, weight training/conditioning, out of season league(s) or member school sponsored clinics/camps. Nothing in this rule prohibits players from serving as counselors for camps designed for students in grades K-8 and operated by the school or outside entity. Outside of dead periods, all VHSL member school sponsored activities may occur on any day except Sundays. Team vs. team competition may occur only in camps or leagues. Schools, districts and/or regions may impose more restrictive guidelines. VHSL catastrophic insurance does not cover any out-of-season activities. Out of season participation shall not be mandated of any student.

Camps (clinics):

1. Team, individual, or specialized camps: Camps organized by a University, College, or outside entities (including any organization or booster club associated with the school) are allowed.
2. Any school attending or participating in a camp other than those organized and run by a University or College require approval by the VHSL.
3. Participation in team camps may not exceed 10 days in one school year (July 1 – June 30).
4. The VHSL catastrophic insurance does not cover students participating in camps.
5. Schools may participate in college or university camps during dead periods.
6. All equipment appropriate for a sport is allowable.
7. Camps sponsored by an outside entity must have a minimum of three teams.
8. Players may serve as counselors at individual or specialized camps designed for students in grades K-8 during dead periods.

Leagues:

1. Leagues can be organized and run by an outside entity or a member school (including any organization or booster club associated with the school).
2. Schools participating in leagues must follow all school/division policies on participation, coaching, facility use, and equipment.
3. Participation may not exceed 10 days in one school year (July 1 – June 30) and is not allowed during dead periods.
4. School uniforms may not be worn during participation in leagues.
5. The VHSL catastrophic insurance does not cover students participating in Leagues.
6. Leagues sponsored by an outside entity must have a minimum of three teams.
7. Students participating in Leagues must be bona fide students of the member school they represent. Any team that competes with a student who is not a bona fide student at that member school will be in violation of the Proselytizing Rule (27-9-1) which will make the team ineligible for post-season play during school year and the coach can be suspended for a period of time up to one year (27-11-12(1))

27-7-2 For the Sunday Rule and its exceptions refer to 27-15-1 and 27-15-2.

27-7-3 Penalty: Any school adjudged guilty of violating the Out-of-Season Practice Rule shall be subject to a fine as stated in 30-5-1 and such disciplinary action, including ineligibility for district championships, as the appropriate district committee, interdistrict committee or VHSL Executive Director may impose.

27-8-1 PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSIBILITY RULE-*Final authority and ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to interscholastic activities of each school, both athletic and nonathletic, shall be vested in the principal who acts under authority granted by the division superintendent of schools. The principal's responsibilities shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:*

27-8-2 Control:

(1) The principal shall exercise control over all interscholastic contests in which his/her school engages. It is his/her responsibility, as well as that of his/her coaches, faculty members and all representatives of his/her school, to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship in all interscholastic relationships with visiting coaches and official representatives, contest officials, visiting contestants and the general public, as well as to expect a sportsmanlike attitude toward visitors on the part of his/her school and community.

(2) The principal shall seek by every reasonable means at his/her command to prevent the development of riots, fights, pilfering, defacement or destruction of property, or any other unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with contests with other schools, on the part of his/her students or the supporters or partisans of his/her school.

(3) Each school of this organization is responsible for the eligibility of its own students in carrying on an interscholastic program. If the principal of a member school has a question about the eligibility of a student of another school, he/she shall direct it to the principal of the other school, the district chairman of the questioned school or the Executive Director for clarification. In taking such action, the first principal is not casting reflection upon the other school's adherence to eligibility regulations, but is acting in the best interest of the League. If, however, he/she has certain knowledge of a violation, he/she is obligated to report it as specified in Section 29, Reporting Violations.

27-8-3 Finances-The principal shall exercise control over all finances involved in the interscholastic activities program and not otherwise controlled by the school board.

27-8-4 Contests-The principal shall approve all contests in which representatives of his/her school participate. No agreement to engage in any contest shall be binding unless approved by the principal.

27-8-5 Contracts:

(1)The principal shall sign all contracts to engage in interscholastic athletic contests, unless he/she has designated in writing a member of his/her faculty as his/her proxy, in which case the proxy's signature on the contract shall be binding. Students' signatures to contracts will *not* be binding.

(2) The Contract for Interscholastic Athletic Contests is recommended for all interscholastic athletic contests. These forms should be prepared in duplicate and exchanged by competing schools. Principals of schools may, by mutual consent given in writing, cancel any contract upon which they have entered. Should a school fail to fulfill its contract for reasons within its control, the District Committee may declare the contest forfeited by the offending school. The offended school may, if it so desires, appeal to the District Committee for further redress if the contract was executed on the League standard contract form. Only a contract executed on the standard League form, and no verbal contract, will be considered through protest channels by any District Committee.

(3) Unless otherwise specified in the contract, athletic contests between schools shall be considered to be between the strongest representative teams of those schools on that day. When a school has two or more teams competing on the same day in the same activity, one shall be clearly designated in the contract as the first or varsity team.

(4) Principals are expected to act without delay upon contracts presented for their signature. The home school should prepare and sign the contracts in duplicate and send them to the principal of the visiting school for signature. Principals should make reasonable efforts to regain possession of contracts which have not been returned promptly before entering into agreement with other schools for contests on the same dates.

27-8-6 Master Eligibility List:

(1) The principal or their designee shall certify the eligibility of all athletic and VHSL activities contestants representing his/her school.

(2) Master Eligibility Lists (MEL) are required even though a school participates in only one game or meet during a sports or activities season. A separate list shall be prepared for each sport / activity. If a school sponsors a separate sports team for boys and girls, the principal shall file two Master Eligibility Lists, one for the boys team and one for the girls team. If a school sponsors one team composed of members of both sexes, the principal shall file one list and designate the team as a boys team on the Master Eligibility List.

(3) Copies of each sport and activity Master Eligibility List (MEL) must be completed using the rSchool platform at least one day before the first allowable contest date. The MEL should be accessible to the Executive Director and provided to the principal of every school listed on the individual school schedules in that sport at least one day before the first contest. A copy of the original MEL, signed by the principal, shall be kept on file at the sending school. The principal shall be responsible for keeping all recipients of the original list informed as to subsequent changes in the master list. Since the principal is held strictly accountable for the accuracy of lists submitted by his/her school, he/she should check carefully the eligibility of each student whom he/she certifies. Failure to complete the MEL and meet the deadlines for MELs will result in a fine as stated in 30-5-1, including penalties for playing an ineligible player as stated in 30-5-1 (1) Specific Penalties.

(4) Any transfer student who is to be certified for participation must have an official transcript of record or other written evidence on file in the school to which he/she transfers.

(5) The principal or his/her designee shall, when so requested, furnish such additional information to the District Committee as may be required to determine the eligibility or ineligibility of a student in his/her school.

PM 27-8-6 PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSIBILITY RULE/Activities (9-93)-MELs are required for non-athletic VHSL participants in debate, speech, theatre festival, esports, film, and scholastic bowl, but not for publications staffs and creative writing.

27-8-7 Interpretations:

(1) The "day of the first contest" is the day on which a team representing the school plays another team. Whether or not the game counts in district competition is not a factor in making this determination.

(2) The date of birth and the date of entry into the ninth grade or the year immediately following the passing of five eighth-grade subjects (see *Note* following 28A-4-3 by an eighth grade student who reached the age of fifteen on or before the first day of October, as reported on the Master Eligibility List on which a student appears for the first time, will be considered controlling and may not be changed in later lists for the same year or later years except when specifically authorized by the Executive Director to correct any error. It is recommended that a new principal or their designee, before certifying a Master Eligibility List, verify the information given by checking it with lists previously submitted.

(3) The Handbook citation for any individual eligibility requirement must be accurately entered on the Master Eligibility List (e.g., 27A-7-2 (4)). Failure to comply with the regulation requiring the preparation, completion, and submission of Master Eligibility List will result in an automatic fine as stated in 30-5-1, for late submission and for playing an ineligible student-athlete (30-5-1 (1) Specific Penalties).

Note: During the semester eligibility check, electronic changes should be made to the MEL in the rSchool platform and provided to the remaining schools listed on the individual school schedules in that sport at least one day before the opening date of the new semester's contest.

(4) Failure to comply with the provisions of this regulation requiring the preparation and submission of eligibility lists will result in an automatic fine as stated in 30-5-1.

Note: If it should prove impossible at mid-year to send changes in an eligibility list at least one day before the first contest, a school will be considered to have met the requirements of this rule if copies of the subsequent changes in the original list are mailed to the Executive Director at the opening of the spring semester and if a copy is delivered to the next school on the schedule either before the contest or at the time of the contest.

PM 27-8-7 PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSIBILITY RULE/ Master Eligibility Lists (9-77)-To correct the birth date or any other information of a student reported on a Master Eligibility List, the principal must notify the Executive Director and have any vital records available upon request (e.g. birth certificate).

27-8-8 Accompanying Teams-The principal, or his/her authorized representative chosen from the faculty of a member school, shall accompany all groups representing his/her school in any interscholastic activity, and shall be responsible for the conduct of all students under his/her charge during that activity.

27-8-9 Local Rules-The principal shall be authorized to make and enforce any local rule supplementary to League rules and regulations, but not inconsistent with them. The authority of a principal to impose and enforce such local rules is absolute and will not be subject to League review. The League will not question the right of any principal to exclude any student in his/her school from participation in any League activity at any time.

27-8-10 State Area Meetings Attendance Requirement-In order to assist school principals and staffs in a better understanding of VHSL rules and regulations, the League shall conduct regular area meetings to review key policies and clarify the responsibility of administrators and coaches. The principal or his/her representative designated in writing shall be required to attend one of these area meetings each year they are conducted.

27-8-11 State Area Meetings Attendance Requirement Interpretations:

(1) The principal may delegate the exercise of his/her responsibilities under this rule to one or more faculty representative(s), but he/she himself/herself will be held responsible by the League for the observance of all provisions of this rule.

(2) The word "principal," as used in this rule, refers to the high school principal or their designee, or to the division superintendent of schools in those cases in which the superintendent performs the duties of the principal or their designee.

27-8-12 State Area Meetings Attendance Requirement Penalty-The school shall be assessed a fine as stated in 30-5-1 if it fails to have a representative attend a VHSL State Area Meeting.

27-8-13 Requirement for VHSL Directory Information-Schools who do not provide updated school information on the designated School Directory site of the VHSL, by September 1 of each year, will be ineligible to receive school Administrator's Passes until information is updated.

27-9-1 PROSELYTIZING RULE-*No member school or group of individuals representing the school shall subject a student from another school to undue influence by encouraging him/her to transfer from one school to another for League activities.*

27-9-2 Interpretation: The Executive Director (or designee), or appropriate District Committee, shall decide what constitutes undue influence on the basis of the evidence presented in each case. Undue influence has generally been interpreted to mean an act by any person or group connected with the school or not connected with a school to persuade a student to enroll in a school outside the areas in which he/she resides or persuade his/her parents or guardian to move to the areas of another school. Some specific examples of undue influence are:

(1) Being asked to move by a member of the school faculty.

(2) Being asked to move by a booster organization or a member of such an organization.

(3) Being given tuition, free text books, allowance for transportation or consideration not afforded other students, athletic or nonathletic.

(4) Any other evidence that a transfer or enrollment was made because of athletic ability.

(5) Allowing a student who is not a bona fide student at that member school to participate in any type of in-season, out-of-season practice, workout, open gym, or league play representing that school.

(6) Any member of the coaching staff having conversation(s) with a parent or student concerning joining a team at the member school prior to the student being a bona fide student at that member school.

27-9-3 Penalty: Any school bringing such undue influence to bear upon a student through any individual connected with the school, either directly or indirectly, shall be a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule, 27-11-8 (2), and will be referred to a Sportsmanship Violation Committee.

27-10-1 SAFETY AND INSURANCE-*One of the primary objectives of the League is to provide a safe, healthy environment in which students may experience wholesome, enriching athletic competition. In order to meet this objective, schools are encouraged to observe the following guidelines:*

(1) Conduct a preseason safety meeting in all sports for parents and players.

(2) Ensure adequate physical examination and conditioning of all athletes, stressing proper diet, adequate rest and physical conditioning including heat acclimation.

(3) Allow only properly fitted and inspected player equipment to be used and guarantee that playing facilities are maintained to meet safe standards.

(4) Emphasize that proper techniques are taught and followed in all sports.

(5) Establish athletic emergency procedures including first aid, communication and familiarity with nearest emergency care facilities along with ways to notify/transport injured persons to those facilities.

(6) Provide certified athletic trainers.

(7) Review school's and League's insurance program to guarantee that all participants are adequately covered.

(8) Plan and implement an ongoing chemical awareness program designed to educate students and their parents concerning the harmful effects of alcohol/tobacco/drug abuse.

(9) Promote amongst their coaches and student athletes an awareness of the dangers of using steroids and other performance enhancing substances and to undertake the development of a public position against their use. Consistent with the Code of Virginia, a student who is a member of a school athletic team shall be ineligible for two years to compete in interscholastic athletics if it is determined by the school principal and division superintendent that the student used anabolic steroids during the training period immediately preceding or during the sport season of the athletic team, unless such steroid was prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition.

These suggestions serve mainly as an outline for schools to follow. Throughout the year the League will furnish to member schools additional materials, information and aids to promote the well being of the boys and girls who take part in interscholastic athletic competition.

Member schools are expected to comply with other safety related policies prescribed in this *Handbook* including but not limited to, 27-2-5, 28B-3-1 and 50-3-2 (10-12).

PM 27-10-1 (1) SAFETY/Energy Drinks (9-10)-Athletes are prohibited from consuming energy drinks during participation in VHSL practices and competitions. VHSL will issue an official warning for first violation.

a. Energy drinks shall not be used for hydration.
b. Energy drinks shall not be consumed by athletes who are dehydrated.
c. There is no regulatory control over energy drinks, thus their content and purity cannot be ensured.
d. This may lead to adverse side-effects, potentially harmful interactions with prescription medications (particularly stimulant medications used to treat ADHD), or positive drug tests.

PM 27-10-1 (2) SAFETY/Emergency Plans (3-05)-Schools are required to have an appropriate emergency action plan to address sports risks.

PM 27-10-1 (3) SAFETY/Crowd Control (5-95)-VHSL staff will prepare a Crowd Control brochure, including procedures to ensure safety of game officials. Schools which have a problem with violence or which have been sanctioned for sportsmanship violations may be required to attend a workshop conducted by the League staff. Failure to attend could result in further sanctions.

PM 27-10-1 (4) SAFETY/Infectious Disease (1-93):

INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY OF THE VHSL

The Virginia High School League Executive Committee adopted these policies on January 27, 1993, upon the recommendation of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to the League. Our goal is to minimize the possibility of transmission of any infectious disease from one athlete to another during practice or competition. The development of this policy is in keeping with the commitment of the VHSL to make athletic participation safer for the athletes in the Commonwealth of Virginia by responding to new information that suggests potential risks.

What Are Infectious Diseases? Infectious diseases are illnesses that are caused by an organism, usually a virus, bacteria, or fungus. Many of these diseases are contagious, meaning they can be spread from one person to another. For purposes of our athletes we will consider three types of contagious infectious diseases.

1. Usual viral illnesses like colds, intestinal flu viruses, and influenza are generally spread through airborne transmission of the virus or through direct contact. Hand washing and covering sneezes and coughs are considered reasonable techniques for reducing the spread of these types of illnesses. They are actually more likely to be spread in a

closed classroom than an open gym or athletic field, except for those sports with close contact like wrestling.

2. Skin lesions such as impetigo (a skin infection), athlete's foot, and non-genital Herpes can also be spread by close contact and may serve as a portal of entry of other kinds of infections. Therefore, once the infection has been treated and determined to no longer be contagious, the affected areas shall be covered during activity or participation. These skin disorders can also be harmful to the individual with skin lesions by serving as a portal of entry of other kinds of infections. Thus, again, they should be covered or participation shall not be allowed.
3. The most serious infectious and contagious diseases in question here are the blood-borne pathogens. These are spread through contact with blood (as well as other bodily fluids such as semen and vaginal fluids) and most notably include Hepatitis B and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). No reports of transmission from sweat or saliva have been reported with HIV infection. To date there have been no substantiated reports of these being transmitted through athletic participation and the risk of this happening is very low, but theoretically it is NOT ZERO. The rest of this policy is designed with HIV and Hepatitis B in mind. Proper handling of injuries where blood is present can even further reduce the very low risk of transmitting these diseases in the school and playing field arena.
4. Hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver that can vary from mild inflammation to a severe life threatening disease. AIDS is a disease of the immune system caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The individual may not develop any symptoms of disease for many years after contracting the virus. Both of these disorders are transmitted through sexual contact or exposure to infected blood or blood components.

Which sports Are Most Likely To Spread AIDS or Hepatitis B ? As stated, neither of these has been reported to have been transmitted through sports. The theoretical risk is low but would be greater where there is greater likelihood of blood and close contact. Thus, football, basketball, lacrosse, ice hockey and wrestling would be most likely to produce this environment. However, any sport could have the potential for blood exposure and thus theoretical risk for exposure.

Should Athletes All Be Tested For These Diseases? Mandatory testing has not been advocated by any medical organizations monitoring these diseases. The testing could produce a false sense of security with a negative test during the time between inoculation of an individual and the ability to recognize the presence of the virus. Thus, an individual could be contagious and still have a negative test. The screening tests are not 100% reliable and false positives and negatives have been reported. Additionally, there is concern about infringement of the individual rights and the question of what to do if a positive test is obtained. Testing is not a feasible approach to prevention, however, athletes and others involved in interscholastic athletics should have available to them information on where they may obtain private and confidential HIV counseling and testing.

If An Athlete Is Positive, Who Should Be Told and Should He/She Be Prevented From Participating In Sports? The athlete's HIV or Hepatitis B status is confidential information between patient and physician. No one else, including school officials, can be told without the individual's permission. The athlete with one of these disorders should be encouraged to chose a sport with less contact and opportunity for bleeding than wrestling, for example. The athlete should also be instructed to take proper precautions with skin lesions, bleed-

ing, etc. However, he/she cannot be forbidden from participating in whatever sport he/she desires. The decision concerning participation is a personal medical decision between the athlete and his/her physician. This recommendation could certainly change in the future if any evidence for transmission via sports is documented.

How Can We Protect Our Athletes, Trainers, and Coaches From Exposure To One Of These Blood-Borne Diseases? There is an effective and safe vaccine available for Hepatitis B. One of the targeted groups to receive this vaccine would be those where the risk of exposure to blood is increased. Any athletic trainer or coach who frequently deals with an injury with blood is at potential risk. Consideration should be given to having these individuals receive this immunization.

Blood and other bodily fluids shall be handled using "Universal precautions" as is done in all hospitals and most other health care facilities. This procedure is outlined below. This is the safest approach as one uses techniques that would be preventive in all patients whether or not they have a disease.

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY COACHES, TRAINERS AND OFFICIALS

1. A student-athlete should render first-aid to himself and cover his own wounds whenever possible. This reduces the risk of transmission from blood-borne pathogen from one person to another.
2. If a bleeding wound occurs, the individual's participation shall be interrupted until the bleeding has been stopped and the wound is both cleansed with antiseptic and covered securely or occluded. If bleeding resumes, the practice or contest must be stopped again until bleeding is stopped and contaminated surfaces are cleaned. It is up to the discretion of the official in charge of the competition as to how many times the competition shall be stopped due to an athlete's bleeding before disqualification occurs.
3. Skin exposed to blood or other body fluids contaminated with blood should be cleaned as promptly as is practical, preferably with soap and warm water. Skin antiseptics (e.g. alcohol) or moist towelettes may be used if soap and water are not available.
4. Disposable, nonlatex gloves shall be available for staff to use when handling blood or other body fluids. Gloves are especially important to individuals with non-intact skin. Hands should be washed after glove removal. If gloves are not available, a bulky towel may be used to cover the wound until an off-the-field location is reached where gloves can be used during more definitive treatment. Disposable towels should be used in all clean up. Towels, protective gloves and other materials used in cleanup, as well as any cotton used to stem bleeding, shall be placed in a container lined with a plastic bag.
5. If blood or blood-contaminated bodily fluids are present on a surface, the object should be cleansed with fresh household bleach solution made for that event by adding one part bleach to 100 parts water (1/4 cup bleach to one gallon water; or one tablespoon bleach to one quart water). Surfaces such as floors or wrestling mats shall be cleaned, rinsed and allowed to dry before resuming action. This solution should be made fresh daily when needed.
6. If any blood gets on an opponent's uniform during competition or on a teammate's uniform during practice, it is necessary to clean the uniform at that point by wiping with a disinfectant such as isopropyl alcohol. This shall be done whether or not the opponent or teammate has an open cut or unskinned area on his/her body, or whether or not the

blood is on part of the uniform which might come in contact with another individual. If there is a substantial saturation of the uniform with blood such that it is dripping, rubs off easily, or drips if squeezed, the uniform must be changed.

7. All soiled linen such as uniforms and towels should be placed in plastic bags and washed in hot soapy water. Any detergent that contains bleach is appropriate.
8. All coaches, officials and student athletes should practice good hygiene. Towels, cups and water bottles should not be shared. Also, student-athletes should take a shower using a liberal amount of soap and hot water after each practice and competition.
9. It is the responsibility of each school to provide for its respective team members paper towels, appropriate cleaning solutions, plastic bags, gloves and any other first aid materials necessary to comply with these regulations.

PM 27-10-1 (5) SAFETY/Tobacco, E-cigarettes or Vaping Use (3-02)-The use of tobacco, e-cigarettes or vaping products by student participants, coaches and underage fans is prohibited at any VHSL-sponsored or sanctioned event. This rule is consistent with Code of Virginia §22.1-79.5 and 22.1-79.6.

PM 27-10-1 (6) SAFETY/Steroids (9-05)-Member schools are required to develop an education program outlining the dangers of steroids for all student athletes and administer such a program at the start of each sports season.

PM 27-10-1 (7) SAFETY/Lightning Guidelines:

The following safety report was presented to the VHSL Sports Medicine Committee. VHSL has NOT adopted this report, but shares it with member schools as a matter of information.

LIGHTNING SAFETY REPORT

Developed by
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In Virginia, most thunderstorms occur in the afternoon to early evening, which coincides with the highest reported lightning casualty times of the day. The odds of being struck by lightning are extremely low over the course of a year. In fact, the odds are estimated to be 1 in 600,000. While the probability of being struck by lightning is extremely low, the odds are enormously greater when a storm is in the area and the proper safety precautions are not followed

The keys to lightning safety are education and prevention. Education begins with the background information and physics of lightning. Prevention should begin long before any athletic event. The first responsibility for scholastic coaches to heighten lightning safety is to check a weather report each day before a practice or event. In this way, scholastic athletics personnel will be aware of the possibility of storms forming or moving into the area during the day. Most electronics stores have for purchase a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio that can give weather reports or sound an alarm if the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a severe thunderstorm “watch” or “warning” for the local area. A “watch” means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an

area. A "warning" is more definitive. A "warning" simply means the NWS has reported severe weather in an area, and for everyone in that area to take the necessary precautions. Secondly, scholastic athletics personnel should be wary of the signs of thunderstorms developing nearby. Thunderstorms can become threatening in as little as half an hour. Lightning and thunder activity in the local area are the "alarms" for athletics personnel to begin monitoring thunderstorm activity, such as direction to movement and distance from the lightning flashes.

The next measure for scholastic athletics personnel is to know where the closest safe shelter is to the field or playing area, and to know how long it takes to get to that safe shelter.

Safe shelter is defined as:

- Any sturdy building normally occupied or frequently used by people. In other words, a building with metal plumbing and/or wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. A shack or metal shed is not considered a safe shelter.

- In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (not a convertible), with the windows rolled up can provide a measure of safety. Taking shelter in the proper vehicle is certainly better than remaining outdoors.

Lastly, scholastic athletics personnel should be aware of how close lightning is occurring. One myth pertaining to lightning is that lightning sometimes occurs without thunder. What most people call "heat lightning" is actually lightning from a thunderstorm too distant for the thunder to be heard. Thunder *always* accompanies lightning, even though its audible range is less than the actual distance from the observer.

1. Avoid using the locker room shower facilities for safe shelter, and **do not** use the shower or plumbing facilities.

2. Stay away from the tallest trees or lone objects (such as light poles or flagpoles), metal objects (such as metal fences or metal bleachers), individual trees, standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the highest object in a field, and **do not** take shelter under a single, tall tree. Do not remain in a boat, or swim in the open water. Pay much more attention to the lightning threat than to the rain. Lightning can strike far from the rain shaft.

3. If there is no safe shelter within a reasonable distance away, crouch in a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees, or in a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of your feet touching the ground, wrap your arms around your knees and lower your head. Minimize your body's surface area, and minimize contact with the ground. **Do not lie flat!**

4. If a person feels his or her hair stand on end, or their skin tingle, immediately crouch, as described in item 3.

5. Do not use the telephone, except in emergency situations.

6. Lightning strike victims **do not** carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. Lightning strike victims who show signs

of cardiac or respiratory arrest need prompt emergency help. Prolonged and aggressive CPR is highly effective for the survival of many victims of lightning strike.

Each school should formulate its own chain of command as to who removes a team from a field or event site in the event of dangerous lightning activity. Also, long before any hazardous lightning situation, each school should already have identified the "safe shelters" (as described earlier) at each school or competition site and make that information known to any and all local school personnel or coaches. Plan ahead, it is best to know where the safe shelters are before any dangerous lightning situations arise.

If a VHSL game or competition has been stopped due to a lightning hazard, instructions should be given to the spectators, competitors, and all personnel as to where to go and what to do until the lightning hazard has passed, or the disposition of the game or event is determined. The instructions should be disseminated to the spectators as quickly as possible and by the best means possible, i.e., the public address system. If the game or event has been postponed, spectators, competitors, and all personnel should be informed of this and encouraged to leave the event site and return safely home. The message to spectators and competitors should read:

> **ALL** spectators, competitors, and personnel should go inside the nearest school building as quickly as possible. A vehicle with a metal roof (not a convertible) and the windows rolled up is a safe alternative to a sturdy building. **DO NOT** take shelter under trees or other tall, lone objects. **DO NOT** remain on, under, or near metal bleachers or metal fences. **DO NOT** use the telephone, or the shower or plumbing facilities.
>
> Lastly, any individual who feels he or she is in danger of any lightning activity should have the right to leave the field or event site to seek safe shelter.

Guidelines on Handling Contests During Lightning Disturbances

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play;
   a. When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
   b. Thirty Minute Rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
   c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30 minute count, resets the clock and another 30 minute count shall begin.

4. Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.

For more detailed information, refer to the "Guidelines for Lightning Safety" contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine *Handbook*.

Order of Authority (5-01)

A. Parents have the ultimate authority to exclude their child from competition, but cannot overrule the exclusion requirement of a physician acting in an official capacity or a team or tournament certified trainer.
B. The coach has the authority to exclude a member of his/her team from competition, but cannot overrule the exclusion requirement of a physician acting in an official capacity or a team or tournament certified trainer.
C. A physician acting in an official capacity has the authority to exclude any competitor from competition. No one, including the team or tournament certified trainer, can overrule the physician.
D. The team or tournament certified trainer should make it clear when evaluating an injured athlete for return to competition whether he or she is recommending the athlete not return or requiring that the athlete not return. Coaches may elect to reintroduce a competitor against a recommendation but not a requirement.
E. If the team or tournament certified trainer observes an injured athlete continuing to compete against his or her requirement that the athlete not compete, the certified trainer shall notify an official that competition must be stopped until the injured athlete has left the competition.
F. In disagreements between the tournament and team certified trainers, the team certified trainer has the final authority.

PM 27-10-1 (8) SAFETY/Drones-The use of drones at VHSL sanctioned events (scrimmage, jamboree, benefit, regular and postseason) is prohibited. The temporary flight restrictions begin one hour prior to the start of the sporting event and end one hour after the sporting event has concluded.

27-10-2 Non-Sponsored Interscholastic Activities-In the belief that the best interests of both students and school personnel are served by adequate insurance coverage for co-curricular activities, the League seeks to provide a program that offers such protection for VHSL activities as defined in this *Handbook*. Some schools sponsor interscholastic sports that are not listed in the *Handbook*; students who participate in such sports are not covered by the League's insurance program without approval of the Executive Committee. Applications for approval may be requested from the League office.

Note: Coverage is not intended to replace any present school or district insurance plan to supplement it, especially in the areas of liability and student medical care.

27-10-3 Ineligible Students-Students in compliance with the Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Rule (28B-3-1), but not meeting all Individual Eligibility Regulations of the VHSL *Handbook*, are covered under the VHSL sponsored insurance plan until the school submits its Master Eligibility List, at which time only students on that list are covered. Each member school may exercise its own regulations at its discretion with regard to ineligibles practicing with the squad.

27-10-4 Fall Practice Guidelines-Schools will follow practice guidelines which would apply to all students in all fall sports except golf. If schools choose not to follow the guidelines listed in the *Handbook* they must have locally approved policies and procedures that are reasonably calculated to keep student athletes safe from hot and humid weather conditions, and meet adequate conditioning, based on current sports medicine research and recommendations. The first violation will result in an official warning.

(1) During their first six days of tryouts:

(a) No practice, full or walk-thru, may exceed three hours.
(b) Total practice time per day is limited to five hours.
(c) Only one full practice is permitted per day; it may be broken into two segments.
(d) One walk-thru practice is permitted on the day of a full practice.
(e) Two walk-thru practices may be substituted for a full and a walk-thru practice(s).
(f) A one-hour minimum recovery period must be included between practices.

(2) For weeks two and three the following regulations apply in addition to (a) through (f) above:

(a) Two full practices are permissible per day provided they do not exceed five total hours, or three hours in a single session.
(b) No more than three full practices may be conducted in two consecutive calendar days.

(3) For the purpose of the regulations above, a full practice is defined as a session allowing the use of any available equipment, involving all levels of activity permitted in the specific sport and includes necessary conditioning and weight training. A walk-thru practice is a limited exertion session that includes skill-based, educational technique and oriented activities using sports appropriate equipment. Conditioning and weight training may not be included as part of a walk-thru practice. Recovery period is defined as a session in which the athlete is not involved in physical activity.

Note: The following restrictions are in place for football only: Day 1-3 helmets only; Day 4-5 helmets and shoulder pads; Day 6+ full pads.

27-11-1 SPORTSMANSHIP RULE-*Member schools are required to conduct all their relations with other schools in a spirit of good sportsmanship. Acts which are prima facie evidence of failure to abide by this rule are those which are noted below and others of a similar nature which transgress the usually accepted code for good sportsmanship. All incidents of conduct relating to either athletic or academic activities that are violations of the Sportsmanship Rule must be reported to the Virginia High School League.*

27-11-2 Spectator/Crowd Control-Failure to provide for proper control of spectators at a contest constitutes a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule. Incidents where spectators during or after the contest engage in verbal or physical altercations with players, coaches, officials or other spectators which disrupt the normal flow of a contest or endanger the safety of a player, official, coach or other spectators shall be reported. Uniformed police are not required by rule, however, it is expected that the host school shall have taken reasonable and proper steps that would be expected to assure proper control of spectators under any foreseeable conditions if uniformed police are not provided.

27-11-3 Completing Contest-Failure of any team or competitor to stay in a contest until its normal end when the failure to do so is related to dissatisfaction with the officiating of the contest, unless the physical safety of the team or competitor would have been endangered by continuing the contest, is a violation and is to be reported.

27-11-4 Harassment of Officials-Harassment of contest officials by a coach or a coach's ejection from a contest constitutes a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule. Any coach's ejection is to be reported in writing to the League office by the school whose coach is ejected with copies placed in the school's and officials' association files. Any incidents involving a spectator, coach or other school personnel or player striking or pushing an official is to be reported. A coach going on the floor or field to interrupt a contest while the ball is "alive" in protest of a decision by an official, conduct which invokes a penalty against the team because of the conduct of a coach or team member or any individual in the official party of a team, continued and visible actions on the part of a coach which will indicate to team members and/or to spectators that the coach believes the game is being improperly officiated, public demonstrations with game officials which indicate to others extreme dissatisfaction with officiating, and such related actions when exhibited in aggravated form are evidence of poor sportsmanship.

27-11-5 Sportsmanship Education-Failure of a school to use every means at its disposal to impress upon its faculty, student body, team members, coaching staff and officials the values of sportsmanship in the preparation for, and the conduct and management of interscholastic contests and the importance of observing published or accepted rules governing coaches, competitors or spectators relating to the conduct of competition constitutes a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule. School personnel must make every effort to ensure that substitute players and bench personnel do not enter the playing field/court during a verbal or physical altercation and that team personnel do not engage in other excessive unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after the contest; such action is a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule and is to be reported. A school whose substitute players or bench personnel enter the playing field/court during a verbal or physical altercation, or whose team personnel engage in excessive unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after a contest shall be subject to a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

27-11-6 Ejection of Player and/or Coach-Players and coaches who are ejected from a contest, scrimmage, jamboree or Benefit Game for unsportsmanlike conduct and are ineligible for the team's next scheduled contest must be reported to the VHSL office on the form provided on the VHSL website. For engaging in fighting (including throwing punches as an instigator, in retaliation, or intentionally kicking or stomping an opponent), biting or aggressive physical contact shall result in a suspension from contests totaling a minimum of 30% of the total contest limitations for that sport (a player shall be ineligible for the team's scheduled contests until the suspension is completed) and a coach from contests totaling a minimum of 30% of the contest limitations. Profanity directed at a game official will result in a suspension from contests totaling a minimum of 20% of the total contest limitations for that sport. Student/athletes who leave the bench area and become actively involved in an altercation will result in a suspension from contests totaling a minimum of 20% of the total contest limitations for that sport. Coaches ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct will not be physically present or communicate in any way with the team at that next scheduled contest. (For the purposes of this rule, a basketball player who collects five personal fouls and must therefore leave the game is not considered to be ejected and is not automatically guilty of a sportsmanship violation.) Any player assessed two technical fouls is considered to have

committed a sportsmanship violation and must sit out the next contest. The decision to eject and therefore suspend from the next scheduled contest(s) may be appealed by conforming with the following procedure.

(1) The parents, guardians or coach of a suspended player or suspended coach must request in writing that the principal review the decision to eject.

(2) The principal will review the facts utilizing available and appropriate resources and decide whether to appeal the decision. The principal may terminate the appeal at this point if there is insufficient merit.

(3) If, after review of the facts, including consultation with officials, the principal concludes that an appeal is warranted, he/she shall contact the principal(s) or designee(s) of the other schools involved and present his/her case. If, after review of the facts, all principals or designees, together with the commissioner of the association responsible for officiating that game, agree that the appeal had merit and that because of an error or misapplication of the rules by the officials the ejection was not warranted, it will be sustained and the player reinstated for the next contest. If any two of the three individuals hearing the appeal agree that the appeal has merit, the appellant may request a review by the VHSL Executive Director or designee, who may sustain or deny the appeal based upon review of the facts using all available and appropriate resources. At no time may this reduction eliminate the games suspension completely.

(4) If a player or coach ejection occurs at a state tournament where one or both principals and/or non-coach designee is/are not available and a VHSL-appointed sportsmanship or games committee is in place, that committee shall sustain or deny the appeal after hearing the facts from the appealing school, the appealing school's opponent, the game officials, the VHSL-appointed supervisor and event director.

Penalties: If the disqualification occurs in the final contest of the season (including playoffs and tournaments), the penalty shall carry over to the next sports season for students who are seniors in eligibility or to the next school year for underclassmen and coaches. A second violation in the same sport shall carry a minimum two-contest suspension (See 30-5-1 (14)).

(5) The decision of the principal(s) or VHSL-appointed sportsmanship or games committee shall be final.

PM 27-11-6 (1) SPORTSMANSHIP RULE/Player and/or Coach Ejection Penalty (4-00)-Players and coaches who are ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct and are ineligible for the team's next contest(s) . . . must sit out the next contest(s) played by the same team, meaning that if the ejection is from a varsity contest, the penalty is applied to the next varsity contest(s); a junior varsity ejection means the penalty is applied to the next junior varsity contest(s). Further, the penalty means a LOSS of one or two contests under the Contest Limitation Rule, and a player could not suit up for games at another level of competition to replace those he/she is required to sit out.

PM 27-11-6 (2) SPORTSMANSHIP RULE/Player Ejection Rule (5-94)-The following would NOT be considered reason for player ejection for an unsportsmanlike act.

(a) A basketball player who collects five personal fouls and must therefore leave the game.

(b) If a technical foul results in the fifth foul on a basketball player and thus that player is disqualified from the game but the act which resulted in the technical foul would not have normally led to an ejection.

27-11-7 Situations Which Must Be Reported to the League-Situations which must be reported to the League are listed, but not limited to those below:

(1) Incidents involving damage to school property, including buses or other vehicles.

(2) Physical or verbal altercations or other unsportsmanlike conduct between players, coaches, spectators or officials.

(3) Verbal abuse by players, coaches, or spectators directed toward opposing teams, coaches, or officials.

(4) Public criticism of officials by coaches in news media.

(5) Coach ejection from the game.

(6) Player ejection from the game.

All situations which are a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule must be reported to the League. An initial report shall be submitted to the League office within 24 hours with the complete official report within 5 business days. Failure to report violations will result in a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

27-11-8 Code of Interscholastic Athletics-Failure of an administrator, spectator, athlete, coach or official to follow those directions provided for in the Code for Interscholastic Athletics:

CODE FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

The School Administrator Shall:

(1) Encourage and promote friendly relationships and good sportsmanship throughout the school by requiring courtesy and proper decorum at all times, by acquainting students and others in the community with ideals of good sportsmanship and by so publicizing these concepts and attitudes that all members of the school community will understand and appreciate their meaning.

(2) Insist upon implicit compliance with all rules and regulations of the Virginia High School League.

(3) Secure qualified officials for all contests.

(4) Insist upon adequate safety provisions for all activities, for both participants and spectators.

(5) Approve only those activities and schedules which are educationally and physically sound for the school pupil.

(6) Encourage all to judge the success of the athletic program on the basis of the attitude of the participants and spectators, rather than on the basis of the number of games won or lost.

(7) Insist that the school cheerleaders exemplify the highest standard of good sportsmanship as a means of inculcating desirable spectator attitudes.

(8) Provide adequate hygienic, sanitary and attractive facilities for the dressing and housing of visiting teams and officials.

(9) Provide for the efficient handling of all athletic funds, with such safeguards as audits, insurance and proper bookkeeping, in order that maximum benefits may be had from available funds.

(10) Review with staff the Sportsmanship Rule.

The Spectator Shall:

(1) Realize that he/she represents the school just as definitely as does the member of a team and, therefore, has an obligation to be a true sportsman, encouraging through this behavior the practice of good sportsmanship by others.

(2) Recognize that good sportsmanship is more important than victory by approving and applauding good team play, individual skill and outstanding examples of sportsmanship and fair play exhibited by either team.

(3) Recognize that since the primary purpose of interscholastic athletics is to promote the physical, mental, moral, social and emotional well-being of the players through the medium of contests, victory or defeat is in reality of secondary importance.

(4) Treat visiting teams and officials as guests, extending to them every courtesy.

(5) Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.

(6) Respect the judgment and integrity of officials, realizing that their decisions are based upon game conditions as they observe them.

The Athlete Shall:

(1) Be courteous to visiting teams and officials.

(2) Play hard and to the limit of his/her ability, regardless of discouragement. The true athlete does not give up nor does he/she quarrel, cheat, bet or grandstand.

(3) Retain his/her composure at all times and never leave the bench or enter the playing field/court to engage in a fight.

(4) Be modest when successful and be gracious in defeat. A true sportsman does not offer excuses for failures.

(5) Maintain a high degree of physical fitness by observing team and training rules conscientiously.

(6) Demonstrate loyalty to the school by maintaining a satisfactory scholastic standing and by participating in or supporting other school activities.

(7) Play for the love of the game.

(8) Understand and observe the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.

(9) Set a high standard of personal cleanliness.

(10) Respect the integrity and judgment of officials and accept their decisions without questions.

(11) Respect the facilities of host schools and the trust entailed in being a guest.

The Coach Shall:

(1) Exemplify behavior that is representative of the educational staff of the school and a credit to the teaching profession.

(2) Demonstrate high ideals, good habits and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards of the players.

(3) Emphasize to his/her players and bench personnel the importance of proper sideline behavior and the necessity of restraining from entering the playing field/court to engage in a fight.

(4) Recognize that the purpose of competition is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of the individual players and that the most important values of competition are derived from playing the game fairly.

(5) Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.

(6) Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or of dissatisfaction with the officials.

(7) Cooperate with the school principal in the planning, scheduling and conduct of sports activities.

(8) Employ accepted educational methods in coaching; giving all players an opportunity to use and develop initiative, leadership and judgment.

(9) Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of players, refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving his team's chances to win.

(10) Teach athletes that it is better to lose fairly than win unfairly.

(11) Discourage gambling, profanity, abusive language and similar violations of the true sportsman's code.

(12) Refuse to disparage an opponent, an official or others associated with sports activities and discourage gossip and questionable rumors concerning them.

(13) Properly supervise student athletes under his/her immediate care and specifically observe a coach's responsibilities in conjunction with district and state contests.

The Official Shall:

(1) Know the rules and their interpretations and be thoroughly trained to administer them.

(2) Maintain self-control under all conditions.

(3) Report for duty well in advance of game time, in a rested condition and with an alert mind, and dressed appropriately in the specified uniform.

(4) Make clear all interpretations and rulings during the progress of a game, yet conduct the game in an unobtrusive manner.

(5) Be impartial and fair, yet firm, in all decisions. A good official does not attempt to compensate later for an unpopular decision.

(6) Refrain from commenting upon or discussing a team, play or game situation with those not immediately concerned.

(7) So conduct the games as to enlist the cooperation of players, coaches and spectators in the interests of good sportsmanship.

(8) Honor all commitments and abide by all school, district, regional and League regulations in a professional manner.

To assist schools in the implementation of this program, the Code for Interscholastic Athletics must be in place.

PM 27-11-8 SPORTSMANSHIP RULE (3-00)-As an adjunct to the VHSL Code for Interscholastic Athletics, the League has endorsed and adopted the operating principles of the Arizona Sports Summit Accord.

27-11-9 Protection, Facilities and Assistance-The host school is expected to furnish adequate security. When the event warrants such, this security will include local police. The playing field should be separated from the stands by a restraining barrier (fence, wire, rope, etc.). Officials should be provided with private dressing facilities not accessible to unauthorized personnel. Officials shall be provided with escorts at half-time and after the game. The use of trained, competent, adult "assistant officials", i.e., scorers, timers, chain and down marker crews, etc., is recommended.

PM 27-11-9 SPORTSMANSHIP RULE/Enforcement (5-72)-For district, regional or state events, the appropriate district council, regional council or League staff has the same responsibility for crowd control as a school hosting a game during regular season.

27-11-10 Procedure-Unsportsmanlike action must be reported to the League. A copy of the report shall be transmitted to the principal of the school or schools involved. Each principal concerned shall report such information or answers to the report as he/she deems appropriate to the League or a member of the Sportsmanship Committee. In some situations the League will provide schools and officials with specially designed forms to facilitate the proper reporting of possible violations. Upon receipt of all reports the League shall refer copies of all documents advising of any suggestions made to the school or schools involved, and to the Chairman of the League who may in turn refer the matter to the Sportsmanship Committee to investigate and adjudicate what appears to be a violation of this rule. The League is specifically directed to pursue any items which on the surface have implications of being sportsmanship violations. A League staff member or Sportsmanship Committeeman may be assigned the responsibility of holding personal interviews with the principal parties involved. Actions such as seeking reports and holding interviews is not to be interpreted in any way as casting reflection upon a school adhering to League regulations, but as an effort to keep all parties properly informed. Penalties up to and including suspensions of member schools may be imposed by the Executive Committee and/or the Sportsmanship Committee. The Sportsmanship Committee shall review at a time and place set by the League Office such available evidence as it deems necessary to reach a conclusion. A copy of the Sportsmanship Committee's action shall be filed with the chairman of the districts concerned.

27-11-11 Procedure: Academic Competition-Unsportsmanlike action must be reported to the League by any school or tournament official. The report shall include any corroborating information or testimony available. A copy of the report complete with any supporting information shall be transmitted to the principal of the school or schools involved. Each principal concerned shall report such information or answers to the report as he/she deems appropriate to the League. Upon receipt of all reports and a review of any action taken, the League shall refer copies of all documents, including a staff recommendation as to whether the school's response is sufficient, to the school or schools involved and to the chairman of the League, who may in turn refer the matter to the Academic Sportsmanship Committee to investigate and adjudicate what appears to be a violation of this rule. The Academic Sportsmanship Committee shall review at a time and place set by the League office such available evidence as it deems necessary to reach a conclusion. The League is specifically directed to pursue any items which on the surface have implications of being sportsmanship violations. A League staff member or member of the Academic Sportsmanship Committee may be assigned the responsibility of holding personal interviews with the principal parties involved. Actions such as seeking reports and holding interviews are not to be interpreted in any way as casting reflection upon a school adhering to League regulations, but as an effort to keep all parties properly informed. Penalties up to and including suspensions of member schools may be imposed by the Executive Committee and/or the Academic Sportsmanship Committee. A copy of the Academic Sportsmanship Committee's action shall be filed with the chairman of the districts concerned.

27-11-12 Statement of Policy-Insofar as unsportsmanlike actions by players, students, school administrators, officials, coaches, faculty members and spectators are concerned, the identified items under the Sportsmanship Rule along with the following guides will be referred to a Sportsmanship Committee:

(1) The school whose coach behaves in a manner likely to have adverse influence on the attitudes of players or spectators may be provided with the choices of suspending its coach from representing that school in athletic or academic events for a specified period of time up to one year or to have discipline taken against the program or entire school by the League.

(2) Any student participant who in protest lays hands or attempts to lay hands on an official may be declared ineligible for all activities by the League or by his/her principal for up to one year. Any student participant who strikes an opponent, a coach or a spectator during or following an athletic or academic event may be declared ineligible by the League or his/her principal for a specified period of time up to one year depending on the seriousness of the act. The basis for this policy statement is that a member school shall not be represented by any student whose conduct reflects discredit upon his/her school.

(3) A school whose team members or bench personnel enter the playing field/court during a verbal or physical altercation and become involved in the altercation shall be subject to League discipline and shall be suspended for a minimum of 20% of the total contest limitations for that sport. Based on the severity of the incident, a program or school may be warned, placed on probation or suspended.

(4) In the case of spectators physically molesting an official, a coach or a participating player, the school may be given one of two options -- either to take legal action against the offenders or to accept discipline from the League.

(5) The school that does not lend complete cooperation in the host school's efforts to promote the spirit of the Sportsmanship Rule may be disciplined by the League.

(6) A coach or school administrator may be considered as committing unsportsmanlike actions if he/she makes degrading remarks about officials during or after a contest either on the field of play, from the bench or through any public news media; argues with officials or goes through motions indicating his/her dislike for a decision; protests the decision and actions of officials pertaining to the game during and after the contest; or detains the official on the field of play following a game to request a ruling or explanation of some phase of the game. A request for a ruling must be done in private and in a courteous manner. The coach may also be considered as committing unsportsmanlike actions if he/she makes degrading or unprofessional remarks about another school's personnel or about League representatives in the public news media. A coach's ejection from any contest is a sportsmanship violation to be reported to the League by the school whose coach is ejected with copies of the report placed in the school's and officials' association files.

(7) Sportsmanship violations in academic activities would include but are not limited to discretionary forfeits, attempts to manipulate final ranks and/or the effects of tie breaking procedures by systematically awarding low points to students ranked high, tampering with ballots completed by assigned judges, falsifying an entry or records, seeking information on upcoming debate competition without full identification and disclosure of appropriate associations, seeking access to or sharing content of Scholastic Bowl competition questions used in the current season, failing to produce a manuscript in the required form by the tournament deadline, abusively confronting tournament personnel, permitting a student to compete with the same selection used in a previous year, permitting a student to use an

oratory not written by the student, coaches judging their own students, failing to give timely notice of a discretionary decision not to advance to the next level of competition, refusing to follow established competition format or guidelines, or judges acting unprofessionally in violating tournament guidelines or giving preferential treatment to one competitor. Students or coaches found in violation may be disciplined appropriately by their schools; judges may be denied payment for services or banned from future judging assignments.

(8) A school which fails to take appropriate action against participants or personnel who possess or use alcoholic beverages, controlled substances or illegal drugs at the site of a Virginia High School League, Inc., sponsored activity is subject to the discipline of the League.

27-11-13 Penalties-The following represents some explanations of degrees of League discipline which may be referred to in interpreting the Sportsmanship Rule:

(1) **Warning**-A warning may be given by the Sportsmanship Committee or by the League to an individual sport, academic activity or school for a one-year period of time. Cumulative warnings over a period of time may result in suspension or probation for the sport, academic activity or the school. It is official notice that an inexcusable, unethical or unsportsmanlike action has occurred, is a matter of record and that such an occurrence must not be repeated.

(2) **Probation**-Probation is a more severe penalty, based on the nature of the incident, a second incident within the sport or academic activity within a two-year period or cumulative warnings over a period of time within the school. A school or program on probation may not enter any play-off toward a district, regional or state championship nor may the school enter any sanctioned event.

(3) **Suspension**-A school suspended from the League may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a member of the League or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

(4) **Fine**-A fine not to exceed $1,000 may be levied with or without any other penalty that is imposed on the school. Failure to report sportsmanship violations will result in a fine per occurrence as stated in 30-5-1.

(5) Violations may result in forfeiture of any championships earned in addition to being placed on probation or suspension for one calendar year.

27-11-14 Appeals-A decision of the Sportsmanship Committee may be appealed in accordance with Section 33 of this *Handbook*.

27-12-1 SPORTS SEASON RULE-*No member school team shall engage in any* regular season *interscholastic athletic contest prior to* or after *the sports season's dates annually published by the VHSL.*

The Executive Director may authorize contests in all sports to be held one or two days prior to the published competition dates as long as the requirement for the number of practice days is observed. With approval from the appropriate region, the Executive Committee may authorize the start of football practice and football games one week prior to the published dates. This authorization must be given prior to the beginning practice date for that season.

Each school's sports season ends with its last regularly scheduled game, or its last League sponsored tournament or play-off contest or the last League-sanctioned tournament or playoff contest. Contests which appeared on a school's original schedule and which were postponed because of factors beyond the control of both schools may be rescheduled after the last regularly scheduled game as long as they are played before the beginning of the region tournament.

PM 27-12-1 (1) SPORTS SEASON RULE (5-02)-The Executive Director has authority to approve early season football games with out-of-state schools.

PM 27-12-1 (2) SPORTS SEASON RULE/Waiver (2-96)-Early season requests will be approved by the Executive Director only in emergency and dire circumstances.

PM 27-12-1 (3) SPORTS SEASON RULE/Postseason Invitational (3-95)-VHSL schools are allowed to participate in selected postseason invitational tournaments sanctioned by the VHSL Executive Director in those sports which do not have a VHSL state culminating event. Approved postseason tournament games are not counted in the maximum number of games permitted for the regular season schedule. Approval for these events will be considered for an event that (a) includes a maximum of eight VHSL high schools in team sports and an unlimited number of schools in individual sports, (b) uses the single elimination format, and (c) is scheduled no later than the end of the VHSL sports season.

27-12-2 Exception:

(1) Sub-varsity contests may be conducted prior to the first official play date of the season, but no earlier than the week of the first official play date, provided participants have met all pre-season practice requirements.

(2) Regular season competition for competitive cheer may occur up to the regional deadline as published annually on the VHSL Activities Calendar.

27-12-3 Penalty: Any school adjudged guilty of violating the Sports Season Rule shall be subject to such disciplinary action, including ineligibility for district championships, as the appropriate District Committee or interDistrict Committee may impose.

27-13-1 STATE COMPETITION RULE-*No member school shall engage in athletic competition:*

(1) With a Virginia public high school that is not a member of the League without the authorization of the League's Executive Committee.

(2) With any school under suspension from the League, from the comparable organization in any other state or from the National Federation of State High School Associations.

PM 27-13-1 STATE COMPETITION RULE/Approved Non-League Opponent-Executive Committee waived the State Competition Rule so that VHSL schools may compete in athletics with (1-73) Tangier High School, (12-77) with Virginia School at Hampton, (12-04) with Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind (Staunton) and Mt. Rogers.

27-13-2 Non-Member School-Upon being informed as to whether a Virginia non-member secondary school (private, preparatory, parochial, etc.) agrees to abide by the special regulations governing non-public schools, League member schools may decide whether or not to compete with that non-member school.

27-13-3 Interpretations:

(1) Member schools shall comply with all League rules and regulations in all interscholastic contests.

(2) Member schools may not waive any League rule or regulation by mutual agreement with an opponent. Such action renders all member schools involved liable to disciplinary action.

(3) Member schools shall not use ineligible students in contests with non-member schools, and no member school shall knowingly compete against any non-member school which is represented by an ineligible student as determined by the non-member school.

(4) No member school shall become a member of any organization whose constitution or bylaws are in conflict with the rules and regulations of the League.

(5) Athletic competition with "outside" or "independent" teams must be approved by the Executive Director and is not recommended when sufficient competition can be scheduled with member schools.

PM 27-13-3 STATE COMPETITION RULE/ Membership in Allied Organizations (3-72)-VHSL member schools can join the Virginia Soccer League provided the Virginia Soccer League's constitution is not in conflict with the VHSL's constitution. This ruling established the precedent for VHSL schools to join other organizations whose constitutions are not in conflict with VHSL's.

PM 27-13-3 (5) STATE COMPETITION RULE (3-04)-Schools in the Northern Neck District and Region A may play against individuals and club teams sponsored by Colonial Beach High School.

PM 27-13-3 STATE COMPETITION RULE/Interpretations:

CLUB/COMMUNITY TEAM vs. VHSL SCHOOL TEAM

School Team – A team offered within a VHSL member school, the purpose of which is to provide opportunities for students to compete with other students on like teams in other schools within an organized region under the auspices of the VHSL or with other like teams in other schools operating under separate jurisdictions.

For such offerings, schools are bound by the school regulations (Section 27), eligibility regulations (Section 28 A and B) and competition regulations (Sections 50 through 126) of the VHSL *Handbook*. Schools also must submit a master eligibility list to the VHSL office for these school teams.

For such offerings, VHSL provides catastrophic insurance for those programs listed on the VHSL membership application. For non-listed programs, the Executive Committee must take special action to recognize the activity as a VHSL activity for insurance coverage.

Such offerings may or may not be financially supported by the local school board; but the school board must provide approval for sponsorship of a school team to be recognized by the VHSL.

School Club Team – A team offered within a VHSL member school, the purpose of which is defined by the local school. Such offerings are not recognized by VHSL.

The club team is not bound by any of the regulations of the VHSL, schools are not to submit a master eligibility list to the VHSL office and VHSL does not provide catastrophic insurance for these programs. Club teams may or may not be financially supported by the local school board. Club teams may or may not be recognized by the local school board.

Club teams may compete in regular season play against VHSL school teams if the member school is granted permission by the Executive Committee. (See Section 27-13-3 (5) State Competition Rule: "Athletic competition with "outside" or "independent" teams, must be approved by the Executive Director and is not recommended when sufficient competition can be scheduled with member schools.") VHSL does not sanction any multi-team event or competition involving exclusively club teams, except in individual sports (golf, cross country, swimming, track, tennis and wrestling).

Community or Cooperative Club Team – A team offered in a community made up of students from two or more high schools. Such offerings are not recognized by VHSL nor provided catastrophic insurance by VHSL.

Community or cooperative club teams may compete in regular season play against VHSL school teams if the member school is granted permission by the Executive Director. (See Section 27-13-3 (5), but the VHSL will not sanction any multi-team event or competition involving community teams or cooperative club teams. However, VHSL does permit in individual sports (such as golf, tennis, swimming, etc) the community club team or cooperative club team to split up so that team members could enter as an individual representing their high school in a VHSL-sanctioned competition.

27-14-1 STATE SANCTION RULE-*No member school shall permit its teams or individual representatives to compete in any type of event in which three or more schools participate or any contest conducted by a non-school organization or individual unless that event has been expressly sanctioned by the Executive Director.*

PM 27-14-1 (1) STATE SANCTION RULE (12-99)-When approving the sanction of an event that includes Virginia private schools, the Executive Director will include the following statement on the sanction form Remarks Section. "Virginia private schools that do not follow rules in VHSL *Handbook* Appendix B must be identified so that VHSL schools can decide if they want to compete." The Executive Director must include the listing of private schools by category to the school seeking sanction for distribution to all invited schools so invitees may decide whether or not to compete.

PM 27-14-1 (2) STATE SANCTION RULE/Fees (5-99)-Beginning August, 1999, VHSL will not charge its processing fee for events requiring National Federation (NFHS) sanction. (12-03) VHSL fee is $50 for requests received by the VHSL more than 15 days prior to the event and $100 if received within 15 or fewer days before the event.

27-14-2 Exceptions:

(1) Sanctions are not required for VHSL district or regional tournament contests or for intra-district and/or intra-school division competition, except for VHSL Jamborees.

(2) A triangular or quadrangular outdoor track, indoor track, cross country, wrestling, gymnastics, golf or swim/swim and dive contest among member schools which will permit participants to return at reasonable hours may be held without the Executive Director's sanction when the contests are sponsored and organized by a member school or by joint action of the member schools involved. Such contests are not to be considered automatically sanctioned where non-member or out-of-state teams are involved. This exception should not be interpreted to change any rules relating to number of contests per season or contests per week.

Note: Schools interested in competing in "outside" meets or tournaments shall advise the sponsoring school or college to make application for League sanction on the League Request for Sanction of Interscholastic Athletic Meet or Tournament form, available from the League website. This application shall be submitted no less than 16 days in advance of the date for the meet or tournament. Meets and tournaments which receive League sanction will be published on the League website. Each such request for sanction will be evaluated in the light of established League policies. Factors such as distance to be traveled, time lost from school, number of games required per day, commercial exploitation of competing teams and similar items will be considered in the evaluation of each contest, meet or tournament for which sanction is requested. Sanction will not be given to meets or tournaments:

(a) which conflict with League-sponsored events;

(b) in which non-member Virginia public high schools or non-high school (27-13-3 (5)) teams are invited to participate unless satisfactory entrance requirements are established and enforced;

(c) which are sponsored or conducted by other than educational institutions, unless the event was sanctioned prior to 1970;

(d) in which awards offered winners or participants do not meet League standards;

(e) in which any school under suspension from the League has been invited to participate.

27-14-3 Sanction Rule Fine-A violation of the Sanction Rule will result in a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

PM 27-14-4 STATE SANCTION RULE/Violations (10-78)-VHSL sanctioned events must operate according to VHSL rules and regulations. If errors occur in a VHSL sanctioned meet and the sponsoring organization does not take action to correct the errors, then VHSL sanction of events by that same organization would be withheld in the future.

27-15-1 SUNDAY RULE-*No member school may schedule or play an athletic contest or engage in practice on Sunday.*

There shall be no coaching or contact between a coach(s) or player(s) and no VHSL member school-sponsored athletic team activity. This includes no VHSL member school-sponsored open facilities, weight training, conditioning, team functions, individual instructional and team virtual meetings, or film or team study tutoring sessions. Excluded from the Sunday Rule are end-of-season banquets.

This is not intended to limit general electronic communications related to scheduling.

27-15-2 Exceptions:

(1) International competitions scheduled for a Sunday provided the competition is held outside the United States and there is no local school board policy to prevent a participating school from doing so.

(2) State tournaments or state championships which have been postponed because of adverse weather, graduation conflicts or other emergency conditions may be played on Sunday with permission of the Executive Director in consultation with the League and/or Group Board chairmen and provided there is no local school board policy to prevent a participating school from playing on Sunday.

(3) Requests may be made to participate in individual tournaments that include Sunday competition, subject to approval of the Executive Committee.

(4) District and/or regional tournament games or championships which have been postponed by adverse weather, graduation conflicts, other emergency conditions or which cannot be scheduled at any other time due to facility limitations which are out of the control of the competing schools (this option will be limited to sports such as indoor track and swim and dive which primarily require competing schools to use facilities outside of their authority) may be played on Sunday with the permission of the District Council and/or Regional Council and the school or schools involved and provided there is no local school board policy to prevent a participating school from playing on Sunday.

(5) When the district, regional or state golf championship is scheduled to open on Monday, schools have permission to have a practice round at the site on the Sunday preceding the championship unless the district or region denies permission for a Sunday practice preceding its own championship.

(6) Sunday practice in sports other than golf may be approved if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) A district or region tournament is scheduled to begin on Monday.

(b) Extreme weather or other emergency conditions have forced the cancellation of school activities for four or more consecutive days, the last of which is the Saturday prior to the scheduled start of the district or region tournament.

(c) Practice is limited to two hours.

(d) Practice may not begin before 1:00 p.m. or end after 7:00 p.m.

(e) The school division superintendent has approved Sunday participation.

(7) VHSL member schools are permitted to participate in regular season events on Sunday under the following circumstances: local school division approval; involves tournament competition; hosted by an out-of-state high school/college/university; is properly sanctioned and the VHSL is provided with a written copy of the school division approval.

(8) Sunday activities that are part of a non-VHSL school sponsored camp or league are permitted.

27-15-3 Sunday Rule Fine-Violation of the Sunday Rule will result in a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

27-16-1 Use of Hate Speech, Ethnically or Racially Insensitive Expressions-Any coach, team personnel and/or contestant who confronts or addresses a coach, contestant or official using hate speech, ethnically or racially insensitive expressions will be disqualified for the contest and will be ineligible from contests totaling a minimum of 30% of the total contest limitations for that sport and/or subsequent contests until penalties and educational/restorative interventions are completed.

Procedure:

(1) A school is expected to inform the League office of any alleged incident involving the use of hate speech, ethnically or racially insensitive expressions within two working days after the school administration becomes aware of the incident.

(2) A copy of the report will be transmitted to the principal of each school(s) involved.

(3) Within five working days of receiving the report, each principal concerned shall file a response or provide information concerning the incident to the League office.

(4) A VHSL committee consisting of three or four principals, athletic directors, and coaches will review the incident report and response from each school(s) involved. Following the completion of the review, the committee will make a recommendation to the VHSL Executive Director and/or designee for action.

Penalties-The following represents degrees of VHSL discipline which will be referred to in interpreting a violation of using hate speech, ethnically or racially insensitive expression.

(1) **Ejection**-Any coach, team personnel and/or contentant who confronts or addresses a coach, contestant, or official using hate speech, ethnically or racially insensitive expression will be disqualified for the remainder of the contest.

(2) **Player/Coach Suspension**-Any coach, team personnel and/or contestant who is ejected from a contest for using hate speech, ethnically or racially insensitive expression will be ineligible from contests totaling a minimum of 30% of the total contest limitations for that sport. If a coach or player commits a second offense, he/she will be ineligible for the remainder of that sport/activity season.

(3) **School Warning**-A school's program may be placed on warning status for a one-year period of time by a Sportsmanship Committee for repeated infractions of using hate speech, ethnically or racially insensitive expression.

(4) **School Probation**-Probation is a more severe penalty, based on repeated offenses with-in a two-year period of time by the same program or cumulative warnings over a period of time within the school. A school or program on probation may not enter any play-off toward a district, regional, or state championship nor may the school enter any sanctioned event.

(5) **School Suspension**-A school suspended from the League may not compete in interscholastic competition of any kind with a member of the League or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

(6) **School Fine**-A fine not to exceed $1,000 may be levied with or without any other penalty on a school. Failure to report violations involving the use of hate speech, ethnically or racially insensitive expression will result in a fine per occurrence.

Appeals-A decision may be appealed to a Sportsmanship Committee.

Parents, Players, and Coaches-Schools will hold parent, player, and coach preseason meetings to discuss expectations for students, parents, coaches, and spectator's behavior related to cultural awareness and equity.

Spectators-The authority and rules of the VHSL govern the schools themselves, including athletes and coaches. Schools are responsible for the conduct of its spectators except at championship events which are conducted by the VHSL.

The VHSL does provide the following recommendations for schools when dealing with spectators who use race and hate speech, ethnically or racially insensitive expressions.

(1) First Offense – removal from the audience/school property
(2) Second Offense – suspension from attending contests for a semester
(3) Third Offense – suspension from attending contests for a year, no trespassing letter

Hate Speech-Abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice against a particular group, especially on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation.

SECTION BREAK

The following pages include information on eligibility regulations. The following sections are included:

Section	28A	Individual Eligibility Regulations
	28A-1	Age Rule
	28A-2	Bona Fide Student Rule
	28A-3	Enrollment Rule
	28A-4	Grade Rule
	28A-5	Scholarship Rule
	28A-6	Semester Rule
	28A-7	Transfer Rule
Section	28B	Regulations Governing Athletes Only
	28B-1	All-Star Participation
	28B-2	Amateur Rule
	28B-3	Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/ Physical Examination Rule
	28B-4	Awards Rule
	28B-5	College Participation Rule
	28B-6	Independent Team Rule
Section	28C	Special Rules Applicable to All Students
	28C-1	Due Process Rule

SECTION 28: INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS.

A. General Rules Applicable to All Students.

To be eligible to represent the school in any VHSL, Inc. sponsored interscholastic contest a student shall meet the following requirements:

28A-1-1 -*The student shall not have reached the age of 19 on or before the first day of August of the school year in which he/she wishes to compete.*

28A-1-2 Interpretation: A student born on or before August 1, 2007, shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition in the school year 2026-27.

Notes:

(1) In case of doubt as to age, the following evidence may be accepted as proof thereof: Birth certificate from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, affidavit of the physician attending at birth, and documentary evidence such as the family record of birth in the Bible, official school record, and the affidavit of parent or guardian. Documentary proof of age other than a birth certificate will be accepted in cases of doubt only when the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state of birth reports that no record exists.

(2) If there is a discrepancy in the age recorded on the Master Eligibility Lists filed in the League office by member schools, the earliest listed date of birth shall be considered correct until proof otherwise has been submitted and accepted.

28A-2-1 BONA FIDE STUDENT RULE-*The student shall be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school which he/she represents.*

PM 28A-2-1 BONA FIDE STUDENT RULE/Diploma (2-89)-A student who takes classes at school "A" but gets his diploma from school "B" is ineligible at "A" since the State Department requires that a student receive his diploma from the school that carries him on its roll.

28A-2-2 Exception: A student who through school board assignment attends a non-member public school from which he/she will graduate. Such student shall be eligible to represent the high school serving the school district in which his/her parents reside.

PM 28A-2-2 BONA FIDE STUDENT RULE/Exception (5-94)-Students from Mount Rogers High School are permitted to participate in cross country at Grayson County High School.

28A-2-3 Interpretations:

(1) A "regular" student is considered a full-time student who is in regular attendance and is carrying a schedule of subjects which, if successfully completed, will render him/her scholastically eligible for League participation the ensuing semester.

(2) Any student who is under penalty of suspension, or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon his/her school, is not considered in good standing.

(3) Any student is permitted to take course work outside the VHSL high school building provided he/she is enrolled in the high school and is eligible in all other respects.

PM 28A-2-3 (1) BONA FIDE STUDENT/Governor's School (1-93)-A student attending the Governor's School shall be eligible at the Governor's School if the Governor's School offers any type of athletic program. If no program is offered in any sport/activity, the student would be eligible at his/her home school.

PM 28A-2-3 (2) BONA FIDE STUDENT RULE/Home School (5-90)-Home School students are not eligible because they fail to meet the requirements of this rule.

28A-3-1A ENROLLMENT RULE-*The student shall have been regularly enrolled in the school which he/she represents not later than the fifteenth school day of the semester.*

28A-3-1B A student who is enrolled at a VHSL member school (School A) and participates on another school's team (School B) (whether that school is a VHSL member or not) is immediately ineligible and will remain ineligible for 365 days from the date of the last contest at School B.

Note: Last contest at School B refers to the last scheduled contest, not the last contest in which the student participates.

28A-3-2 Exceptions:

(1) Any transfer student who was regularly enrolled within the required 15-day period in the school from which he/she transferred. (This exception refers only to transfer students who transferred with a corresponding move on the part of their parents or who meet Exception 28A-7-2 (4) of the Transfer Rule. For other situations involving transfer students, see the Transfer Rule.)

(2) Any student for whom waiver of the provisions of this rule has been granted by the District Committee to avert an obvious injustice, when enrollment within the required 15-day period was not accomplished because of circumstances beyond the control of the student. In each such case the waiver shall be requested in writing by the appropriate principal, giving all pertinent details. Each such case will be judged on its merits; however, no waiver will be granted unless it is clearly shown that the student was prevented by circumstances beyond his/her control from meeting the requirements of this rule.

(3) Any foreign exchange student, regardless of when he/she enrolls in the member school and regardless of the number of days he/she will be a student in the member school.

(4) Eighth or ninth grade students otherwise eligible but enrolled in a member school's feeder school.

28A-3-3 Interpretations:

(1) "Paper" enrollment is not considered as meeting the requirements of this rule.

(2) Enrollment is defined as official registration and attendance in classes for at least three school days thereafter. Home instruction does not constitute enrollment in a public school. Home schooling is a process through which Virginia Code compulsory education requirements may be met, as is private schooling. Home schooling is the equivalent of school enrollment for purposes of future eligibility requirements such as establishing residence for Transfer Rule purposes, and determining whether the student has met Scholarship Rule requirements of having passed five academic subjects recognized by the Virginia Department of Education in the most recent prior semester.

(3) Engaging in a contest, regardless of whether or not said student has officially registered in the school or attended classes, shall be evidence that the student is enrolled in the school.

28A-4-1 GRADE RULE-*The student shall be enrolled in the last four years of high school.*

28A-4-2 Exceptions:

(1) Students may compete on the sub-varsity level while in the eighth grade; however, no student below the eighth grade level is eligible to participate in any VHSL interscholastic contest.

(2) Eighth-grade students who passed five 8th grade subjects the past school year (see *Note* following 28A-5-1 (6)) and reached the age of fifteen on or before the first day of August may compete on the varsity level.

(3) Eighth-grade students may participate in nonathletic events for one year only while in the eighth grade. Such participation does not affect the subsequent eligibility of the student under the Semester Rule.

(4) A student may participate in VHSL sub-varsity sports for one year only prior to entering the ninth grade.

28A-4-3 Interpretations-

(1) Eligibility is terminated when a student received his/her diploma; however, a student may complete a spring season that starts prior to spring graduation.

(2) For schools that follow a 4 X 4 schedule, a student who competes in a winter sports season, that is completing graduation requirements in the first semester and is not going to take any second semester classes, may complete the winter season that they started. However, this rule means the student will not be eligible to compete in the spring sports season.

(3) Eighth graders, regardless of where they are housed, may fall into two categories.

(a) If they are filed on an MEL and participate on a junior varsity high school team, they must comply with VHSL rules and regulations and are covered by the League's insurance program(s) while they are considered to be representing their high school.

(b) However, if they are competing on a level below the junior varsity (i.e. junior high or middle school), they are not covered by VHSL regulations and are not covered by the League's insurance program(s) unless such insurance has been purchased by the school or system to cover these students specifically. The grade levels of competition, eligibility rules and regulations, etc., under these non-high school circumstances are up to the local school divisions.

28A-5-1 SCHOLARSHIP RULE-*The student shall:*

(a) For the first semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation; and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding year or the immediately preceding semester for schools that certify credit on a semester basis; and

(b) For the second semester be currently enrolled in not fewer than five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation; and have passed five subjects, or their equivalent, offered for credit and which may be used for graduation the immediately preceding semester.

Note: Credit for courses must be recognized by the State Department of Education. Such credit is to be awarded for the semester in which the work is scheduled to be completed. Credit for summer school work must be applied on the immediately preceding semester or year.

PM 28A-5-1 SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Block Scheduling (5-94)-When a school offers four classes each semester (block scheduling), students must pass three of these four classes to be eligible the following semester. There is no yearly eligibility option (combine first and second semester passing grades), since this block scheduling is on a "stand alone" semester grade basis.

28A-5-2 Exceptions:

(1) Any student who is enrolled in the first semester of the ninth grade for the first time.

PM 28A-5-2 (1) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Late 9th Grader (3-98)-A student is eligible under the Scholarship Rule when he/she enters public school for the first time as a ninth grader at the beginning of the second semester (after being home schooled).

(2) Any student who is enrolled in the first semester of the eighth grade for the first time.

PM 28A-5-2 (2) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/8th to 10th Grade (9-91)-An eighth grade student who is placed in the tenth grade is immediately eligible and has eight semesters of eligibility remaining.

(3) Any student who has been forced to withdraw from school (a) because of confining illness or (b) because no formal school was reasonably available, upon re-entry in the school at the opening of the subsequent semester, may be exempt from the provision of this rule. If the withdrawal from school was because of confining illness, a written request for the exemption must be made by his/her principal to the District Committee with an attached written statement from the attending physician stating that the illness on the part of the student was of such a nature and duration as to make it impossible for him/her to earn credit for a semester's work. If the forced withdrawal was because no formal education was reasonably available, a statement verifying the conditions shall accompany the request. In making application for such exemption the principal shall indicate the grades of the student at the time of his/her withdrawal from school. These shall be taken into consideration by the District Committee in each such case. This exemption shall be available only to a student who has been forced to withdraw from school for one of the reasons set forth in the first sentence of this exception. The District Committee has the authority to waive this rule when a student has an extended number of absences during a semester resulting from unusual circumstances such as death in the family, chronic illness, inability to provide appropriate homebound instruction, etc.

(4) A special education student who is working toward a special diploma must make standard progress in those courses taken as determined by the student's IEP.

(5) A special education student who is working toward a standard diploma must take and pass the equivalent of five subjects in accordance with any IEP modifications. If the IEP Committee determines that a special education student working toward a standard diploma should take fewer than five subjects, he/she must pass those subjects mandated by the IEP.

(6) Students who are required by directives contained in the Standards of Quality to participate in two periods of remedial instruction will be required to take and pass the equivalent of four subjects in addition to participating in the remedial classes. Those students who take only one remedial class must still meet the five subject requirement.

PM 28A-5-2 (3) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Special Education (5-92)-Exception 6 applies to ALL students, not just special education students.

(7) A student who transfers from a school on a 4X4 block schedule to a school on a traditional schedule too late in the semester to earn credit in an added fifth course may qualify under the Scholarship Rule's five-course requirement for the current semester at the receiving school if he/she was passing at least three credits on the block plan at the sending school at the time of the transfer. If that student receives a passing final semester grade at the receiving school in at least three courses taken on the block plan at the sending school, and takes at least five credit courses the next semester, that will meet the scholarship requirement for that next semester.

(8) A student who transfers from a school on a traditional schedule to a school on a 4X4 block schedule too late in the semester to catch up and earn a passing grade in the block courses may qualify under the Scholarship Rule for the next semester if he/she is enrolled in at least three credit block courses and was passing at least five traditional courses at the sending school at the time of the transfer.

28A-5-3 Interpretations:

(1) "Immediately preceding" semester is the last regular school semester prior to the semester in which the student desires to compete.

PM 28A-5-3 (1) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Summer School Credit (5-92)-A student who passes two one-semester courses in summer school is considered to have passed two subjects toward eligibility; while a student who passes one annual-credit course in summer school is considered to have passed only one subject toward eligibility.

(2) "Immediately preceding" year is the last regular school year prior to the semester in which the student desires to compete.

(3) For the purpose of this rule the student's eligibility or ineligibility shall be determined on the first day of the school year and on the first calendar day following the end of the first semester according to the school board adopted calendar.

PM 28A-5-3 (2) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Subjects Taken (1-90)-A student remains eligible if he/she passed 6 subjects the first semester, two of which are yearly subjects that he/she subsequently drops and replaces with two other subjects for credit.

(4) A student scholastically eligible or ineligible at the beginning of a semester shall be considered eligible or ineligible under this rule throughout that semester; however, throughout any semester during which the student wishes to maintain his/her eligibility, he/she must be continuously enrolled in five subjects that, if successfully completed, will render him/her scholastically eligible for League participation the ensuing semester. (Exception: a student who receives an incomplete in a subject which causes him/her not to meet minimum scholastic requirements is ineligible until the work is satisfactorily made up and credit for that course is awarded, at which time his/her eligibility is restored.)

(5) "Equivalent" means that a course granting annual credit of less than one unit equals one subject and a course granting annual credit of more than one unit equals two subjects, etc.

(6) A student who is suspended or expelled from school and, as a result of this, does not finish a semester is ineligible throughout the following semester, since his/her record is "incomplete."

(7) The scholastic eligibility of a student who attended another school during the preceding semester may be established only by an official certificate or transcript from that school.

(8) Grade school subjects may not be counted in determining eligibility under this rule. College courses, or others taken outside the high school, may be counted provided they are accepted for credit by the high school at which the student desires to compete.

(9) A subject for which credit has previously been granted may not, if repeated, be used by any student to satisfy the requirements of this rule.

(10) If a student receives credit for a semester's work he/she is considered to have passed the work within the intent of this rule, regardless of whether his/her grades at the end of that semester were of passing quality.

Note: This interpretation is not to be considered in conflict with interpretation 8 above. Interpretation 4 is only to be considered to provide cases when students making passing grades in the fall on a subject and do not pass in the spring, but it is the policy of the school for all students to average the year's work. In such cases, when the student is given credit for the year's work–including the spring semester in that subject–he/she is considered to have passed the work within the intent of this rule. On the other hand, where passing grades are made at the end of the spring semester and no credit is allowed for the year's work due to failing work at the end of the fall semester on a subject, he/she is considered not to have passed the work within the intent of this rule.

PM 28A-5-3 (3) SCHOLARSHIP RULE/Interpretations-Checking students' grades to determine fall semester eligibility is a tedious job, requiring complete knowledge of the VHSL Scholarship Rule, plus an understanding of the "annual basis" subjects, the "semester basis" subjects, or a combination of both. The examples below point out how a student's eligibility is affected by these grading systems as well as a reminder that the VHSL Scholarship Rule requirement is based on subjects passed, not credit passed.

Using the ANNUAL BASIS Grading System

(No semester credit courses are offered. Each subject is passed or failed for the year.)

Student John Doe	1st Semester	Subjects Passed	2nd Semester	Subjects Passed	End of Year	Subjects Passed
English 10	B	1	D	1	C	1
Geometry	F	0	D	1	F	0
PE/Driver Ed	B	1	F	0	D	1
Biology	C	1	F	0	D	1
Band	A	1	A	1	A	1
Computer Science	D	1	C	1	D	1
TOTAL		5		4		5

For the upcoming semester, John Doe is **ELIGIBLE** because he passed five annual subjects. The fact that he passed only four subjects during second semester has no bearing when the Annual Basis System is used.

Using the SEMESTER BASIS Grading System

(Credit is granted only on a semester basis.
There is no average of first and second semester grades.)

Student John Doe	1st Semester	Subjects Passed	2nd Semester	Subjects Passed	End of Year	Subjects Passed
English 101	B	1				
English 102			A	1		
Geometry 101	F	0				
Geometry 102			C	1		
PE 10	B	1				
Driver Ed			F	0		
Biology 101	C	1				
Biology 102			F	0		
Band 101	A	1				
Band 102			A	1		
Computer Sci 101	D	1				
Computer Sci 102			B	1		
TOTAL		5		4		

For the upcoming semester, John Doe is **INELIGIBLE** because he passed only 4 subjects the preceding semester. On this system the grades for the first semester and second semester are not averaged. Each semester stands alone.

Using a COMBINATION of Annual Basis and Semester Basis Grading

(Some classes are offered on an annual basis and some on a semester basis.)

Student John Doe	1st Semester	Subjects Passed	2nd Semester	Subjects Passed	End of Year	Subjects Passed
English 10 (Annual)	B	1	D	1	C	1
Geometry (Annual)	F	0	D	1	F	0
PE 10 (1st Sem)	B	1				1
Driver Ed (2nd Sem)			F	0		0
Biology (Annual)	C	1	F	0	D	1
Band (Annual)	A	1	A	1	A	1
Comp Sci (Annual)	D	1	C	1	D	1
TOTAL		5		4		5

For the upcoming semester, John Doe is **INELIGIBLE** even though he passed 4 annual subjects and 1 first-semester course (PE 10) for a total of five subjects. Because he passed PE 10 during the first semester of last year, it counted toward his eligibility for the second semester of last year and may not be counted again for the upcoming semester. The same subject cannot be used twice in determining eligibility.

28A-6-1 SEMESTER RULE-*The student shall not have been enrolled in the last four years of high school for a period of more than eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the semester in which he/she was enrolled for the first time in the ninth grade. The eight consecutive semesters shall be counted continuously from that point, regardless of whether or not he/she remains continuously enrolled in school.*

PM 28A-6-1 (1) SEMESTER RULE/8th to 10th Grade (9-91)-An eighth grade student who is placed in the tenth grade is immediately eligible and has eight semesters of eligibility remaining.

PM 28A-6-1 (2) SEMESTER RULE/Foreign Exchange Students (1-90)-A foreign exchange student from a school that normally graduates after 11 years, who repeated a grade in elementary school and therefore has been enrolled 12 years, is eligible to compete as long as the Semester Rule has not been violated.

PM 28A-6-1 (3) SEMESTER RULE/Graduated Seniors-A student who is eligible for a spring sport playoff remains eligible throughout that playoff from the standpoint of the semester rule even if graduation occurs prior to the conclusion of the playoff. (*Note*: This situation is not uncommon for seniors in spring sport playoffs.)

28A-6-2 Exceptions:

(1) A student who interrupts his/her high school career in order to participate in a CSIET-approved foreign study program may have his/her eligibility extended for up to two semesters, provided the student does not participate out of country in sports he/she wishes to play upon his/her return, subject to approval by the District Committee prior to leaving for the foreign study, or upon returning and providing proof to the District Committee the student did not participate out of country, in that sport, while involved in the foreign study.

(2) The Executive Director shall waive the Semester Rule for designated students at non-public member schools the first year such schools are members in the public school division if the student participated in varsity athletics in 8th grade or because the student repeated a high school grade and therefore is, or in the future will be, a fifth-year senior. The Semester Rule waiver will apply to each designated student throughout his or her time in high school and is not a waiver of the Age Rule or Scholarship Rule.

28A-6-3 Interpretation:

(1) For the purposes of this rule, the eighth semester as applied to those completing their eighth semester at mid-year shall be defined as terminating the last day of classes of the first semester.

28A-7-1 TRANSFER RULE-*The student shall not have enrolled in one high school and subsequently transferred to and enrolled in another high school without a corresponding change in the residence of his/her parents, parent, or guardian. The original residence must be abandoned as a residence, that is sold, rented or otherwise disposed of as a residence, and must not be used as a residence by any family members. The entire family must make the change and take with them the household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances. The change must be made with the intent that it is permanent. The sending and receiving VHSL school principals are required to complete and file the VHSL Transfer Form, acknowledging that to the best of their knowledge the student has met all aspects of the transfer rule or its exceptions. Home instruction does not constitute enrollment in a public school. Home schooling is a process through which Virginia Code compulsory education requirements may be met, as is private schooling. Home schooling is the equivalent of school enrollment for Transfer Rule purposes, and determining whether the student has*

met Scholarship Rule requirements of having passed five academic subjects recognized by the Virginia Department of Education in the most recent prior semester. A transfer should be for the welfare of the student and/or school system and not for athletic and/or academic activity purposes.

Note A: The provisions of the Transfer Rule apply to students transferring from one school to another, including transfers from a private school to a public school as well as transfers from one public school to another. For the purposes of this rule only, the phrase "high school" is defined as a school providing instruction at the ninth or tenth or eleventh or twelfth grade level(s).

Note B: Any student who transfers from a non-VHSL member school (i.e., a non-member VHSL non-public school, a home school or a school from a state outside Virginia) to a VHSL non-public member school shall be eligible immediately, provided that student was continuously enrolled in the school from which he/she is transferring for one calendar year prior to such transfer.

Note C: A student who attends one member school, transfers to another member school, and participates at the new school, is ineligible upon their return to the former school, in the same school year, for 365 days from the date of enrollment in the latter school, regardless of any move on the part of the parent/guardian.

PM 28-7-1 (1) TRANSFER RULE/Athletic and/or Activity Purposes-Transfers should not be for athletic and/or activity purpose. Transfers which are motivated in some material way by an athletic purpose are those transfers which would not have occurred but for a desire of the student or the student's family (1) to gain additional playing time; (2) to play for a particular school, coach, or team; (3) to avoid either playing for, or athletic sanctions imposed by, a particular school, coach, or team; and/or (4) to gain increased media or college exposure.

The following is an illustrative, but not exhaustive, list of situations which may indicate athletic purpose:

1. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, is dissatisfied with the student's position or the amount of playing time which the student receives.
2. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, has a problem with a coach or school athletic administration at either a personal or professional level.
3. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks relief from conflict with the philosophy or action of an administrator or teacher relating to sports.
4. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks to avoid or nullify the effect of actions or anticipated actions by the previous school relating to sports eligibility.
5. There is no team in the particular sport at the school from which the student has transferred.

6. The student follows the student's coach or other student-athletes to another school to which the coach or athletes have transferred or seeks to play for a particular coach or with a particular athlete due to a prior relationship with the coach or athlete (such as through club or AAU participation) or because of the reputation of the coach.

7. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a less successful, smaller enrollment classification and/or lower profile team in order to be ranked higher among the students on that team.

8. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, desires that the student play on a more successful, larger enrollment classification and/or higher profile team to gain a higher level of competition and/or more exposure to college scouts.

9. The student moves with one parent, one guardian, or one or more siblings, into a residence in the new public school district, especially where the student and/or the parent, guardian, or sibling returns to the family home in the evening and/or on weekends.

10. The student, or a parent or guardian, or an adult with whom the student resides, seeks out athletic personnel and/or student-athletes at the transferee school.

11. The student transfers in the middle of a marking period and/or immediately before or after a sports season.

12. The student transfers immediately after being cut from a team in a particular sport.

PM 28A-7-1 (2) TRANSFER RULE/Move Requirement (1-71)-A student who moves from one school to another with no move on the part of his parents is ineligible. This student can become eligible immediately when his/her parents established residency in the zone served by the student's new school.

Note: A student who has established residence in a school attendance zone cannot move within that same school attendance zone and meet the qualifying criteria for PM 28A-7-1 (1).

PM 28A-7-1 (3) TRANSFER RULE/State Event Qualifier (5-94)-Students who transfer to another VHSL school after qualifying to the state tournament are not allowed to participate in cross country, wrestling, indoor and outdoor track/field, tennis, golf, gymnastics, speech and debate; parents or students may request a hardship based on the circumstances for the move.

PM 28A-7-1 (4) TRANSFER RULE/Site Designated Programs (5-15)-Students who have established eligibility in a school and subsequently change into or out of a site designated program (Academy, Speciality Program, etc.) in that school, will be ineligible for 90 school days.

PM 28A-7-1 (5) TRANSFER RULE/In-Season Transfers/Postseason Play:

(a) If a student in 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade transfers before the student was eligible to participate in either (1) at least 50% of the maximum number of regular season contests, or (2) at least 50% of the total number of games on the student's previous team's schedule in that sport, the student is ineligible for participation in the postseason (district championships tournament and thereafter) in that same sport, for the current school year.

(b) If a student in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade transfers after the student was eligible to participate in either (1) at least 50% of the maximum number of regular season contests, or (2) at least 50% of the total number of games on the student's previous team's schedule in that sport, the student will be deemed to have participated in an entire season and, following the transfer, is ineligible for further participation in that sport for the current school year, including post-season for the current school year only.

PM 28A-7-1 (6) TRANSFER RULE/Out-of-Season Transfers/Postseason Play-If a student transfers for any reason after participating in a sport in their 9th grade year, or thereafter, and following completion of such season, transfers to another school, said student is ineligible for participation in the postseason (district championship tournaments and thereafter) in that same sport for the subsequent year. The student, if otherwise eligible, may participate in that sport only during the regular season.

PM 28A-7-1 (7) TRANSFER RULE/Post Season Ineligibility Exceptions-Eligibility can be achieved for the post-season if certain requirements are met.

(1) **Waiver upon submission of necessary documentation.** A District Committee may waive the period of post-season ineligibility upon demonstration by the student that the transfer was necessitated by exceptional and unusual circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the student's family. The District Committee may grant such waiver without a hearing upon receipt of appropriate supporting documentation, as set forth below, demonstrating that a waiver is justified. Requests lacking the required documentation, or, in the opinion of the Committee, providing inadequate documentation, will not be considered for waiver on the paperwork but may still be considered by an appeal to a District Committee.

a. A transfer following a local child welfare agency approved change in residence. Documentation required: Proof of child welfare organization approval of change of residence.

b. A school-initiated administrative transfer within a school district. Documentation required: The official school district transfer document.

c. A transfer following a court order directing such transfer or change in residence. Documentation required: Copy of the court order.

d. A transfer caused by a military reassignment of a parent. Documentation required: Copy of the military transfer document.

e. A transfer caused by release from a juvenile facility. Documentation required: Copy of the official release document.

f. A transfer following a bona fide change of residence. Documentation required: Proof of (1) original residence has been sold, rented or otherwise disposed of as a residence and is not being used by any family members; and (2) the entire family made the change and took with them household goods and furniture appropriate to the circumstances.

g. A transfer occurring after a school closes. Documentation required: Proof of school closure.

i. A transfer resulting from bullying, harassment, or other misconduct. Documentation required: (1) Written corroboration from persons unrelated to the student and/or the student's family that the alleged misconduct occurred, and (2) a letter from school administration that confirms the student timely sought assistance of appropriate school personnel to address such misconduct and that the school agrees that a transfer was appropriate.

j. A transfer because of violence, or a threat of violence, directed against the student. Documentation required: Copy of the police and/or school report(s) of the incident(s).

28A-7-2 Transfer Rule Exceptions:

(1) A student shall become eligible for interscholastic competition after he/she has been enrolled in the school for 365 consecutive calendar days. Exception: If a student transfers during the summer and remains ineligible for the entire subsequent school year, he/she would become eligible beginning with the fall season of the following academic year.

(2) A student transferring from a school closed by executive or administrative order to the school serving the district in which his/her parent, parents or guardian reside.

(3) A student transferring to the high school serving the district in which his/her parents reside upon completion of the highest grade level offered by the intermediate school, middle school, junior high school or non-public high school from which he/she transfers.

(4) The first time a student transfers from a non-member high school to a member school of the attendance area of the student's parents or guardians, he/she shall be eligible immediately provided that he/she has been enrolled in the non-member school a minimum of one full year, and has never been enrolled at a member school or is returning to the member school where he/she had been enrolled and has been eligible immediately prior to his/her transfer to the non-member school. The student must meet the scholarship requirements to be eligible to participate in athletic/academic activities for the non-member school or the VHSL scholarship requirements (whichever is less stringent). Home school students must have passed five subjects, or equivalent for credit and are currently enrolled in five credit or equivalent courses. Additionally, he/she is only eligible for participation in one season of a particular sport each school year with a maximum of four seasons of participation in eight semesters of high school regardless of member or non-member school. For the purpose of this exception only, the student must have been a ward of the guardian for at least one semester prior to his/her transfer. If the transfer occurs during a sports season, Contest Limitation Rule (54-3-1) guidelines would be binding.

Note: If a student is returning to a member school where he/she was previously enrolled as an out of zone student, he/she will be immediately eligible provided any of the other aspects of the above exception is satisfied.

(5) A student entering the eighth grade for the first time becomes immediately eligible in the high school of the attendance area of the student's parents and guardians. A student entering the ninth grade for the first time becomes immediately eligible in the high school of the attendance area of the students parents or guardians.

Note A: Natural Transition (9th Grade Student)-Promotion from an elementary/junior high/middle school to the 9th grade in a senior high school is considered a Transition, and not a Transfer. A student, entering the 9th grade for the first time by Transition becomes immediately eligible if the student has attended the feeder school for the preceding year before enrolling in 9th grade. A student, entering the 9th grade for the first time becomes immediately eligible in the high school of the attendance area of the student's parent or guardians. A student , entering 9th grade for the first time after being approved to enter an academy or specialty program becomes immediately eligible in the high school providing the academy or specialty program.

Note B: National Transition (8th Grade Student)-Promotion from an elementary/junior high/middle school to the 8th grade in a senior high school is considered a Transition, and not a Transfer. A student entering the 8th grade for the first time by Transition becomes immediately eligible if the student has attended the feeder school for preceding year before enrolling in the 8th grade. A student, entering the 8th grade for the first time becomes immediately eligible in the high school of the attendance area of the student's parent or guardians. A student, entering 8th grade for the first time after being approved to enter an academy or specialty program becomes immediately eligible in the high school providing the academy or specialty program.

Note C: Feeder Schools-A feeder school is a school with students assigned to attend based on geographic/residence/boundary whose students are also assigned to attend the high school based on geographic/residence/boundary as established by the School Board. A feeder school may be a feeder for multiple high schools. For eligibility purposes, students will be deemed eligible at their School Board assigned high school.

Note D: A student can be placed at a middle school outside their attendance zone within the school division based on the welfare of the student and/or school system and not for athletic purposes and/or activity purposes. The school board or division superintendent shall determine the students high school of attendance if the feeder school feeds multiple high schools.

Note E: This policy will become effective July 1, 2026.

(6) A foreign exchange student may become immediately eligible in the high school in which he/she is placed regardless of his/her residence status by meeting the conditions of this exception; however, all other eligibility requirements shall be met. A bona fide foreign exchange student with a J-1 or F-1+ visa may be immediately eligible the first year in residence and is limited to eligibility only during that first year in residence, and only while the student remains enrolled in an established foreign exchange program accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). The foreign exchange program must comply with all applicable CSIET and federal regulations and there must be no evidence of athletic recruitment resulting in the student's attendance at the school either by school personnel or other outside parties. Once the student no longer is a participant in a foreign exchange program or subsequent to his/her first year of enrollment in such program, he/she must meet all normal requirements of the Transfer Rule and would have to meet 28A-7-2 (1), discounting any period while enrolled in the foreign exchange program, at the high school in which the student wishes to be eligible.

PM 28A-7-2 (6) TRANSFER RULE/Foreign Student (3-93)-A foreign student who is not under any foreign exchange program and who transfers to a VHSL school in January is not eligible for spring sports, unless the parents move into the school's zone.

(7) A school board or division superintendent may transfer a student, by name, within the school division without affecting that student's eligibility by specifically granting a waiver of the Transfer Rule (28A-7-1). Such waivers should be considered for the welfare of the student and/or school system and not for athletic and/or activity purposes. The waiver should be noted on the Master Eligibility List.

Note: Due to Virginia law stating the powers of local school boards as to internal decisions, all individual eligiblity appeals of this exception lie exclusively with the local school board.

(8) When a local school board requires students within a geographical area, or those who fall within any other category as distinguished from individuals by name, to attend a high school other than the one the students have been attending, such students shall become eligible in the high school to which they are required to transfer at the time the transfer becomes effective.

(9) In the case of a school reorganization or consolidation which results in the discontinuance of one or more high schools in which students had been or would be eligible under this rule, these students become eligible in the school designated by the school board to receive pupils from the discontinued school at the time set for the reorganization or consolidation and only in the high school so designated.

(10) If the city or county school board redistricts the city or county for high school purposes, students who by this action are required to transfer to another high school are immediately eligible at the school to which they are reassigned.

(11) A student under the care and guidance of any department of welfare, any department of corrections or an orphanage who is required to change residence by court order, unless that order was sought to enable the student to participate in extracurricular activities, or who is legally adopted, is eligible to participate in League activities in the school district in which he/she is placed.

(12) In cases of court-ordered custody, a copy of the appropriate legal custody document, signed by the presiding judge of the appropriate jurisdiction, shall be submitted to the Executive Director for review and approval. Approval is contingent upon the receiving school's principal attesting that there is no evidence that the transfer was for athletic and/or activity purposes. A student, 18 years of age or older, who would be subject to a transfer of custody if he/she were less than 18 years of age may petition the Executive Director through the student's principal for eligibility, and the Executive Director has authority to grant such eligibility immediately.

(13) If the District Committee of the district in which the student wishes to participate approves such eligibility, a student may, for the first time only, transfer from one school to another as the result of a move from one parent to another parent or from a guardian to a parent, when the parents are residing in different school attendance zones, and become eligible immediately if all other eligibility criteria are met.

(14) The eligibility of students transferring to a Governor's School or a magnet school shall be determined by the policies approved by the respective Governor's School or magnet school's Board of Directors. The eligibility of students transferring from a Governor's School or magnet school back to the home school of the student shall be approved by the home school division superintendent.

(15) Students who qualify under the McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act are eligible provided the school has on file all required documentation substantiating the student's status and provided the student is eligible in all other respects.

(16) If a student transfers into a school to live with a relative or guardian due to the fact the parent(s) or legal guardian is deployed overseas and/or to a combat assignment by orders of the United States Military, or temporarily assigned in excess of 90 days, the student will be granted immediate eligibility. Student must meet all other eligibility requirements. A copy of the Special Power of Attorney stating the guardian, residence of guardian, and school to be enrolled must be provided to the school the student is transferring into. A copy of Military Orders of Deployment must be provided to the school the student is transferring into. Student must not have any other parent (with custody) or legal court ordered guardian available.

(17) If a student previously attended the school and (i) moved with a parent, as defined in §22.1-1, out of the school's attendance area because that parent is a full-time active duty member of the uniformed services of the United States, including service in the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §§ 1209 and 1211, and received orders to relocate and (ii) moved back to and currently lives in the school's attendance zone.

28A-7-3 Interpretations:

(1) Enrollment is defined as official registration and attendance in classes for at least three consecutive school days thereafter.

(2) Engaging in a contest, regardless of whether or not said student has officially registered in the school or attended classes, shall be evidence that the student is enrolled in the school.

(3) Once a student becomes eligible in a school, he/she may complete his/her eligibility at that school even though his/her parents or guardians may change address, as long as he/she remains continuously enrolled there. However, if a student remains enrolled in that school beyond the third day of the fall semester after the parents' or guardians' move, he/she forfeits the right to transfer to the school serving the district to which his/her parents or guardians have moved without first meeting 28A-7-2 (1).

(4) A student who attends a school other than the one serving the school district in which his/her parents reside must comply with one of the exceptions in 28A-7-2 to establish his/her eligibility, unless the student residing in a VHSL member school attendance zone attends a virtual academy recognized by the Department of Education. Such a student, with the approval of that school district's superintendent, may, for the first time only, receive permission to participate for the school district in which the parent(s) reside. Also, a student who has established his/her eligibility at a school other than the one serving the school district in which his/her parents reside must comply with one of the exceptions in 28A-7-2 to establish his/her eligibility if he/she returns to the school serving the school district in which his/her parents reside. However, a student residing in a VHSL member school attendance zone who attended a virtual academy recognized by the Department of Education, may, for the first time only and upon receiving approval of that school district's superintendent, be eligible to participate in the school district in which the parent(s) reside.

(5) The appointment of a legal guardian will not render a student immediately eligible in the school to which he/she transfers except in the case of the death of his/her parents, parent or guardian, and then only if the new guardianship is made legally and without delay.

A student who has neither parents nor legal guardian must meet 28A-7-2 (1) in the school to which he/she transfers, unless the family with whom he/she lives has been given custody ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction in which case he/she becomes eligible immediately.

(6) If the parents of a student who has previously enrolled in the high school grades move from a district served by one high school into a district served by another high school and the student enters a high school other than the one serving the district into which his/her parents move, he/she is not eligible in the high school of his/her choice until after meeting 28A-7-2 (1) in that school.

(7) Residence is defined as the domicile of an individual, meaning that the individual lives in a locality with the intent to make it a fixed and permanent home. Domicile requires more than bodily presence as an inhabitant in a given place; it requires bodily presence and an intention to make such a place a fixed and permanent home. Other indicia of domicile include automobile registration, voter registration and the reporting of a mailing address change to the appropriate agencies, such as the post office, utility companies, creditors and employers. Under no circumstances can a family or student participant have two residences for eligibility purposes. It is the obligation of the school to know the complete residence status of each student participant and to see that all comply with these requirements. Any change in residence must be bona fide. Determination of what constitutes a bona fide change of residence depends upon the facts of each case.

(8) For purposes of transfer, VHSL does not recognize student emancipation by age 18 or through marriage.

(9) Upon seeking membership in the League and subsequently prior to reclassification, a non-public high school may define its attendance zone as one of the following options:

(a) The attendance zone of the VHSL member public school in which the non-public school is located; or

(b) The attendance zone (a) above and one additional public school attendance zone contiguous to the public school attendance zone in the same county or city in which it is located; or

(c) The attendance zone (a) above and one additional public school attendance zone contiguous to the public school attendance zone in which it is located but that is not in the same county or city in which the school is located.

(10) The first time during high school that a student transfers without a corresponding parent move between a member public school and a member non-public school in the non-public school's declared attendance zone, the student is exempted from the normal one-year eligibility delay for such transfers.

28A-8-1 TRANSGENDER POLICY (12-14)-A student who wishes to participate in a VHSL gender-specific boys sports team that is different from the gender assigned at birth is advised to address the gender identification issue with the local school district well in advance of the deadline for athletic eligibility determinations for a current sports season. Students are not permitted to participate in practices or to try out for gender-specific girls sports teams that are different from their gender assigned at birth or to try out simultaneously for VHSL sports teams of both genders.

Note: Students who were assigned male at birth or are identifying as transgender females may not participate on a girls sports team other than cheerleading (PM 54-6-1 (4).

When a school identifies a transgender boy who seeks to participate in VHSL sports and/or activities, the school principal should submit a letter requesting an appeal to the district chairman and the VHSL executive director. The letter should be responsive to the conditions in the policy below.

Privacy Statement: All discussions and documents at all levels of the process either by a member school, appeals panel, and/or the VHSL shall be kept confidential unless specifically requested by the student and family.

VHSL rules and regulations allow transgender boy student-athletes participation under the following conditions:

1. The student or parents shall contact the school principal or his/her designee indicating that the student has a consistent gender identity different than the gender assigned at birth, and that the student desires to participate in activities in a manner consistent with the student's gender identity.

2. The first level of review shall be the District Committee. All documentation supporting the appeal shall be forwarded to the District Chairman. The District Chairman does not have to call a meeting until the request and all materials are filed with the District Chairman. The District Committee (three members only) shall review the case within three working days. The student/appellant is entitled to be present at the hearing. If the student chooses not to attend, a conference call shall suffice. The District Committee must confer with the Executive Director or VHSL Assistant Director for Compliance before rendering a final decision. Within 24 hours, the District Committee will provide the student/appellant in writing the Committee's recommendation as to whether eligibility should or should not be granted. Within 24 hours, the District Chairman will provide the Executive Director with a copy of the District Committee' recommendation plus a copy of the student/appellant's application and documentation.

3. The second level of review shall be the Executive Director and/or Compliance Officer. If the Executive Director concurs with a favorable District Committee decision that eligibility should be granted, the student shall become eligible immediately. In all other cases, the Executive Director will advise the student/appellant of the decision regarding the case, and the student/appellant has the option of requesting in writing that the appeal advances to the Executive Committee. The Executive Director will send a written notice to the student/appellant and the District Chairman.

4. If the recommendation of the District Committee or the decision of the Executive Director is not to grant eligibility, the student/appellant may file a written application for appeal to the Executive Committee. Within 10 working days after the written request and all materials are filed at the VHSL office, the Executive Committee will hear the case advanced by the Director. The Director will inform all parties of the date, time and site of the hearing. The student/appellant is entitled to be present. At least two-thirds favorable vote is required for a waiver. The Executive Committee may not grant retroactive eligibility. The Executive Director will provide the decision in writing to the student/appellant and the District Chairman.

5. Documentation: The student/appellant must provide the principal or their designee and the VHSL with the following documentation and information:

- A written statement from the student affirming the consistent male gender identity and expression of which the student relates;
- Documentation – preferably no more than one or two letters – from individuals such as, but not limited to, parents, friends and/or teachers, which affirm that the actions, attitudes, dress and manner demonstrate the student's consistent gender identification and expression;
- A complete list of all the student's prescribed, non-prescribed or over the counter, treatments or medications;
- Written verification from an appropriate health-care professional (doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist) of the student's consistent gender identification and expression; and
- Any other pertinent documentation or information which the student or parent(s) believe relevant and appropriate.

Note: The VHSL discourages submission of documents providing medical or psychological information that is unrelated to a student's gender identity and/or transgender transition.

6. The school principal or his/her designee is expected to provide a current transcript and school registration information as well as a statement that he/she has determined that the expression of the student's gender identity is bona fide and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in competitive athletics (or indicate that he/she does not believe such is the case).

7. At each level of review, the goal is to determine if the evidence and documentation submitted is sufficient to establish that the expression of the student's gender identity is bona fide and not for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in competitive athletics. In the second and third levels of review (to the Executive Director and the Executive Committee), consultation with medical professionals from the VHSL Frank C. McCue Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) or those familiar with World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) protocols for transitioning (the process by which a transgender person lives consistently with their gender identity) is encouraged.

8. As a general matter, after the issue of gender identity has been addressed by the student and the VHSL appeals process, the determination shall remain consistent for the remainder of the student's high school sports eligibility and does not need to be renewed every sports season or school year.

B. Regulations Governing Athletes Only.

In addition to meeting the foregoing individual eligibility requirements, a student shall meet the following additional requirements to be eligible to represent the school in any VHSL sponsored interscholastic athletic contest:

28B-1-1 ALL-STAR PARTICIPATION RULE-*Only students of member schools who have completed their eligibility in a sport may participate in all-star games in that sport. (See also 27-1-1 and 27-1-2.)*

Underclassmen are only eligible to participate in All-Star games which meet one of the following two criteria:

(1) There is a "tryout" process which determines the team composition and selection of team members.

(2) The event has no connection with the VHSL and the school (in name, use of equipment or travel expense).

PM 28B-1-1 (1) ALL-STAR PARTICIPATION RULE/Junior Nationals (5-95)-Athletes participating in USOC-sponsored Junior National events are not in violation of this rule.

PM 28B-1-1 (2) ALL-STAR PARTICIPATION RULE/Olympic Teams-Athletes trying out for USOC teams are not in violation of this rule.

28B-1-2 Exception: A student involved in an event designated by the Executive Committee as one involving competition with international ramifications.

28B-1-3 Interpretation: An All-Star team is a team composed of players selected from two or more existing or previous high school teams. An All-Star game is a game played between two teams consisting of “selected” players. Whenever teams are formed of players selected from two or more existing or previous high school teams, any game in which they participate against another team is All-Star in nature regardless of how the game is labeled. Such games are often listed as “bowl” or “charity” but are interpreted as All-Star under the All-Star Participation Rule.

28B-1-4 Penalty: Any student adjudged guilty of participating in all-star contest shall be ineligible from the time he/she participates until the end of one calendar year subsequent to such time of participation.

28B-2-1 AMATEUR RULE-*A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived therefrom and is not paid to participate in athletics.*

28B-2-2 Exception: Accepting a fee for instructing, coaching, supervising or officiating in an organized youth or recreation, playground, or camp activities program shall not jeopardize amateur status.

28B-2-3 Interpretations:

(1) An individual loses amateur status and thus shall not be eligible for interscholastic competition in a particular sport if the individual:

(a) Uses his or her athletics skill (directly or indirectly) for pay in any form in that sport other than the exceptions cited herein;

(b) Accepts a promise of pay for participation in that sport even if such pay is to be received following completion of interscholastic athletics participation;

(c) Signs a contract or commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any consideration received, in that sport;

(d) Enters into a professional draft or an agreement with an agent or other entity to negotiate a professional contract in that sport;

(e) Accepts payment for expenses beyond actual and necessary travel, room and board expenses for practice and competition in that sport;

(f) Accepts preferential treatment, benefits or services (e.g., loans with deferred pay-back) because of the individual's athletics reputation or skill or pay-back potential as a professional athlete in that sport. An award of a country club or sports club membership is prohibited. Receipt of a benefit by student-athletes or their relatives or friends is not a violation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to students or their relatives or friends determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability;

(g) Accepts merchandise, prizes or awards having a retail value greater than that permitted by the amateur athletic governing body regulating amateur status in that sport. If that governing body has no limit, the maximum value of merchandise, prizes or awards shall be $500 per event.

(h) Plays in any contest (school or non-school) in that sport under a name other than his/her own name.

(2) **Road Racing**-"Road racing" is essentially the same as cross country or track competition and cannot be separated effectively from those sports for the purposes of this rule. Therefore, a student-athlete who accepts pay in any form for participation in such a race is ineligible for interscholastic cross country or track competition.

(3) **Institutional Fund-Raising Activities involving the Athletics Ability of Student-Athletes**-Institutional fund-raising activities that involve the use of athletics ability by student-athletes to obtain funds (e.g., "swim-a-thons") are permitted only if:

(a) The total money is contributed to the institution; and

(b) The student-athletes receive no compensation or prizes for their participation.

(4) Scholarships to institutions of higher learning may be accepted provided the amount of the scholarship is paid by the donor(s) directly to the college/institution of choice.

28B-2-4 Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)-Students may receive compensation for the commercialization of their own name, image and likeness (NIL).

Common NIL activities include, but are not limited to commercials, product endorsements, personal appearances, autograph sessions, merchandise or apparel sales, group licensing, and acting as a social media influencer.

Schools and teams may not use NIL opportunities to incentivize a student’s enrollment at a school or membership on a team.

A student may not receive compensation, endorsements or gifts of monetary value for Intellectual Property of the VHSL or any member school. Intellectual Property includes, but is not limited to, a school's district's, region's and VHSL name, uniform, mascot, and logo.

(a) This provision is not intended to restrict the right of any student and their family to engage in NIL activities for financial gain, except as prohibited by this guidance.

(b) Student-athletes are prohibited from engaging in the following while participating in NIL activities.

- Making any reference to a school team, school, district, region or VHSL.
- Appearing in the uniform of the student's school. Students may not utilize the marks, logos, etc. of their school team or any school's team during NIL activities.
- Endorsing or promoting goods or service of any third-party NIL partner during school-based team activities and events, including but not limited to wearing third-party apparel, displaying a third-party logo or brand, and displaying insignia or identifying mark unless it is part of the standard school uniform for that sport.

(c) Students may not engage in any NIL activities involving, displaying or endorsing the following categories of products and services:

- Adult entertainment products and services
- Alcohol products
- Tobacco and electronic smoking products and devices
- Opioids and prescription pharmaceuticals
- Controlled dangerous substances
- Casinos and gambling, including sports betting
- Weapons, firearms and ammunition

(d) No school or anyone employed by or affiliated with a member school, including booster clubs, coaches, administrators, alumni or an NIL Collective*, may solicit, arrange, or negotiate compensation for a student's NIL , other than their own child.

***NIL Collective**: A group of alumni, supporters parents, or other people who form a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, non-profit organization foundation, or other entity to provide NIL opportunities to student-athletes of a specific school.

(e) Students must notify the Principal or Athletic Director in writing of the student's school upon entering into any type of NIL contract within 72 hours of entering into the contract.

28B-2-5 Penalty: A pupil who has lost his/her amateur standing through violation of this rule shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition. Such student may be reinstated as an amateur by the Executive Committee, provided his/her principal requests in writing his/her reinstatement as an amateur and certifies that the student has not during that one-year period violated this rule, and that the student is not now under contract to, or owned by, any professional athletic organization.

28B-3-1 ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION/PARENTAL CONSENT/PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE-*The student shall have submitted to the school principal or designee, a signed Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form completely filled in and properly signed, attesting that he/she has received a physical examination, was found to be physically fit for athletic competition no more than 14 calendar months prior to the date on which such report was signed, and that his/her parents' consent to his/her participation. (See 30-4-3.)*

Notes:

(1) The physical examination shall be required before any student is accepted as a participant on any athletic team or squad or is permitted to engage in tryouts, practice, or competitions. Any person licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy may conduct the physical examination and may sign the physical form, as can a licensed advanced practice registered nurse practicing in accordance with provisions of §54.1-2957 or a licensed physician assistant acting under the regulations of the state Boards of Medicine and Nursing and under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician.

(2) Students taking part in athletic contests should be in fit physical condition. This condition can be attained only through systematic and properly conducted training. It is recommended that coaches and physical education directors insist upon strict observance of the accepted rules of training as a requisite for squad membership.

(3) Students who have been examined in the previous 14 months and cleared for participation do not have to be examined again during that period unless they have had a serious injury or a serious illness. In case of a serious illness or serious injury, the medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy treating the student may specify in his/her release of the patient that the student is approved for athletic participation.

(4) The "Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form" means the most recent Preparticipation Physical Evaluation form developed jointly by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, America Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, and American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine.

PM 28B-3-1 (1) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE/Emancipated Student (8-96)-An emancipated student may sign the parental section of the VHSL Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Evaluation form.

PM 28B-3-1 (2) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE/Licensed Nurse Practitioner (9-93)-LNPs under the supervision of a chiropractor are not authorized to sign the Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Evaluation form.

PM 28B-3-1 (3) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE/Transfer Student (10-90)-When an out-of-state student who has received a current physical examination elsewhere transfers to Virginia and attaches proof of that physical examination to the League's Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Evaluation form, the student is in compliance with physical examination requirements.

28B-3-2 Penalty: A student who has failed to fulfill the requirements of this rule shall be ineligible for practice or competition until such time as the requirements have been met. Schools failing to require strict adherence to this regulation may be subject to such disciplinary action as the appropriate District Committee may impose.

28B-4-1 AWARDS RULE-*Students may accept permissible awards presented or approved by the student's school.*

PM 28B-4-1 (1) AWARDS RULE/Gifts (10-92)-A student is not in violation of the Awards Rule by accepting tennis shoes for participation in outside competitions or for being selected as an outstanding member of a high school team.

PM 28B-4-1 (2) AWARDS RULE/Grants-in-Aid (1-72)-Even though grants-in-aid at various colleges are open competitively to students of more than one school, they are not in violation of the League's Awards Rule.

PM 28B-4-1 (3) AWARDS RULE/State Wrestling (2-94)-Awards for most valuable wrestler(s) and those given by non-school groups are not allowed.

PM 28B-4-1 (4) AWARDS RULE SANCTION/Waiver (5-75)-An officials' association may present awards to a school or individual at the district and regional levels, but not at a state event.

28B-4-2 Interpretations:

(1) It is intended by this rule that control of awards to school athletes be in the hands of the school principal. Outside agencies or organizations which desire to present awards or recognitions to students for achievement in some phase of the school's activities program must first secure the concurrence of the school principal or the Executive Director.

(2) Permissible awards include trophies, medals, plaques, certificates, cups, ribbons, pins, letters, pictures, event T-shirts, event hats, game balls, jackets and suitably inscribed rings or watches which are symbolic (no intrinsic value) in nature.

(3) Cash or any other type of negotiable document or other monetary compensation are not permissible awards. Gift certificates may not be exchanged for cash, even in part.

(4) A banquet for a school team (or seniors, letter winners, etc.), sponsored by other than the school, shall not constitute a violation if arranged with the approval of the school.

28B-4-3 Penalty: A student who accepts an award in violation of this regulation shall be ineligible in the specific sport from the date of discovery for a minimum of 50% of the contest limitations of the specific sport. Such numbers shall include all contests in which the school participates subsequent to the date of violation. The penalty as applied to the student involved under this rule shall be applied and shall be counted consecutively from the date of discovery. The penalty as applied to the school under Section 30-5-1 (1) of this *Handbook* shall be effective from the date of violation. The penalty may extend into the next school year, but in no case will the penalty extend beyond one calendar year.

28B-5-1 COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RULE-*The student shall not have been a member of a college team in the sport in which he/she desires to represent his/her high school.*

28B-6-1 INDEPENDENT TEAM RULE-*Student responsibility for sports participation. During the sports season for the relevant sport, a student may, while a member of a school squad or team engaged in interscholastic sports become a member of or participate with an organized team in the same sport which is independent of the school's control so long as such participation does not conflict with the scheduled activities of the school squad or team. No school or student shall be declared ineligible for participation in interscholastic sports because of participation by a student as a member of an organized team in the same sport which is independent of the school's control during the sports season for the relevant sport.*

PM 28B-6-1 INDEPENDENT TEAM RULE/Boys Home (10-92)-Alleghany County has students who live at Boys' Home and who want to play on the Boys' Home team when Alleghany is not scheduled. The Executive Committee agreed that they not be permitted to play on the Boys' Home team when it engages in competition with VHSL schools.

C. Special Rules Applicable to All Students.

28C-1-1 DUE PROCESS RULE-*Whenever a principal or their designee has information that a student who wants to represent the school in a League-sponsored activity may be ineligible to do so because of failure to qualify under one or more of the individual eligibility regulations in Section 28 of the* Handbook*, he/she shall promptly conduct an informal hearing within three working days to resolve the question. The student shall be entitled to be present at the hearing and to offer information about his/her eligibility. If, subsequent to the hearing, the principal or their designee determines that the student is ineligible, he/she shall inform the student by letter of his/her ineligibility and the specific individual eligibility regulations involved. Excluding those exceptions listed under 28C-1-2, the student or parent may appeal the principal's or their designee's declaration of ineligibility to the District Committee by writing to the district chairman. The District Committee shall review the case within five working days after receiving notice of the appeal. The student shall be entitled to be present at the District Committee hearing and to offer information about his/her eligibility. The District Committee may set aside a rule only for these specific cases: Enrollment Rule 28A-3-2 (2), Scholarship Rule 28A-5-2 (3) and Transfer Rule 28A-7-2 (13). All other decisions of the District Committee shall be recommendations only. Any decision of the District Committee may be appealed by the student, parent or member school principal to the Executive Director and subsequent levels of appeal in accordance with Section 33 of the* Handbook.

Whenever a District Committee or an interDistrict Committee has information that a student previously certified as eligible by the principal or their designee may not be eligible because of failure to qualify under one or more of the individual eligibility regulations in Section 28 of the Handbook*, the committee shall promptly, within five working days, conduct an informal hearing to resolve the question. The student and the principal or their designee shall be entitled to be present and to offer information about the case, and the District Committee shall consult the Executive Director as required in Section 21-3-1 of the* Handbook. *The District Committee may set aside a rule only for these specific cases: Enrollment Rule 28A-3-2 (2), Scholarship Rule 28A-5-2 (3) and Transfer Rule 28A-7-2 (13). All other decisions of the District Committee shall be recommendations only. If, subsequent to the hearing, the committee determines that the student is ineligible, it shall notify the student and the principal of the ineligibility and the specific individual eligibility regulations involved. The*

student, parent or member school principal, in keeping with Section 33 of the Handbook, *may appeal the committee's decision to the Executive Director and subsequent levels of appeal in accordance with Section 33 of the* Handbook.

28C-1-2 Exceptions-A student who is denied participation in League activities (a) because of local rules authorized in Section 27-8-10, or (b) because of any rule or regulation of any local school board or division superintendent.

28C-1-3 Interpretations:

(1) Upon receipt of information that a student may be ineligible, or that a district or interDistrict Committee is considering the eligibility of a student, the principal may temporarily suspend that student's participation in League activities until the required hearing has been completed and the question resolved. If the principal or their designee permits the student to continue participation until the hearing, and the student is subsequently found to have been ineligible, the provisions of Section 30-3-1 of the *Handbook* shall apply.

(2) The failure of any person entitled to be present at a hearing under this rule shall not prevent the conduct of the hearing if the person has been previously invited to appear.

SECTION BREAK

The following pages include information on violations, penalties, interpretations, protests and appeals. The following sections are included:

Section	29	Reporting Violations
	29-1	Violations of League Rules and Regulations
Section	30	Penalties
	30-1	Appeals
	30-2	Imposition of Penalties
	30-3	Participation of Ineligible Student/Coach
	30-4	Participation of Ineligible Student/Coach under court order
	30-5	Specific Penalties
	30-5	Specific Penalties
	30-6	Types of Penalties
Section	31	Rules Interpretations
	31-1	Authority
	31-2	Requests by Principals
	31-3	Oral Interpretations
	31-4	Written Interpretations
Section	32	Protests
	32-1	Filing
	32-2	Procedure
	32-3	Ineligible Student/Coach
	32-4	Use of Protested Student
Section	33	Appeals
	33-1	When Appeals are Permissible
	33-2	Appellant's Pre-meeting Procedures
	33-3	Review by Executive Director or Assistant Director
	33-4	Executive Committee Review
	33-5	Independent Hearing Officer
	33-6	Hearing Notice
	33-7	Hearing Policies

SECTION 29: REPORTING VIOLATIONS.

29-1-1 Violations of League Rules and Regulations-The principal or their designee of each member school is obligated to report any violation of League rules and regulations to the appropriate district chairman; but if the violation is an interdistrict, intergroup or non-member matter, or is a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule, the principal shall report it to the Executive Director. Whenever the district chairman or the Executive Director learns officially of an alleged violation, he/she shall make a complete and thorough investigation and shall initiate appropriate action through the District Committee or the Chairman of the Executive Committee, as the case may be.

29-1-2 Violations of Sportsmanship Rule-The principal or their designee of each member school will report any violation of the Sportsmanship Rule to the Executive Director within seven calendar days. A final report will be filed with the VHSL as soon as possible and will include a complete description of the incident and explanation of any disciplinary action taken by the principal or their designee in addressing the problem.

SECTION 30: PENALTIES.

30-1-1 Appeals-The principal of any school on which a penalty has been imposed may appeal the decision in accordance with Section 33 of this *Handbook*.

30-2-1 Imposition of Penalties-When League rules and regulations have been violated, penalties may be imposed on the offending school by the appropriate District Committee (or by the appropriate District Council in those instances where the District Committee elects to refer violations to the District Council for decision), or by the Sportsmanship Committee for violations of the Sportsmanship Rule, and by such interDistrict Committees as may be appointed by the chairman of the League to decide cases involving interdistrict, intergroup and non-member offenses. Penalties may include warning, probation, suspension and payment of a fine. Please refer to specific references elsewhere in this *Handbook* describing penalties for violating the **SPORTS SEASON RULE (27-12-1)**, the **OUT-OF-SEASON PRACTICE RULE (27-7-1)**, the **PROSELYTIZING RULE (27-9-1)**, the **ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION/PARENTAL CONSENT/PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE (28B-3-1)**, **THEATRE FESTIVAL Rules and Regulations (101-2-1)**, and **SPEECH ACTIVITIES Rules and Regulations (110-6-1)**.

30-2-2 Ineligibility for Steroid Use-Consistent with the Code of Virginia, a student who is a member of a school athletic team shall be ineligible for two years to compete in interscholastic athletics if it is determined by the school principal and division superintendent that the student used anabolic steroids during the training period immediately preceding or during the sport season of the athletic team, unless such steroid use was prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition.

30-3-1 Participation of Ineligible Student/Coach-For participation of an ineligible student/coach or students/coaches in any interscholastic contest or contests: forfeiture of the contest or contests in which the ineligible student/coach or students/coaches participated and disqualification of ineligible student/coach or students/coaches until such time as he/she or they become eligible under League rules in addition to fine as stated in 30-5-1. If the ineligible student/coach participated after he/she had been officially declared ineligible and his/her principal or their designee had been so notified, his/her school shall be automatically suspended from the League for a period of one calendar year unless the principal or their designee was acting under a court order.

Note: If an ineligible student/coach participates in any interscholastic contest without the knowledge of his/her principal, the principal, upon learning of that student's/coach's participation, shall report such participation to the principals of all schools against which the ineligible student/coach participated, to the district chairman and to the Executive Director. Such action on the part of the principal shall not automatically cancel any additional penalty which the District Committee may impose, but will be considered as evidence of good faith by the District Committee in determining what additional penalty or penalties to impose.

30-3-2 Restitution Rule-Any member school (or school board acting on behalf of a member school) which institutes an unsuccessful court suit challenging a rule, rules or decision of the League, either prior to or after having first exhausted the internal appeal procedures of the League, shall be assessed the full costs resulting from such litigation, including, but not limited to, court costs, counsel and actual expenses incurred by the League. Any member school that does not make full payment of such costs within sixty days of the assessment shall be prohibited from playoff participation in all sports. The restriction shall continue until the full amount plus interest at the statutory rate is paid.

30-4-1 Participation of an Ineligible Student/Coach under a Court Order-If a student/coach who is finally determined to be ineligible participates in a League contest under a temporary or other court order, the Executive Director shall forfeit the contest, and all team awards, individual awards and other awards and honors won during the term of said order shall be forfeited and returned to the League office or to the appropriate district or region.

30-4-2 Specific Penalties for Violations of Individual Eligibility Rules and Rules for a Sport-Refer to the following sections for guidance on penalties when violating a specific rule: **AMATEUR RULE (28B-2-4), ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION/PARENTAL CONSENT/ PHYSICAL EXAMINATION RULE (28B-3-1), AWARDS RULE (28B-4-3), ALL-STAR PARTICIPATION RULE (28B-1-4), GOLF (70-4-1)** and **TENNIS (82-4-9).**

30-4-3 Specific Penalty for Giving False Information-If a student or his/her parent(s) or guardian gives false information, written or verbal, relating to his/her residence, eligibility or any other aspect of these rules and regulations, the student shall be deemed ineligible at any VHSL school for a period of one year from the date the information is certified as being false.

PM 30-4-3 (1) PENALTY/False Information (02-96)-The penalty (ineligibility at any VHSL school for one year) for giving false information will apply for all VHSL activities (athletic and non-athletic).

30-4-4 Specific Penalty for VHSL Event Not Being in Compliance with Policies-In situations where a member school hosts an event in which all VHSL guidelines are not enforced the following can apply:

- The host and all participating member schools will receive a Warning.
- The host school loses the ability to sanction that sport/activity tournament for three years.
- The host will be subject to a fine of $50 for each VHSL member school participating in the event.

30-5-1 Specific Penalties-The following penalties shall be specific and shall be enforced by the Executive Director, with the provision that the Executive Director shall notify all member schools involved and the District Committee in case of the forfeiture of a contest.

(1) Use of an ineligible student/coach in any contest with any other school. **Penalty**-Fine as stated below, plus forfeiture of the contest to the team opponent or forfeiture of any events won or lost by the ineligible contestant to the next best opponent in the case of individual events. If competing schools are both guilty of using ineligible contestants, this constitutes a double forfeiture and each school is credited with a loss. In addition, it is required that the District Committee be apprised of the violation and the District Committee may hold a hearing on the case at its convenience to determine whether or not the violation justifies further action against the violating school.

PM 30-5-1 (1) PENALTIES/Fines (10-97)-The maximum is $100 if multiple ineligibles compete in the same contest.

(2) Failure to send eligibility list at least one day before the first contest. **Penalty**-Fine as stated below. Refer to 27-8-6 and 27-8-7 (3).

(3) Failure to use eligible game official in any sport requiring registered officials or to comply with the proviso that the principal notify the Executive Director within three days. Refer to 27-6-1, 27-6-2 and 27-6-3. **Penalty**-Fine as stated below for each instance chargeable to the home team after any contest when an emergency official has been used, regardless of any agreement with the other team for the use of the unauthorized official.

(4) Violation of sanction rules or of the rule against competing with non-member schools. Refer to 27-13-1, 27-13-2, 27-14-1 and 27-14-2. **Penalty**-Fine as stated below, plus such other penalty as may be imposed by the appropriate District Committee.

(5) Failure to comply with the provisions in 68-1-2 shall impose upon the school involved a fine as stated below. Refer to 68-4-6 (2).

(6) Competing schools that fail to comply with 68-4-6 (4) shall be fined as stated below; neither school shall receive rating points for the unreported game, their opponents will receive appropriate rating points.

(7) Failure to complete the state rules clinics in years in which they are offered (Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Cheer, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Softball, Boys Swim and Dive, Girls Swim and Dive, Boys Track and Field, Girls Track and Field, Boys Volleyball, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling, Debate, Speech, Theatre and Scholastic Bowl, Film Festival, Esports, Magazine, Newspaper/Newsmagazine, Yearbook, Broadcast and Online Newspaper). **Penalty**-The school shall be fined as stated below.

(8) Violation of participation rules in team sports, including exceeding the Contest Limitation Rule. **Penalty**-Forfeiture of the contest to the team's opponent.

(9) Failure to attend a VHSL State Area Meeting. **Penalty**-School shall be fined as stated below.

(10) Failure to attend a VHSL state rules clinic which is offered each year (magazine, newspaper/newsmagazine, yearbook, broadcast or online newspaper) prior to submitting a publication for VHSL evaluation. **Penalty**-School shall be fined as stated below.

(11) A school whose team members or bench personnel enter the playing field/court during a verbal or physical altercation and become involved in the altercation shall be subject to League discipline and shall be suspended for a minimum of 20% of the total contest limitations for that sport. Based on the severity of the incident, a program or school may be warned, placed on probation or suspended.

(12) A school whose team personnel engage in excessive unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after a contest shall be subject to a fine as stated below.

(13) Effective beginning with the 2023 Fall Season, a player or coach who is ejected for fighting (including throwing punches as an instigator, in retaliation, or intentionally kicking or stomping an opponent), biting, aggressive physical contact shall result in a suspension from contests totaling a minimum of 30% of the total contest limitations for that sport. For using/directing profanity toward a contest official, a student/athlete shall be ineligible from contests totaling a minimum of 20% of the total contest limitations for that sport. Student/athletes who leave the bench area and become actively involved in an altercation will result in a suspension from contests totaling a minimum of 20% of the total contest limitations for that sport. All suspensions shall be the immediate next contests scheduled until the suspended contests are completed. The first time a player is ejected for fighting, he/she must show proof of completion of the NFHS online "Sportsmanship" Course. The player will be ineligible to participate in any contest until the proof of completion is received. A subsequent ejection of any player from the same team for any of the noted offenses listed above will result in the need to show proof of their completion of the NFHS online "Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course."

(14) Failure to provide a required Student Congress judge at state debate competition.

FINES: In addition to other penalties, fines not to exceed the following schedule will be imposed on member schools. Monies from fines shall only be used for student and member school services.

Fine	Infraction
$50	• Late eligibility lists • Use of non-registered officials • Failure to properly report additional football games • Failure of coach to attend required rules clinic • Failure of school to have representative attend VHSL State Area Meeting • Failure to provide a required judge at state speech competition • Failure to provide a required judge at state debate competition • Failure of a magazine, newspaper/newsmagazine or yearbook adviser to attend a VHSL state rules clinic and subsequently submitting a publication for VHSL evaluation.

- Failure of a District and/or Region to maintain required accounting records in QuickBooks (Page 6 - VHSL Financial Policies and Procedures Manual) on the VHSL Accounting Server.

$100

- Removing team from field or court prior to completion of game unless removal is by mutual agreement of both administrators
- Failure to report sportsmanship violations (fine is per unreported occurrence)
- Use of an ineligible player/participant
- Use of an ineligible coach
- Failure to properly report required football scheduling information
- Failure to submit regional tournament reports/proceeds on time (fine is per occurrence)
- Failure to submit Coaches Eligibility Form (CEF) prior to deadline
- Failure of a District and/or Region to submit the required Financial Report for the VHSL Finance Department by July 15

$200

- Illegal practice
  - Sunday restrictions
  - Out-of-season practices
  - Minimum practice sessions
  - Violations of equipment restrictions
- Illegal scrimmage or game
- Sanction rule violation
- Failure of a District and/or Region to submit the required Financial Report for the VHSL Finance Department by July 31

$300

- Damage of school/facility property (in addition to cost of replacement/repair of property)
- Substitute players or bench personnel enter the playing field/court during a verbal or physical altercation
- Team personnel who engage in excessive unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after the contest, scrimmage, jamboree or Benefit Game
- Coach who does not complete the requirements outlined in Coaches Education Requirements, State and Local Knowledge Requirement and Child Abuse Recognition, CPR, and AED Requirements in the prescribed time.

30-6-1 Types of Penalties-For violation of any rule or regulation (other than participation of an ineligible student and sportsmanship) by any member school: such penalty as may be called for under the specific rule or regulation, or, in case no specific penalty is called for, such disciplinary action, including warning, probation, suspension and payment of a fine, as the appropriate District Committee may impose.

(1) **Warning**-A warning may be given by the League to an individual sport, academic activity or school for a one-year period of time. Cumulative warnings over a period of time may result in suspension or probation for that sport, academic activity or the school. It is official notice that an inexcusable, unethical or unsportsmanlike action, has occurred, is a matter of record, and that such an action must not be repeated.

(2) **Probation**-Probation is a more severe penalty based on the nature of the incident, a second incident within the sport or academic activity within a two-year period or cumulative warnings over a period of time within the school. A school or program on probation may not enter any play-off toward a district, regional or state championship nor may the school enter any sanctioned event.

(3) **Suspension**-A school suspended from the League may not meet in interscholastic competition of any kind with a member of the League or a school that is a member of another state associated with the National Federation of State High School Associations.

(4) **Fine**-A fine not to exceed $1,000 may be levied with or without any other penalty that is imposed on the school.

SECTION 31: RULES INTERPRETATIONS.

31-1-1 Authority-The Executive Director and in some instances an assistant director is authorized and required to interpret League rules and regulations.

31-2-1 Requests by Principals-The principal of any member school may request an interpretation of rules and regulations and may place his/her request directly with the Executive Director instead of the district chairman.

31-3-1 Oral Interpretations-Oral interpretations by the Executive Director or assistant directors shall not be regarded as binding, but merely advisory, and shall not be considered official. If later committed to writing, however, such interpretations shall have the same force and effect as other written interpretations.

31-4-1 Written Interpretations:

(1) Written interpretations by the Executive Director or assistant director in his/her area of responsibility, shall be official and binding on member schools unless and until they are challenged by written request for a hearing by an Appeals Committee, as authorized in Section 33.

(2) When the Executive Director or assistant director replies in writing to a request for an interpretation, he/she shall send a copy of his/her reply to the district chairman concerned, unless the request came from the chairman, in which case the chairman would receive the original reply.

SECTION 32: PROTESTS.

32-1-1 Filing:

(1) Protests or complaints growing out of interscholastic competitions, such as those dealing with the eligibility of participants or with alleged violations of rules and regulations, shall be filed with the appropriate district chairman for adjudication or settlement by the District Committee.

(2) Protests involving the Sportsmanship Rule shall be filed with the designated Assistant Director as prescribed in the Sportsmanship Rule (Section 27-11-8). Protests involving schools from more than one district or group or involving a non-member school shall be filed with the Executive Director, as prescribed in Section 32-2-1. In those cases that do not involve the Sportsmanship Rule, the Executive Director shall request the chairman of the Executive Committee to appoint an interDistrict Committee to investigate and adjudicate the protest. The interDistrict Committee shall be empowered to act with the authority of a District Committee, and its decisions shall be subject to such rights and restrictions as govern the authority granted to a District Committee.

(3) The Virginia High School League permits the correction of clerical or scoring errors in each interscholastic activity as specified in that activity's specific rule book. In those cases in which there is no rule book for an activity or in which the rule book does not specify a definite time period for the correction of clerical or scoring errors and the results are not announced until the conclusion of the activity, clerical or scoring errors must be corrected within 60 minutes of the announced results. In debate, drama and speech, a school which leaves the site prior to the end of the review period forfeits the right to appeal the results. No protests will be considered which are based upon the real or alleged failure of contest officials to interpret or apply game or contest rules properly, or to render correct decisions in matters of judgment. League rules provide that officials for all League athletic contests shall be registered with the League. When this has been done and the contest has been started, differences of opinion which arise during the progress of the contest must be considered on the spot, and the decision of the contest official shall be final. Games may not be played "under protest" for later review by a District Committee.

32-2-1 Procedure:

(1) Principals or their designees only may initiate protests. Protests shall be in writing, addressed to the district chairman or the Executive Director, as the case may be, and shall contain a digest of all the facts pertinent to the case. Protests shall be delivered in person or sent by special delivery or first class mail. They shall be delivered or postmarked not later than two working days after the contest or receipt of the information on which the protest is based. The District Committee shall meet promptly to consider and act upon each protest properly filed with the district chairman. The Executive Director, when protests are filed with him/her, shall act promptly to initiate action through the Chairman of the League, as prescribed in Section 32-1-1 (2).

PM 32-1-1 (1) PROTEST FILING/Acceptable Protests (5-89)-Regarding school and individual protests, a violation of a *Handbook* regulation can be protested, but any other policy can not be protested to the League.

(2) In each case in which disciplinary action is taken or a penalty is imposed by a District Committee, Sportsmanship Committee or interDistrict Committee, the committee secretary shall file within five (5) working days, unless an extension of time is granted by the League Chairman, a complete report of the case with the principals of all schools involved, with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the appropriate division superintendents of schools and with the Executive Director of the League.

32-3-1 Ineligible Student/Coach-Whenever the District Committee, or an interDistrict Committee empowered with the same authority, establishes the fact that an ineligible student/

coach has participated in any interscholastic contest, the committee shall report the infraction to the Executive Director and the school committing the infraction shall forfeit the contest. If the infraction is discovered and reported to the appropriate committee or to the Executive Director within the three weeks after the League-designated end of the season, no matter how long it takes to reach a finding, the school in violation shall also lose any district, regional or state honors affected by the violation.

32-4-1 Use of Protested Student-If, when a protest has been made, time does not permit its consideration and settlement prior to a contest in which an individual or a point of protest is involved, the contest shall be held as scheduled, and any protested student may compete in that contest at the risk of the school which he/she represents. If the student is subsequently declared ineligible, or if the point of protest is sustained, the appropriate penalty shall be imposed, as provided for in Section 30, Penalties.

SECTION 33: APPEALS.

33-1-1 When Appeals Are Permissible-Any decision involving a penalty or protest rendered by a District Committee, District Council, Sportsmanship Committee or interDistrict Committee adjudicating an interdistrict, intergroup or non-member dispute, or one which a District Committee was unable to adjudicate, or any rules interpretation rendered or upheld by a District Committee, may be appealed by any principal whose school is directly involved in the penalty, protest or rules interpretation. Excluding those exceptions listed under 28C-1-2, decisions involving individual eligibility (Section 28) of any student may be appealed by the student, parent or member school principal involved through the procedure outlined in the Due Process Rule (28C-1-1).

33-2-1 Appellant's Pre-meeting Procedures-No appeal shall be heard or acted upon unless the appellant, within seven days after receiving the decision or the rules interpretation from which the appeal is being taken, files a written application for appeal, containing a digest of the facts pertinent to the case.

33-2-2 The appeal is filed when it is submitted in writing by special delivery or registered mail or delivered personally to the Executive Director or designated Assistant Director.

33-3-1 Review by Executive Director or His/her Designee- The first level of appeal after review by the District Committee shall be to the Executive Director or his/her designee. Any student affected by the decision, his/her parents or a member school principal may request a review by the Executive Director or his/her designee. The person(s) requesting such a review shall be known as the petitioner. The petitioner shall request the review in writing, shall set forth the specific reason(s) supporting the request for waiver of the eligibility regulation and shall provide all documents pertinent to the case. If the District Committee recommends waiving the eligibility regulation(s) and the Executive Director or his/her designee concurs that waiver of the rule is appropriate under the League's published criteria, the Executive Director or his/her designee may declare the student eligible immediately but may not grant retroactive eligibility. If the Executive Director or his/her designee determines that there is sufficient evidence that a waiver should be considered, the appeal will be advanced to the Executive Committee or a duly authorized subcommittee thereof. If the Executive Director or his/her designee determines that there is no evidence meeting the criteria for waiver, the Executive Director or his/her designee may dismiss the appeal.

33-4-1 Executive Committee Review-No appeal shall be heard or acted upon by the Executive Committee unless the appellant within five working days after receiving the decision of the District Committee or the Executive Director or designated Assistant Director files a written application for appeal containing a digest of the facts pertinent to the case. The Executive Committee or a duly authorized sub-committee thereof, which may include active members of the Executive Committee and/or prior Executive Committee members who remain active school administrators or who have been retired no more than three years, hereinafter called the Executive Committee, shall hear the case referred to it within 10 working days after referral or an appeal is made by a member school principal or a student who failed to qualify under one or more of the individual eligibility regulations in Section 28 of the *Handbook* or his/her parent, hereinafter called appellant. The Executive Committee is authorized to review the substantive as well as the procedural aspects of the case referred to it. The Executive Committee is authorized to set aside VHSL rules and regulations in a specific case when at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee members agree that an inequity exists and that only such setting aside will rectify the situation. Any decision not involving the setting aside of VHSL rules and regulations shall be decided by a majority vote. The eligibility for a student who is granted a waiver shall not precede the day the Executive Committee acts.

Note: The 10-working-day requirement for a hearing by the Executive Committee shall not apply during the time from May 10 to August 10, during which time hearings shall be held as soon as the Executive Committee can reasonably be assembled.

33-4-2 Decision-Based on the facts of a particular case, the Executive Committee may enlarge, reduce, alter or sustain any penalty imposed by the committee which first heard the case. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be binding except for cases involving individual eligibility (Section 28), which may be appealed to the independent hearing officer.

33-5-1 Independent Hearing Officer-Any decision rendered by the Executive Committee involving individual eligibility (Section 28) may be appealed to the independent hearing officer by any principal whose school is directly involved or by the original appellant.

33-5-2 Appellant's Pre-meeting Procedures-No appeal shall be heard or acted upon by the independent hearing officer unless the appellant within five working days after receiving the decision of the Executive Committee files with the VHSL Executive Director or designated Assistant Director a written application for appeal containing a digest of the facts pertinent to the case.

33-5-3 Independent Hearing Officer Appointment-The independent hearing officer shall be appointed by the Council of School Attorneys of the Virginia School Boards Association and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and may not represent any political subdivision that includes any school immediately involved in the appeal.

33-5-4 Authority-The independent hearing officer is authorized to review the substantive as well as the procedural aspects of the case referred to him/her and is authorized to waive VHSL rules and regulations only when he/she finds that the student meets the stated criteria for a waiver, and an inequity would exist if the waiver were not granted. The independent hearing officer may not ignore, alter, or decline to apply the rules and regulations as agreed upon by the member schools and published annually by the VHSL. The eligibility for a student who is granted a waiver shall not precede the day the Independent Hearing Officer acts. The decision of the independent hearing officer shall be final.

33-5-5 Costs for an independent hearing will be shared equally by the appellant and the League.

PM 33-5-5 Independent Hearing Officer Costs (5-09)-Appellants must submit a $600 deposit prior to the scheduling of any hearing.

33-6-1 Hearing Notice for Executive Committee Appeal-The Executive Director or Associate Director shall notify the appellant and the principals of all schools concerned in the appeal of the date, place and hour set for the hearing.

33-6-2 The chairman of the committee whose original decision is being appealed may provide a written statement relative to the decision of their committee.

33-7-1 Hearing Policies-The designated VHSL staff member shall serve as recorder and conduct the meeting in accordance with the League rules and regulations as provided by this Section and Section 17, Robert's Rules of Order.

34-1-1 Freedom of Information Act (9-73)-The Attorney General's office ruled that for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, a VHSL member school could be treated as an employee and those portions of the Act permitting executive or closed meetings as they relate to employees could be exceptions applicable to the League.

34-2-1 Non-discrimination Policy (12-01)-An alliance of member public high schools, the Virginia High School League serves a diverse population and respects that diversity in all League activities. The Virginia High School League encourages equity awareness and supports compliance with Title IX among its member schools.

SECTION BREAK

The following pages include information on athletics. The following sections are included:

Section	50-88	Athletic Activities
	50	Introduction
	52	National Federation of State High School Associations
	54	Athletic Program
	55	State Events
	56	Baseball
	58	Basketball
	62	Cheerleading
	64	Cross Country
	66	Field Hockey
	68	Football
	70	Golf
	74	Gymnastics
	77	Lacrosse
	78	Soccer
	79	Softball
	80	Swimming and Diving
	82	Tennis
	84	Track and Field
	86	Volleyball
	88	Wrestling

Athletic Activities

SECTION 50: INTRODUCTION.

50-1-1-The League seeks to foster a broad general program of desirable sports and related activities which are suited to the individual needs and capacities of high school students. It is interested in those sports which are individual as well as in those which are team and in sports which are primarily intramural in character as well as in those which are interscholastic.

50-1-2 Student Participation-Significant is the League's desire to stimulate student participation in these sports which may be enjoyed in adult recreational life. However, while considering the development of a program in this field in the future, the League is not unmindful of its current responsibilities in the important field of interscholastic athletics.

50-1-3 Competition-Competitive team sports are regarded by the League as an important part of the general school program of physical and health education. It is felt that interscholastic athletics, which should stem from a well-rounded program of intramural sports and recreational activities, serve a definite educational purpose when properly conducted and controlled.

50-2-1 Control-To exercise control, and to ensure that competitive athletics in the high schools of Virginia are so conducted as to provide maximum opportunities for the educational growth of participants, the League has adopted rules and regulations governing interscholastic athletic competitions. These are set forth in Sections 26 through 33 of this *Handbook* and are in addition to rules and regulations which govern all interscholastic competitions.

50-3-1 Standards-The League's interest in interscholastic athletics is not limited to mere regulation and control, however. It seeks to encourage schools to provide opportunities for each individual to develop to the limit of his/her capacity those skills, appreciations and health concepts which engender personal satisfaction and are a part of a good foundation for civic usefulness. The League has therefore followed certain basic concepts relating to the place of athletics in the school program. It has developed a Code for Interscholastic Athletics, with implications for the administrator, the spectator, the coach, the athlete and the official, and it will seek by further means to assist member schools in the development and maintenance of an educationally sound athletic program. (The code is an integral part of the Sportsmanship Rule located in Section 27 of this *Handbook.*)

50-3-2 School Programs-The League feels that a school athletic program, to be of maximum effectiveness, should:

(1) Be closely coordinated and articulated with the general instructional and activity program of the school.

(2) Provide for the participation of a sufficient number of students to justify the funds used for its support.

(3) Be so organized that the time and attention given to the acquisition of such funds is not so great as to interfere with the efficiency of any other part of the school program.

(4) Be limited to those competitions which are sponsored and supervised by the proper school authorities.

(5) Provide opportunities for many individuals to explore a wide variety of sports.

(6) Include educational exercises for nonparticipating students and community supporters to ensure a proper understanding and appreciation of athletic skills and the need for adherence to recognized principles of good sportsmanship.

(7) Be so controlled as to avoid the elements of professionalism and commercialism frequently associated with widely publicized "bowl" games, "barnstorming" trips, "all-star" games and interstate or intersectional contests requiring excessive travel, expense or loss of school time.

(8) Encourage a balanced program of intramural activity in grades below the high school level, rather than contests of a championship nature.

(9) Engender respect for the rules and policies under which the school conducts its program.

(10) Provide that a doctor be on call for all contests and a person qualified in first aid procedure be in attendance at all contests and practices.

(11) Provide that all athletes be covered by accident insurance that protects them during athletic participation.

(12) Provide a healthful, safe and sanitary environment for all participants.

SECTION 52: NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS.

52-1-1 Membership-The League's Legislative Council voted in March, 1947, to make application for membership in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), in which organization 50 state associations hold membership. The application was accepted at the annual meeting of the Federation in January 1948.

PM 52-1-1 ATHLETIC PROGRAM/Authenticating Mark (12-98)-VHSL will comply with the National Federation Authenticating Mark Program. (3-00) Violations will result in a $25 fine to the host school.

52-2-1 Constitution and Bylaws-The Federation Constitution and Bylaws appear in the Federation *Handbook*, a copy of which is supplied upon request to any member school. Provisions thereof are binding upon the League and all member schools.

52-3-1 Services-The Federation makes available to schools of member state associations, through their state association office, publications in the field of sports, including rule books, interpretation leaflets, player handbooks, manuals of administration and the like. It supervises the production of motion pictures dealing with the rules in football, basketball, baseball, track and wrestling and provides machinery for the conduct of competitions be-

tween schools in different states, provides for representation on rules committees, serves as a clearing house for the exchange of ideas and developments in the scholastic sports field and generally provides administrative assistance to member state associations.

SECTION 53: REGIONAL EVENTS.

53-1-1 Awards Procurement (1-81)-Regions may secure their own or procure their awards from the VHSL state supplier.

53-2-2 Broadcast/Telecast Fees-Any fees for regional broadcasts or telecast of any event will be set by the appropriate regional council.

53-2-3 Crowd Control (5-72)-For regional events, the appropriate regional council has the same responsibility for crowd control as a school hosting a game during the regular season.

53-4-1 Expense Limitations-The following expenses may not exceed the state limitations unless the excess is paid from the region's 65% share of the net income.

(1) Facility Rental-Field or court facility rental may not exceed the regular season game rental for high school facilities. Use of municipal facilities must be authorized by the Executive Director.

(2) Personnel Fees-Tournament personnel fees may not exceed the customary and normal fees of a regular season contest.

(3) Other Costs-Costs for such items as lights, field maintenance and clean-up may not exceed the customary costs of a regular season contest.

(4) Film/Scouting Costs-All expenses for films and/or scouting must be paid from the region's 65% share of the net income.

(5) Team Travel Reimbursement-See VHSL *Handbook* 55-5-1 "VHSL State Team Travel Reimbursement Chart." Regional team travel reimbursement may not exceed the state schedule, unless the excess is paid from the region's 65% share of the net income.

(6) Hospitality Costs (5-88)-Hospitality food and hostess costs may not exceed $100 per session for the sports of basketball and wrestling and $75 per session for gymnastics and volleyball unless the excess is paid from the region's 65% share of the net income. Hospitality costs for all other sports must be paid from the region's 65% share of the net income.

53-5-1 Financial Reports-Any tournament charging an admission fee must submit a tournament report (even if a deficit) to the League office.

53-5-2 Filing Deadline (12-03)-Each regional financial report, with appropriate check if one is due VHSL, must be submitted to the VHSL office within three calendar weeks after the event has ended; a three-week grace period may be permitted by the Executive Director upon request. A $100 fine may be imposed on the region that has not submitted its reports and tournament proceeds within the grace period.

53-5-3 Team Travel Shares from Region (2-78)-Those regions paying money to teams advancing to the state level must take those funds from the region's 65% and not from the region's total event expenses.

53-6-1 Regional Postponement Policy-In case of extreme weather conditions which imperil travelers attempting to reach the regional event site, the regional director has permission to postpone the regional event, and therefore the state event entry form deadline, one day at a time, excluding Sundays, until the day preceding the state event. If the regional event is delayed beyond the adopted regional deadline, the regional director is required to advise the Executive Director of the postponement and required to call in, deliver or fax the regional results to the state event director as soon as the regional event is completed. In addition, the regional director is required to mail, email, deliver or fax the results to the VHSL office.

In the event that the regional event director cannot meet the "day preceding the state event" deadline, he/she shall call the Executive Director to request a delay in the state event so that the regional qualifiers will be eligible for the state event. If at all possible the Executive Director and the state event director through consultation with the Group Board Chairman and VHSL Chairman shall reschedule the state event.

53-7-1 Tournament Entry Certification-Principals are required to certify entries for region level activities, but athletic directors or coaches may certify entries from the region level to the state level.

53-8-1 State Event Responsibility (5-93)-Regions failing to identify coordinators for regional activities are responsible for obtaining all materials from VHSL office in person.

53-9-1 Videotaping (3-02)-Filming or videotaping of games/contests for scouting purposes is limited to the schools that are participating in the event. Schools not competing in the event may not film or tape the event.

SECTION 54: ATHLETIC PROGRAM.

54-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors competitive interscholastic athletic programs leading to regional or sectional, and state championships in those activities as indicated in the following sections. Because all students should have the benefit of participation, the League strives to ensure that competitive athletics in Virginia high schools are conducted to provide maximum opportunities for the educational growth of all participants. The athletic game playing rules as set forth in the current National Federation of State High School Associations publications shall govern all League athletic events unless other game rules have been specified to govern a particular sport or where the adopted National Federation rules are in conflict with special rules set forth under a specific sport section of the *Handbook*, in which case the special rules take precedence. The Executive Committee may authorize those exceptions to National Federation playing rules which are permitted by the "State Association Adoption" clause.

PM 54-1-1 (1) Emerging Activity/Sport Procedure-Schools can petition to request that specific sports or activities be added to the VHSL membership application, subject to Executive Committee approval, and with the understanding that the sport/activity has three years to meet the existing state criteria to be a recognized VHSL state event. When filing such a petition with the VHSL office, the school must provide the following information:

a. Names of schools and genders presently offering the sports/activity
b. Number of students at each school participating in the sport/activity
c. Historically identified participation sustainability of the activity/sport
d. Letters of support from appropriate groups such as: the superintendent, school board and VHSL region and classification
e. Season of participation (fall, winter, spring)
f. Proposed contest limit
g. Acknowledgment that VHSL eligibility requirements will apply
h. Playing rules that govern the sport/activity (NFHS or other to be specified)
i. Facility availability for both practice and official competition
j. Adequate coaching and officiating pools available to sustain the sport
k. Financial impact associated with sport/activity at the local, region and state level which may include but are not limited to: the ability to charge admission, official's cost, basic event expenses, coaching supplements, facility rental, catastrophic insurance

54-2-1 Combined Schools/Teams-Subject to District, Region, Group Board and Executive Committee approval, Group 1 schools with limited enrollment may sponsor combined teams under the following conditions:

(1) The two schools involved must be in the same school division with a combined enrollment (ADM) (grades 9-12) not to exceed 300 students;
(2) The schools must have the written consent of their school board, and
(3) The "combined team" must be approved by a majority vote of the Group 1 Board for a two-year period only. Application for a combined team must be submitted to the League office prior to September 1 in an even-numbered year.

54-3-1 Contest Limitations-No member school may permit its athletes or teams to compete in more than the total number of regular season interscholastic contests, meets or tournaments specified below for each sport either on the varsity or sub-varsity level.

Note: When a region sponsors both a postseason junior varsity and postseason varsity competition/tournament, a player shall be limited to participating in only one of these competitions/tournaments.

Baseball - 21
Basketball - 23
Competition Cheer - 7
Cross Country - 10
Field Hockey - 17
Football - 10
Golf- 12
Gymnastics - 10
Indoor Track - 10

Lacrosse - 15
Soccer - 17
Softball - 21
Swimming - 10
Tennis - 16 Tennis players are limited to three "traditional" matches per day, or four 8- or 10-game "pro-set" matches per day.
Track - 10
Volleyball - 20 dual matches; or 18 duals and 1 invitational tournament; or 16 duals and 2 invitationals. Invitational tournaments may be conducted over no more than two consecutive days. Teams participating in invitational tournaments may play a maximum of 15 sets per tournament.
Wrestling - 12 contest dates, 8 of which could be tournaments (events of more than 4 teams are defined as a tournament). Wrestlers are limited to 6 matches per individual per day or 10 over no more than two days. Each individual is limited to 50 mat appearances prior to the culminating region tournament (or the published VHSL calendar region deadline if no region tournament is held).

Sport	Contests	20%	20% rounded	30%	30% rounded	50%	50% rounded
Baseball	21	4.2	4	6.3	6	10.5	11
Basketball	23	4.6	5	6.9	7	11.5	12
Competition Cheer	7	1.4	1	2.1	2	3.5	4
Cross Country	10	2	2	3	3	5	5
Field Hockey	17	3.4	3	5.1	5	8.5	9
Football	10	2	2	3	3	5	5
Golf	12	2.4	2	3.6	4	6	6
Gymnastics	10	2	2	3	3	5	5
Indoor Track	10	2	2	3	3	5	5
Lacrosse	15	3	3	4.5	5	7.5	8
Soccer	17	3.4	3	5.1	5	8.5	9
Softball	21	4.2	4	6.3	6	10.5	11
Swimming	10	2	2	3	3	5	5
Tennis	16	3.2	3	4.8	5	8	8
Outdoor Track	10	2	2	3	3	5	5
Volleyball	20	4	4	6	6	10	10
Wrestling	12	2.4	2	3.6	4	6	6

PM 54-3-1 CONTEST LIMITATIONS (5-95)-Any school that schedules a contest and then cancels or forfeits it cannot add another contest to its schedule.

54-3-1 Exception:

(1) Female golfers may participate in no more than five VHSL-sanctioned all-girls invitational tournaments in addition to the contests permitted in 54-3-1.

54-3-1 Interpretations:

(1) In creating schedules within the Contest Limitation Rule, schools must count the maximum number of games possible in any invitational, whether or not they ultimately play those games, and they may not later add games to replace those not played.

54-3-2 Lengthening of Contests-Contests may not be lengthened to accommodate team members who have not competed or for any other reason. For the sports of wrestling, swim and dive, indoor and outdoor track, cross country, golf, gymnastics, and tennis, exceptions to this limitation may be made. If the principals or designees of the two or more schools involved in the scheduled contest agree prior to the contest to allow exhibition (preliminary or post event or extra) matches or heats in these sports, they may be allowed, as long as all other VHSL rules and contest limitations per athlete are not violated. Schools or school divisions may organize teams as they see fit below the varsity level. These teams must be recognized by the schools or school divisions.

54-3-3 Benefit Game-These games are optional, one or more per revenue sport, and may not extend the season. They do not count against the season limitation in that sport, will not count on a school's record and will not be used as part of the football ratings system. Benefit Games must be revenue producing. After expenses, the competing schools will each receive one-third of the net income and the remaining one-third share will be sent to the VHSL. A Benefit Game may be played anytime prior to the end of the regular season but after players have met minimum practice requirements for that sport (example: 15 practices for football) and must be in lieu of an authorized scrimmage or counted against contest limits. Schools have the option of extending play beyond the normal length; the extension shall not exceed one-half the length of a game and shall be conducted under scrimmage (not game) conditions as noted in 54-4-1 through 54-4-4. In football, the game may be played including or not including the kicking game based on agreement between the two competing schools. Benefit Games must be approved in advance by the VHSL.

54-3-4 "Exhibition" Contests-No member school may permit its athletes to compete in more than the total number of regular season interscholastic contests, meets or tournaments specified for each sport either on the varsity or sub-varsity level. (See 27-11-1, 27-11-2 and 54-8-1.)

The VHSL does not recognize "exhibition" or "novice" competition. Any competition that matches athletes from other schools must be counted as either scrimmages or contests. To be counted as scrimmages they must meet the requirements set in 54-4-1 through 54-4-4 of the Virginia High School League *Handbook*.

54-4-1 Scrimmages-A scrimmage is a practice session between two or among three organized teams, or between groups of players representing their respective teams, or between one organized team and a group of players from another organized team which is representing its team in play. A scrimmage in wrestling may involve a maximum of four teams.

54-4-2 Scrimmage Limitations-Member schools are prohibited from participating in, or allowing their teams or players representing the teams to participate in, more than two scrimmages in any sport.

54-4-3 Special Scrimmage Provisions:

(1) **Football**-A football team may participate in two scrimmages if it has scheduled a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 20 regular daily practices of training and conditioning; otherwise, the football team is limited to one scrimmage.

Note: Eighteen or twenty regular daily practices means 18 or 20 calendar days, not counting Sundays, and has no reference to the actual number of times the squad of players appears and reappears for practice sessions.

(2) **Wrestling**-A wrestling team whose membership has been depleted by elimination of its team members in the regional meet can seek workout arrangements with other teams without being held in violation of Section 54, but may not continue practice beyond the conclusion of the state wrestling tournaments.

54-4-4 Scrimmage Purpose-Scrimmages are teaching situations at which coaches are expected to interrupt the practice session to provide instruction from time to time. Prior to any scrimmage the coach should outline the basic purposes and aims of the particular scrimmage so that the players may receive the maximum training and practice from the scrimmage. Principals or their designees responsible for a scrimmage shall observe the following guidelines, except as permitted in 54-4-3:

(1) No public announcement of the scrimmage should be made and coverage by the news media should be discouraged;

(2) No admission price shall be charged anyone for attendance at a scrimmage;

(3) Officials may be paid travel fees if applicable, but not game fees;

(4) Each school in a scrimmage shall be limited to no more than 1 1/2 times the normal length of the contest (ex. football and basketball, 6 quarters; baseball, 10 1/2 innings);

(5) Except for those rules which have been modified by the provisions of this paragraph, all League rules shall apply to scrimmages.

54-5-1 Jamborees-A member school may participate in a baseball, basketball, competitive cheer, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball or wrestling jamboree if the following conditions are met.

(1) General Conditions:

(a) The jamboree must be sanctioned by the VHSL, Inc., and must be sponsored by a member school; or, in the case of an out-of-state or other non-member school jamboree, must be sponsored by a school in good standing with its association;

(b) Member schools may participate in two jamborees in each sport allowed with each jamboree being in lieu of a permitted scrimmage(s) or Benefit Game;

(c) A jamboree shall be played under game conditions including the wearing of game uniforms, use of registered officials and charging of admissions;

(d) Only those expenses as outlined by the Executive Committee and printed on the Jamboree Sanction Form may be included in computing the net proceeds; and

(e) Eighty (80) percent of the net proceeds will be shared by the competing member schools and twenty (20) percent of the net proceeds will be deposited into the League's treasury.

(2) Each team's participation in a jamboree is limited to the following:

a. Baseball - 10 innings - pitching regulations apply
b. Basketball - 6 quarters
c. Competition Cheer - 2 routine performances
d. Field Hockey - 3 halves
e. Football - 6 quarters
f. Lacrosse (Boys) - 6 quarters
g. Lacrosse (Girls) - 3 halves
h. Soccer - 3 halves
i. Softball - 10 innings
j. Tennis - 35 games per individual
k. Volleyball - 8 sets
l. Wrestling - 28 matches per team; 2 matches per individual

PM 54-5-1 (1) JAMBOREES/Fee (12-99)-Any VHSL school participating in an out-of-state or non-member school jamboree is required to pay $100 processing fee, but VHSL will not collect 20% of net income.

PM 54-5-1 (2) JAMBOREES/Exceptions (5-80)-The Executive Director may grant specific exceptions to the playing rules when he/she sanctions jamborees. The Executive Director may also make appropriate exceptions in reference to out-of-state schools when sanctioning jamborees.

PM 54-5-1 (3) JAMBOREES/Fees (5-95)-Effective with the 1995-96 school year schools requesting jamborees must submit a fee of $100 with their request. If the League's share is more than $100, the $100 fee will be applied to the amount owed the VHSL; otherwise, the fee will be a part of the jamboree expenses.

54-6-1 Participation Limitation-If a school maintains separate teams in the same sport for girls and boys during the school year, regardless of sports season, girls may not compete on boys teams and boys may not compete on girls teams. If a school maintains only a boys team in a sport, girls may compete on the boys team. Boys may not participate on a girls team in any sport other than cheerleading unless the Executive Committee determines that boys' opportunities for participation in athletics have been limited in the past.

PM 54-6-1 (1) PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS/Girls on Boys Teams (2-95)-If a school offers a team for girls but not at the comparable level (sub-varsity or varsity) which would permit girls to participate, girls are permitted to play for the comparable boys team.

PM 54-6-1 (2) PARTICIPATION LIMITATION/Baseball vs. Softball (3-91)-The Office of Civil Rights has ruled that softball and baseball are not "comparable" sports under Title IX. Therefore, if a school sponsors both softball and baseball, a girl must be allowed to tryout and, if judged to have the ability, be allowed to be a member of the school's boys baseball team.

PM 54-6-1 (3) PARTICIPATION LIMITATION/Girls on Boys Cross Country Teams (9-75)-A girl who is a member of the boys cross country team may not compete in an invitational tournament designated for girls only. A separate division for girls at a cross country invitation meet is appropriate for schools that have both a separate boys team and a separate girls team. When a member of a boys team, a girl may still compete in an individual girls invitational tournament but not a team girls invitational tournament.

PM 54-6-1 (4) PARTICIPATION LIMITATION/Boys Participation on Girls Teams (2-25)-Presidential Executive Order ***Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports*** prohibits male competitive participation in female sports. This is to include transgender females. Therefore, males and students identifying as transgender females may not participate on a girls sports team other than cheerleading.

54-6-2 Participation by Seventh Graders-Seventh graders may not represent a Virginia High School League school at any level. This does not prohibit a school from organizing seventh and/or eighth graders to compete on the junior high or middle school level.

54-6-3 Participation by Eighth Graders-Eighth graders may represent a Virginia school at the sub-varsity level only and may not compete in any manner in a varsity contest. This does not prohibit a school from organizing seventh and/or eighth graders to compete on the junior high or middle school level. All athletes competing in VHSL athletic programs must be eligible students in all regards. They must meet requirements set by the VHSL, their schools, school division, district or region. Contest rules established by the National Federation shall be followed except where modified by the VHSL *Handbook*.

54-6-4 Multiple Season Limitation-A student who participates on a varsity, junior varsity or ninth grade team in one season shall not be eligible to participate in that sport in a different season at a VHSL member school during the same school year unless there is a corresponding move which complies with VHSL's Transfer Rule (28A-7-1, *Handbook*) by the student's parent(s) from the attendance zone of the previous school to the attendance zone of the VHSL member school at which the student wishes to participate. However, such student may not participate during any one school year in more than the total number of contests permitted for each sport by VHSL's Contest Limitations (54-8-1, *Handbook*). Such student shall also be limited to participation in only one post season per sport during any one school year.

54-7-1 Forfeits-A forfeiture shall be counted as a game won by the school receiving the forfeit and as a lost game by the team forfeiting. A double forfeiture counts as a loss for both teams.

54-8-1 "Point Rules"-Point rules (often referred to as "mercy rules") exist in the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, and Softball. For specifics, please refer to the appropriate sport section in the VHSL *Handbook*. Point rules, where they exist, will be in place for all regular season and district events unless a district "opts out" prior to the start of that sport's season.

54-8-1 Exception-Districts may not opt out of the Football Point Rule.

54-9-1 Interrupted or Suspended Games/Events-Unless otherwise specified in this *Handbook*, games that are suspended/interrupted for reasons such as darkness, artificial light failure, rain, malfunction of irrigation systems, or any other cause that interferes with play such that the game is stopped by officials prior to having reached "complete game" status (as defined by each sport's rule book) shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless both schools agree to accept the score at the time of the interruption as final. See the appropriate sport-specific section of this *Handbook* for detailed procedures for that sport.

54-9-1 Exception-Prior to the start of each sport's season, district may "opt out" of the interrupted/suspended game rule. Opting out will result in following the rules as prescribed in each sport's rule book.

54-9-2 Light Failure-Any regular season or tournament game terminated by artificial light failure shall be considered a suspended game and shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time, unless the two teams involved mutually agree otherwise.

54-9-3 Rescheduling of Postponed or Suspended Games-Postponed or suspended games must be rescheduled for the same evening or the afternoon of the next calendar date, except for Sundays and except for extenuating circumstances approved by the district chairman if both schools involved are within the same district or by the three (3) Executive Committee representatives and the two (2) region AD's that will provide section information if the section is involved; if it is not a district or sectional contest, the VHSL Executive Director will rule on the extenuating circumstances. Friday games would be rescheduled for Saturday; Saturday for Monday and Monday for Tuesday.

54-11-1 Regional Tournaments-Each region shall conduct a region tournament to determine its state tournament representatives on or before the region deadline date published on the VHSL Activities Calendar. Unless otherwise specified or the Region Council determines another method prior to the season, the regional tournament shall be an eight-team, single elimination tournament. Failure of a region to determine its representatives by the deadline will disqualify that region from participation.

54-11-2 Officials for Regional Tournaments-Only officials classified as "Certified" shall be eligible to work regional tournament games.

54-12-1 Provision for Sectional Tournaments-If a Regional Council does not establish a Regional Tournament in a specific sport for a specific season by October 31, the Executive Committee may provide a sectional tournament or authorize the region to designate its representative(s) for the state championships.

54-13-1 Insurance-The League's insurance program covers all in-season practices and competitions that are in compliance with VHSL rules.

54-14-1 General Sport Information:

Sport	National Rules Body	Mercy Rule	Rules Option that must be considered annually	State Travel Reimbursement	Minimum Practice Days
Baseball	NFHS	10 runs after 5 innings	Mercy Rule; Suspended Game Rule	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	N/A
Basketball	NFHS	N/A	N/A	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	N/A
Cheerleading	NFHS	N/A	N/A	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	20 days each participant - stunt or compete
Cross Country	NFHS	N/A	N/A	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	20 days
Field Hockey	NFHS	6 goals after mid-point of 2nd half	Mercy Rule	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	14 days
Football	NFHS	35 points after halftime	Mercy Rule	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	Min. 15 days, Max. 20 days, first 3 days each participant shorts, helmets and shoes, next 2 days shorts, helmets, shoes and shoulder pads
Golf	USGA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gymnastics	NFHS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Indoor Track	NFHS	N/A	N/A	N/A	14 days
Boys Lacrosse	NFHS	N/A	N/A	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	N/A
Girls Lacrosse	US Lacrosse	N/A	N/A	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	N/A
Outdoor Track	NFHS	N/A	N/A	N/A	14 days
Soccer	NFHS	8 goals after mid-point of 2nd half	Mercy Rule	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	N/A
Softball	NFHS	10 runs after 5 innings	Mercy Rule; Suspended Game Rule	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	N/A
Swim/Dive	NFHS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tennis	USTA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Volleyball	NFHS	N/A	N/A	Yes; Refer to Reimb. Table	14 days
Wrestling	NFHS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

54-15-1 Mandatory Compliance With All Rules-In all interscholastic athletic competitions, individual contestants and member schools shall observe and comply with all appropriate VHSL recognized rules and with all League rules and regulations set forth in Sections 26 through 33 and with the rules governing specific sports set forth in Sections 50 through 99. These rules and regulations are binding upon all member schools and may not be waived except as authorized in specific sections of this *Handbook*. Violations are punishable by such penalties as the appropriate body may impose.

54-16-1 District Scheduling-Every school in a district must play all other schools within a three classification spread in regular season play in all sports. Schools are not required but may choose to play above the three-classification spread within their district.

54-16-2 Deviation from District Scheduling Requirement-By unanimous vote of all members, a district may request of the Executive Committee, annually, to deviate from the requirement in a district to play all other schools within a three classification spread in regular season play in all sports.

54-17-1 Team Uniform Logo (10-95)-Schools may obtain uniforms from corporate sponsors and may display logos on uniforms as long as they conform to the specific sports rules of the NFHS.

54-18-1 Bands-Participating schools' bands/pep bands are not allowed to play during live ball situations at any VHSL event. Any deviation from this policy will constitute a VHSL Sportsmanship Violation under Section 30 (Penalties/Fines) and may be defined as excessive unsportsmanlike conduct ($300 fine).

Note: For the purpose of this rule in football, live ball situations begin with the offense breaking the huddle or for no huddle offenses when the offense begins getting into a formation.

54-19-1 Artificially and/or Amplified Noisemakers-The use of artificially and/or amplified noisemakers (examples of this include, but are not limited to, train or diesel horns, amplified guitar note or riff) are not allowed during live ball situations at any VHSL event. Any deviation from this policy will constitute a VHSL Sportsmanship Violation (Excessive Unsportsmanlike Conduct - $300 Fine).

Note: For the purpose of this rule in football, live ball situations begin with the ball being handled by the snapper.

SECTION 55: STATE EVENTS.

55-1-1 Adoption and Termination of State Tournaments-Each group board may adopt a state championship in a sport when fifty percent plus one of the schools within the same group sponsor that sport in the same season. The adoption must be made by June 30 of the preceding year. The Executive Committee is empowered to provide state level events for those activities which do not meet the criteria previously stated. Any sport that does not meet the criteria above will be evaluated annually to determine if it will be continued.

PM 55-1-1 (1) Authority Designation (3-78)-Each group board will establish its own date and site for each individual state championship and may determine format with regard to entrants and tournament pairings that are not set by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee also has the authority to set sites and dates in emergency situations. If the situation involves only one group board, the group board officers have authority to set the site and date. Group Boards may not eliminate events within a specific tournament. State Tournaments shall be completed on or before the dates published on the VHSL Activities Calendar.

(2) Unless otherwise specificed by the Executive Committee, state tournaments in all team sports shall be eight-team, single-elimination tournaments, with each Region advancing two representatives, except in football where each Region advances one representative.

(3) In sports where individuals can qualify, unless otherwise specified by the Executive Committee, each Region shall advance representatives that have met the qualification criteria for that championship.

PM 55-1-1 (2) TOURNAMENT REPLACEMENT POLICY-In cases where teams/individuals in bracketed tournaments are found to be ineligible for competition or are unable to attend a state event due to factors beyond their control (i.e., weather, car accident, etc.), and a designated mechanism is not already accepted, those teams/individuals may be replaced by that participating region.

The following criteria will be used when considering whether to replace a team or declare a forfeit/bye for that bracket:

a. Region and VHSL approval of the substitution.
b. The replacing team or individual, League office and host site be notified in a time frame that includes 24 hours plus travel time to the site from the geographic center of the region with the exception of football.
c. For football the same procedures would apply except that 72 hours plus travel time would be required.

55-1-2 Combined Tournaments-When a group/classification sponsors a sport but does not meet the 50 percent plus one threshold, that group/classification will combine with the next highest classification which sponsors a state championship. VHSL staff will determine the tournament format for these events. The format will be approved by the Executive Committee.

55-2-2 Changes in State Tournament Format-Each Group Board may request changes in its state tournament format - such as number of teams or number of participants - or may drop a championship if the following provisions are met.

(1) For items which are not designated in this *Handbook*, the Group Board must take action by June 30 of the preceding year, or

(2) For items which are designated in this *Handbook*, the Executive Committee must take action by June 30 of the preceding year or pass emergency legislation to change the *Handbook*.

55-2-3 Pairings for State Events-Pairings for bracketed tournaments will be posted on the VHSL website.

PM 55-2-3 Pairings (9-94)-The Executive Committee has the authority to set playoff pairings for all sports. For those playoffs where teams from the same region might face each other in the semifinals and are scheduled to play one school's home field, the regional champion will host the game.

55-3-1 Tournament Dates-All tournaments shall be held no later than the dates published on the VHSL Activities Calendar. Only the Executive Director can authorize postponement of state semifinal or final games beyond the specified dates.

55-3-2 Postponement of State Events:

(1) In the event of unusual conditions, and when the VHSL Executive Director determines that the state tournament cannot expediently be postponed, the state tournament can be played if a majority of teams are at the state tournament site.

(2) In the event unusual conditions prevent a majority of teams or individuals in non-team events from arriving at the state tournament site on time, the state tournament director, with approval from the VHSL Executive Director, has the authority to rearrange the original schedule to allow the late arriving team(s) the latest possible scheduled participation time.

55-3-3 Scheduling/Rescheduling of Games-All games will be held on the dates scheduled with the exception of postponement due to weather conditions, scheduled graduation at either of the competing schools, or if postponement of regional contests (and/or state semifinal contests) causes the team to travel the next day in excess of 250 one-way miles to the next game site. With the exception of graduation, no game will be postponed because of conflicts with exams, proms and other school functions. Changes will be made for graduations only when doing so will not unduly disrupt the tournament/event or put another school at a significant disadvantage.

PM 55-3-3 Game Time (9-99)-Boys and girls basketball and soccer state tournament game times shall be rotated so each group is given opportunity to play "prime time" games.

55-4-1 Tournament Officials-Officials for all state tournament contests shall be assigned by VHSL staff. Only officials who have been classified as "certified" will be eligible to work.

55-4-2 Officials Game Fees – Officials' game fees are as published in the most recent VHSL Financial Policies Manual. This manual is viewable on the VHSL website.

PM 55-5-1 (1) Team Travel Reimbursements (5-94) (9-08)-When the Executive Committee has authority relative to the travel reimbursement process, consistent with VHSL policy, schools will receive team travel reimbursement for state events only when they submit a properly completed form. Each competing school must pay its expenses, including any charges for food and lodging at the game site, unless special instructions are received stating otherwise. After paying all tournament expenses and VHSL expenses, team reimbursements in baseball, basketball, cheer, cross country, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball, theatre and scholastic bowl will be reimbursed at 50% of travel expenses following each sport season. If the VHSL has sufficient funding after Spring sports all team reimbursement for the year will be paid at 100%. If VHSL does not have sufficient income to reimburse all teams in full, reimbursements will be pro-rated.

PM 55-5-1 (2) Mileage Rates (5-92)-The mileage rate for football is $5.00 per mile and for all other authorized sports is $2.00 per mile for teams more than 75 miles from the game site. Mileage shall be determined by the most direct and through highways. Actual deadhead mileage that commercial vehicles charge shall be an allowable expense as well as actual highway tolls paid by a school.

PM 55-5-1 (3) Housing Expenses (10-95)-The motel expense reimbursement shall be limited to the “official team party” of players, managers, certified athletic trainer (ATC), bus driver and coaches (and not cheerleaders, cheerleader sponsors, coaches’ relatives, principals or other personnel). For purposes of reimbursement, the number of authorized hotel rooms is shown in the Team Travel Reimbursement Chart found in this section and games scheduled from noon through 5:00 p.m. shall be considered "afternoon games". If the League office provides a hotel room block rate, the amount reimbursed may not exceed the published hotel room block rate.

55-6-1 Broadcasts and Telecasts for State Tournaments-Charges for radio broadcasts and telecasts of state level contests shall be set by the League's Executive Committee. No advertising for tobacco, alcoholic beverages or patent medicines may be associated with the broadcasts. A check made payable to VHSL, Inc. shall be presented to the site Tournament Director prior to the broadcast, telecast, taping or filming. Telecast fees not shown below shall be set and approved by the Executive Director (9-79). The Executive Director, in consultation with the director of an event, may authorize arrangements to televise on a live or delayed basis a VHSL state or sectional event. Fees for district and regional events are to be set by the appropriate district or regional council.

PM 55-7-1 Other State Event Related Policy Manual References (listed alphabetically):

(1) Admission Prices-Please see the VHSL website for a listing of approved fees.

(a) Children Age 6 and Under-For general admission seats, children age 6 and under may be admitted free if accompanied by a paying adult.

(b) Senior Citizens (3-82)-No discounts are provided for senior citizens.

55-5-1 Team Travel Reimbursement Chart - 9/17

Sport/Activity	Basketball / Volleyball	Baseball /Cheer / Field Hockey / Lacrosse / Soccer / Softball	Football	Cross Country	Scholastic Bowl/ Theatre
Mileage Reimbursement	$2.00 per mile	$2.00 per mile	$5.00 per mile	$2.00 per mile	$2.00 per mile
Authorized Rooms	7	10	20	N/A	5
Travel 75 miles or less - one way	No reimbursement	No reimbursement	No reimbursement	No reimbursement	No reimbursement
Morning, afternoon or evening game and travel 76 – 150 miles – one way	Mileage Only	Mileage Only	Mileage Only	Mileage Only	Mileage Only
Morning or evening game (scheduled to end after 9 pm) and travel 151 miles or more – one way	Mileage plus authorized rooms	Mileage plus authorized rooms	Mileage plus authorized rooms	Mileage plus authorized rooms	Mileage plus authorized rooms
Afternoon game - scheduled to start after 2 pm and evening game ending prior to 8 pm and travel 151 - 200 miles - one way	Mileage Only	Mileage Only	Mileage Only	Mileage Only	Mileage Only
Game scheduled to start after 6 pm and travel is more than 200 miles - one way	Mileage plus authorized rooms	Mileage plus authorized rooms	Mileage plus authorized rooms	Mileage plus authorized rooms	Mileage plus authorized rooms

VHSL Handbook Team Travel Information

1. Trip mileage is determined from the high school to the event site.
2. Verification of trip distance using Google maps, MapQuest etc. will be required.
3. In order to receive 100% allowable reimbursement a request must be received in the VHSL office within 3 calendar weeks following the event.
4. The following criteria are in place for team travel requests that are submitted after the three calendar week window:
   a. All late team travel requests must be submitted by the principal, otherwise the request will not be considered.
   b. If the request is received after three calendar weeks, but before six calendar weeks have elapsed, reimbursement will be pro-rated to 75% of the allowed amount.
   c. If a request is received after six calendar weeks, but before nine calendar weeks have elapsed reimbursement will be pro rated to 50% of the allowed amount.
   d. Any request received after nine calendar weeks of the event will not be reimbursed.

(2) Awards (5-88)-The VHSL staff will select or approve all persons who present awards at VHSL state championship events. (1-76) Only official VHSL awards or VHSL sanctioned awards will be presented at any VHSL state athletic event. (2-94) – Awards for most valuable wrestler(s) and those given by non-school groups are not allowed.

(3) Bands-Participating schools' bands/pep bands are allowed at state tournaments with the limitations of not playing during live ball situations. Any deviation from this policy will constitute a VHSL Sportsmanship Violation under Section 30 (Penalties/Fines) and will be defined as excessive unsportsmanlike conduct ($300 fine).

(4) Banners and Signs (5-83)-Stationary signs are permissible if they are in good taste as determined by the state event director and provided they do not block spectators' views.

(5) Basketball Nets (1-76)-The state basketball tournament director must inform all involved teams that the League will not permit team members to cut down basketball nets, but that basketball nets will be awarded to the victorious teams following the tournament games, if requested.

(6) Other State Event Related Policy Maual References-

(a) Fee Schedule for Radio Broadcast/Live Stream Audio-Per Game Per Station Outlet – $100 (5-19)

(b) Fee Schedule for Telecast-Please see the VHSL website for a listing of approved fees. Fees can be found in the VHSL Financial Policies and Procedures Manual, listed under Financial Forms.

(c) Telecasts on Public Access Television Channels-A request by an individual, station or company that seeks the right to record and telecast a state playoff contest on a delayed basis only on a cable channel restricted for public, educational or governmental use ("PEG") shall be governed by this section. The fee charged for telecasting on a PEG channel on a delayed basis shall be the same fee as charged for a radio broadcast. In addition, the broadcaster must sign an agreement that restricts the use of the taped material to be aired on a delayed basis only on a PEG channel and provides that a minimum of three VHSL-approved promotional spots shall air at no charge to VHSL in conjunction with the telecasting of the contest with at least one airing immediately preceding the start of the telecast of the game.

(d) Webcasting/Live Stream Audio-There shall be a $100 fee for any electronic broadcasting (webcasting) of any VHSL state event.

(7) Athletic Trainers' Fees (4-01)-Please see the VHSL website for a listing of approved fees.

(8) Cheerleader Admissions-The number of cheerleaders and coaches permitted to represent each team in a state event shall be no more than the number placed on the event entry list. Actual playing area restrictions may further limit the ability of all cheerleaders to be on the floor or field during an event. The site or tournament director will have final authority over an appropriate number accessing the actual event area.

(9) Contract With Host School (5-91)-Schools hosting VHSL state events shall be required to enter into a contractual agreement with the VHSL in which VHSL requirements and expectations of current merchandisers and/or corporate sponsors are defined. Failure of a host school to fulfill the requirements of the contract will subject the school to review by the Executive Committee. In cases of review, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to impose financial penalties on the host school commensurate with the damages to the VHSL. The host school contract, which is to be signed by the principal, should include a note that the principal will review the contract with the event director.

(10) Directors' Fees (5-96)-Directors of state events will not be paid their fees until all required reports are submitted and reconciled at the VHSL office. Please see the VHSL website for a listing of approved fees.

(11) Facilities Requirements-No teams playing at a neutral (home area) designated site are allowed to practice at that site prior to a contest. For all other facility requirements refer to the VHSL website.

(12) Game Balls-The official game balls are as follows.

Baseball – Wilson A1010 HS1	Soccer – NCAA VIVIDO
Basketball Boys – Wilson EVO NXT	Softball – Wilson A9011
Basketball Girls – Wilson EVO NXT	Tennis – US Open Extra Duty (WRT106200)
Football – Wilson GST 1003	Volleyball – Wilson K1 Gold

(13) Hospitality Costs (5-13)-Hospitality costs are authorized for multi-day events and events where four (4) or more contests are scheduled consecutively at the same site. The costs to the League may not exceed $500.00 per day, unless otherwise approved by the appropriate assistant director.

(14) Merchandising Program (1-77)-The sale of any VHSL items with either the VHSL seal, name or event on them is prohibited unless specifically approved by the Executive Committee. (5-82) The Executive Director may approve the sale of souvenir items at VHSL events as long as approval is reported to the Executive Committee.

(15) Recognized Passes-The current year's membership card of ACTIVE members as follows, when presented with a valid photo ID, each card will be recognized for one admission. The VHSL Honored Guest Card will be recognized for two admissions.

(a) VHSL Card-Superintendents, Member School Principals and Athletic/Activities Directors (assistant superintendents, member school assistant principals and assistant athletic/activities director by request) (5-16)

(b)VHSL Honored Guest Card - Special Guests

(c) VHSL State Event Pass (purchased through member school or officials association) (9-01) - (also may be sold to middle school administrators and local city council members)

(d) VHSL Coaches Pass (12-10) - Available to all current VHSL head and assistant coaches. Good for admission to all VHSL regular and post-season events (bearer only) and includes liability insurance in the purchase price. Cost: $25.00.

(e) VHSL State Event Pass - State Clinicians - complimentary (9-00)

(f) VHSL State Event Pass - Commissioner of Officials Association (complimentary) (9-02)

(g) VHSCA Card - High School Coaches who are active VHSCA members

(h) VHSCA Life Member Card - Special Guest

(i) VIAAA Card - Athletic Directors and Asst. Athletic Directors who are active VIAAA members

(j) VIAAA Life Member Card - Athletic Directors and Asst. Athletic Directors

(k) NATA Card (National Athletic Trainers Association) - Trainers (5-96)

(l) VSBA Card - School Board Members (5-96) and, by superintendent request, non-VSBA school board members (9-01)

Cards not recognized include any stamped "Allied" or "Associate" from the above listing as well as college coaches, VASSP, professional teams' scouts, middle school principals, SDE regional personnel (5-92), faculty, district and/or regional cards. Membership cards are not transferable (5-96).

(16) Photography and Recording of State Events – The following photography and recording procedures have been set for directors of all VHSL state tournaments.

(a) Photographers shall:

(1) Obtain proper credentials as required by each site director.

(2) Follow directives by the site director as to the location limits for working the contest.

(3) Not display conspicuous partisan support during the contest.

(4) Avoid contact with players and coaches and inappropriate involvement with the crowd during the contest.

(5) Not interfere with the action of the contest.

(6) Not take flash pictures of players during the progress of the contest, except when using electronic flash/strobe cameras.

(7) Observe special limitations for the sports of gymnastics.

(b) Recording by Competing Schools-A competing school desiring to record an athletic event in which that school competes must receive permission in advance from the tournament director. Under no conditions may the recording be used for scouting purposes by schools other than those involved in the event recorded. Schools not competing in the event may not record the event. The recording is not to be used to second guess decisions made by game/meet officials. The recording may not be sold, rented, or loaned for commercial purposes.

(c) Recording by Media-The recording of VHSL events must be cleared through the Virginia High School League. Members of the media may, without paying a fee, arrange with the local tournament manager to take clips of VHSL events for public showing. Under no conditions may an entire athletic event be recorded for showing without advance clearance through the VHSL and the local tournament director.

(d) Recording by Spectators-Spectators must receive permission from the tournament director for any live action taken of athletic events other than snapshots. If permission is granted for spectators to record the entire event or take clips, it is to be with the understanding the recording may not be sold, leased, borrowed, or rented for commercial purposes. The

tournament manager shall not permit spectators to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity, and if there is any question as to the purposes of recording, the request should be denied by the local tournament management.

(e) Live Streaming-Host sites must offer an option(s) for live streaming services of state events. If live streaming services are not available at the host site, participating teams will be notified and can have the option to set up their own live streaming services. Live streaming services must offer equal opportunity for all sports and genders and should not have an imbalance of coverage between gender.

(17) Practice at Game Site (5-94)-When events are hosted at "neutral" sites, teams may not practice at those sites, unless the opposing team(s) can be accommodated.

(18) Prayer (10-92 and 5-15)-There is to be no publicly-sponsored prayer or publicly-sponsored invocation at VHSL state events. Privately-sponsored prayer, whether the speech of students or private schools, is not prohibited at VHSL state events. The Committee's action was in response to a Supreme Court decision and recommendations by the League attorney.

(19) Raffles (5-92)-Raffles are allowed if the following criteria are met.

(1) proper local permit is obtained;
(2) seller not be allowed near entrance gate;
(3) signs clearly identify that VHSL is not sponsor;
(4) signs clearly identify the raffle's sponsor; and
(5) the state event is hosted at a VHSL school.

(20) Reentry Policy (12-03)-Because of the differing nature of team and individual tournament formats, uniqueness of facilities, and local security policies, a general re-entry policy is not feasible. A re-entry policy that would permit spectators to re-enter an event without paying a new admission fee will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The policy on whether or not re-entry will be permitted would be communicated in the tournament format and posted at the tournament entrance for each event. If re-entry is not permitted, spectators who leave the premises and subsequently return will be required to purchase a new ticket.

(21) Refunds (Tickets) (9-93)-No refund is allowed for rain outs; ticket stubs will be recognized for admission for continued game.

(22) Sportsmanship Responsibility (3-73)-Regardless of the site of the event, each school participating in a state tournament event is host of that event and therefore responsible for sportsmanship during the tournament games or events. Further, as each school is host, it can report a violation of the sportsmanship rules. As state sponsor, the VHSL has key responsibilities in enforcing the sportsmanship rule.

(23) Vendors Authorization (5-92)-The Executive Committee shall approve all vendors for state events.

SECTION 56: BASEBALL.

56-1-1 Schedules-Each member school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

56-1-2 Each team shall be limited to a maximum of 21 games, excluding district, regional and state tournament games.

56-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum practice requirement for baseball.

56-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Games-A game called for any reason where a winner cannot be determined (less than 4 1/2 or 5 innings have been completed or the game is tied) or anytime for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, irrigation systems, etc) will be treated as a suspended game. The game will be continued from the point of interruption with the line-up and batting order of each team exactly the same as the line-up and batting order at the moment of interruption subject to the rules of the game.

56-3-1 Exception-Prior to the beginning of the season an appropriate council may opt to not use this rule.

56-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

PM 56-4-1 BASEBALL/Pregame Equipment Inspection (2-11)-It is the responsibility of member schools to verify that any equipment used by a player meets the quality and technical inspection standards dictated by NFHS and VHSL rule. The burden for compliance rests with the member school. Students/athletes who participate using illegal equipment are subject to ejection from that game and a further suspension for the next two games.

56-4-2 Pitching Regulations-For the purposes of this rule, the pitch count is based on pitches thrown to the batters during their time at bat. Warm up pitches allowed before each inning or warm up pitches allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay do not count. All NFHS substitution and pitching rules must be followed.

A dead ball pitch will not be considered as a pitch for the purposes of pitch count (e.g., a pitch thrown when time is called, a balk or illegal pitch, etc.)

A pitcher at the Varsity or Sub-varsity level who reaches the maximum pitch count limitation allowed per day during an inning will be afforded the opportunity to finish pitching to the current batter at bat.

The following provisions apply to regular season as well as post season play.

Specific rest periods are in place when a pitcher reaches a high threshold of pitches delivered in a day.

MAXIMUM PITCHES ALLOWED PER DAY
Varsity and Sub-Varsity 110

The rest periods required during regular season and post season tournament play are listed below:

*If a pitcher throws 101 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
*If a pitcher throws 76-100 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
*If a pitcher throws 51-75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
*If a pitcher throws 26-50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
*If a pitcher throws 1-25 pitches in a day no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.

If a pitcher throws 51 or more pitches over two consecutive days, at least one calendar day of rest must be observed. The days of rest required are determined by the number of pitches thrown on day two of consecutive days. If a third consecutive day of pitching occurs, the pitcher is limited to a maximum of 25 pitches on that third consecutive day of pitching. At least one day of rest must be observed after three consecutive days of pitching.

A calendar day refers to a time period beginning at midnight on one calendar day and ending at 11:59 p.m. on that same day. A calendar day of rest begins with the day following the first day a pitch is thrown.

A calendar day means that if a pitcher throws 76 pitches on Tuesday that player may not pitch again until Saturday. If a pitcher throws 25 pitches on Tuesday, that pitcher may pitch again on the next day which is Wednesday. The starting time of the game does not matter in the calculation of when a pitcher is eligible to pitch again.

Schools shall document each player's pitch count using the preferred Pitch Count and Scoring partner(s) of the VHSL for tracking purposes. The home score book and pitch count accounting are official. Because the home pitch count record is official, the home team shall provide a responsible adult to record pitch count totals in the preferred Pitch Count and Scoring partner(s) of the VHSL. The home and visiting teams shall compare pitch count totals each inning for accuracy. Umpires will not be a part of the process.

56-4-2 Penalty-Violation of this rule constitutes use of an ineligible and forfeiture of any games in which such violation occurs and carries a $100 fine for the offending school. Additionally, the first time a team violates the VHSL pitch count rule, the designated head coach must take the "Introduction to Pitch Smart" course offered through the NFHS on the NFHSLearn website prior to being allowed to return to coaching. Any subsequent violations, by a team of this designated head coach, will result in the suspension of that coach for two games for "Excessive Unsportsmanlike Conduct".

56-4-3 Speed-Up Rules-The suggested speed-up rules as listed in the NFHS Baseball Rule Book shall be used in all VHSL baseball contests.

PM 56-4-3 BASEBALL/Doubleheaders (5-00)-By mutual agreement of the competing schools, doubleheaders may consist of only five (5) innings per game.

56-4-4 The Ten-Run Rule-The Ten-Run Rule is in effect for all VHSL games.

56-4-4 Exception-Prior to the start of the season, any Council may elect not to use the Ten-Run Rule for its VHSL games.

56-4-5 Resolving Ties During the Regular Season-If a group opts not to use the Suspended/Interrupted Game Rule, and a regulation called game ends in a tie score, the game shall be counted as one-half (1/2) game won and one-half (1/2) game lost (NFHS Baseball Rules Book). Tie games shall not be completed (or made up) by mutual agreement.

56-5-1 Other Baseball-Related Policy Manual References

PM 56-5-2 BASEBALL/Rescheduling of State Semifinal (12-01)-If the first game of the state semifinals has been played and the second semifinal is postponed, the State Director may reschedule the second game no later than 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and play the championship game at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday.

SECTION 58: BASKETBALL.

58-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

58-1-2 The number of basketball games in any one season shall be limited to 23 regular season games, exclusive of district, regional and state tournament games.

58-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum requirement for basketball.

58-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Games-Games which are suspended or interrupted prior to completion shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless both schools agree to accept the score at the time of interruption as final.

58-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

58-4-2 Thirty (30)-Point Rule-The 30-Point Rule will be in effect for all games. The 30-Point Rule provides that if at any time during the fourth quarter one team is ahead by 30 or more points, the clock shall continue to run except during free throws, time-outs, injuries, and the administration of technical fouls.

(1) By mutual agreement of both coaches, the 30-Point Rule may be used at any time during the second half.

(2) If at any time after the 30-Point Rule has been implemented a team's lead becomes less than 30 points, the clock will be run normally.

58-4-3 Exception-Prior to the start of the season, any Council may elect not to use the 30-Point Rule for its VHSL contests.

58-4-4 Coaching Box Rule-Provisions as listed in the National Federation Basketball Rules Book dealing with the Coaching Box Rule (10-5-1) shall be used in all VHSL basketball contests.

SECTION 62: CHEERLEADING.

62-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

62-1-2 The number of cheer competitions in any one season shall be limited to 7 regular season competitions, exclusive of district, regional and state competitions. A multiple school competition shall count as one contest.

62-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-Prior to either the first performance by a sideline cheer squad involving stunting or tumbling, or the first competition by a competition cheer squad, each participant shall practice a minimum of 20 days. Each practice shall consist of stunting and tumbling time to count toward the 20 day requirement. The 20 daily practice sessions applies to each student and means 20 calendar days, not counting Sundays, and has no reference to the actual number of times the team appears and reappears for practice sessions. Competition teams may not start learning choreography until the official first day of tryouts/practice.

66-2-2 Fall Practice Guidelines-Schools must adhere to the VHSL Fall Practice Guidelines as provided in this *Handbook*, or with those guidelines submitted to the Executive Director and accepted for use by the member school.

62-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Competitions-In the event a competition must be suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue, the competition, if/when resumed, shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless all participating schools agree to accept the scores at the time of interruption as final. If the interruption occurs while a team is performing, that team will be given the option of starting their routine over or resuming their routine from the point of interruption.

62-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

62-4-2 All cheerleading practices and performances, whether by sideline or competition squads, must be conducted under proper adult supervision and must comply with the NFHS Spirit Rules Book.

62-4-3 Sideline Cheer-Sideline cheerleaders may serve as an auxiliary group for any sports team sponsored by a member school. Students *selected* to be cheerleaders for a school's sports team shall comply with Parts A and C of Section 28 and the Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination Rule (28B-3-1). The Athletic Participation/Parental Consent/Physical Examination form is also required of all students trying out for or practicing for the cheerleading squad as specified in the Notes under Section 28B-3-1. MEL's are required to be filed for sideline cheerleaders. A school that sponsors cheerleaders for its school's sports teams shall comply with the following regulations in Section 27: Principal's Responsibility Rule - 27-8-1, Coaches Rule - 27-2-1, Sports Season Rule - 27-12-1, Out-of-Season Practice Rule - 27-7-1, Proselytizing Rule - 27-9-1, Sunday Rule - 27-15-1, and Sportsmanship Rule - 27-11-1. Their "season" is from the first fall practice date until the last contest by any school team they support as a cheer squad or the last day of school, whichever is later.

62-4-4 Competitive Cheer-Students selected to be cheerleaders for a school's competition squad shall comply with Parts A, B and C of Section 28. MELs must be filed for competition cheer squad members. A school that sponsors competition squad cheerleaders shall comply with all regulations in Section 27.

62-4-5 Score Clarification Process-Head coaches or designee will highlight a rubric with the ranges for stunts, pyramids or jumps that correlate with their routine performance on the day of competition. The head coach or designee will highlight the tumbling skills that will be performed in their routine on the day of competition. The rubric will be given to the meet referee/head judge for purposes of clarification. Immediately upon receiving the ranges, the head coach or designee notifies the meet referee/head judge if there are questions about their team's range. The meet referee/head judge will obtain scoring clarification(s), if deemed appropriate and the judges' panel will provide clarity.

(1) Coaches will be permitted to review their score sheets shortly after competing. The scoring range clarification process will be in effect, as detailed above. Specific scores will not be debated, if the score is in the appropriate range. Schools will receive a copy of their score sheet prior to leaving the competition arena. Score sheets that are not picked up at the competition will be destroyed. Score sheets will NOT be mailed to competing schools.

(2) Competition Cheer Technical Score Sheet Signature-The head coach or designee must sign the technical scoresheet immediately following the verbal explanation of deductions assessed to their team.

(3) VHSL does not recognize protests based on the real or alleged failure of contest officials to apply competition rules. If clerical or mathematical errors occur, they must be recognized and corrected prior to the competition's conclusion.

SECTION 64: CROSS COUNTRY.

64-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

64-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 10 meets per season, exclusive of district, regional and state meets. A multiple school meet shall count as one meet.

64-1-3 Each individual team member may compete in four other sanctioned meets and each competition shall count as one of the team contests as permitted in this *Handbook* for that individual, but shall not count for the team.

64-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirements-Twenty days is the minimum number of practice days required prior to the first contest. The 20 daily practice sessions means 20 calendar days, not counting Sundays, and has no reference to the actual number of times the team appears and reappears for practice sessions.

64-2-2 Fall Practice Guidelines-Schools must adhere to the VHSL Fall Practice Guidelines as provided in this *Handbook*, or with those guidelines submitted to the Executive Director and accepted for use by the member school.

64-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Meet-There is no suspended/interrupted meet rule for cross country.

64-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

64-4-2 State Meet Qualifying Criteria/Standards-Participation at the state meets shall be limited to the top three (3) teams from a regional meet and the first five (5) individual finishers not in the top three teams from each regional meet.

64-4-3 State Meet Regulations:

(1) Only entries that are submitted on the official entry form and received by the Meet Director not later than the deadline date for entry will be accepted.

(2) The meet shall be conducted over a course approximately 3 miles in length.

(3) No additions to, or changes in, the official list of entries (other than scratches) shall be permitted after the entry form has been received by the Meet Director.

(4) Teams shall consist of a minimum of five members and a maximum of seven members.

SECTION 66: FIELD HOCKEY.

66-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

66-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 17 games, per season, exclusive of district, regional and state championship games.

66-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-Fourteen days is the minimum number of practice days required prior to the first contest. The 14 daily practice sessions means 14 calendar days, not counting Sundays, and has no reference to the actual number of times the team appears and reappears for practice sessions.

66-2-2 Fall Practice Guidelines-Schools must adhere to the VHSL Fall Practice Guidelines as provided in this *Handbook*, or with those guidelines submitted to the Executive Director and accepted for use by the member school.

66-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Games-Games interrupted or suspended because of circumstances beyond the control of the responsible office/game administrator (i.e., weather, darkness, natural disaster, sportsmanship issue, etc.) shall:

(a) be resumed at the point of interruption if play is stopped prior to completion of the second quarter;

(b) be a complete game if play is stopped after the completion of the second quarter and one team is ahead.

66-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

66-4-2 Breaking Ties, Regular and Post-Season Play-If a tie exists during post-season play, the tie shall be broken by administering the Post Season Tie-Breaking Procedures published on the League's website.

PM 66-4-2 FIELD HOCKEY REGULAR AND POST SEASON TIE-BREAKER (OT-OT-OO-OO-OOSV)

10-minute, reduced-player, sudden victory overtime (6 field players and goalkeeper):

- 5-minute intermission
- Visiting captain calls coin toss – winner chooses side or ball
- All “eligible” players may participate
- Suspensions (green and yellow cards) and ejections (red cards) in regulation ARE carried over

If still tied after the first 10-minute OT period, a second 10-minute OT period is played:

- 2 minute intermission
- Teams change ends; Alternate center pass

If the game is still tied after the second 10-minute OT, teams will participate in a 1-on-1 tiebreaker:

- 5-minute intermission
- Visiting captain calls coin toss, winner chooses to attack or defend first
- 5 players from each team take a 1-on-1 alternately against the GK of the other team making a total of 10 1-on-1’s
- Non-participating team members may be on the field no closer than the 50-yard line
- Suspensions (green and yellow cards) from overtime DO NOT carry over; ejections (red card) DO carry over

If still tied, teams will participate in a Sudden Victory 1-on-1’s:

- 2 minute intermission
- The same five players from each team will participate and the order may change
- Team that defended in the previous 1-on-1 series will attack first
- When one team has scored or been awarded one more goal than the opposing team after each team has taken the same number of 1-on-1s, not necessary being all five 1-on-1s, that team is the winner

If still tied, teams will participate in a Sudden Victory 1-on-1’s:

- The sequence in which the attackers take the 1-on-1s need not be the same in any subsequent series
- The team which starts each 1-on-1s series alternates for each series

1-on1 Procedure:

- Attack player begins behind the 25-yard line with the ball is centered on the 25- yard line
- GK position on or behind the goal line within the goal cage
- Procedure begins and ends with the official’s whistle
- Attack player has 8 seconds to score
- Follow-up shots are permitted

1-on-1 ends when:

- 8 seconds have elapsed
- The attacker scores a goal
- The attacker commits an offense

- The GK commits an unintentional offence (the shoot-out is re-taken by the same player)
- The GK commits an intentional offence (a penalty stroke is awarded and taken)
- The ball goes out of play over the back-line (this includes the GK intentionally playing the ball over the back-line as this is not a foul) or side line
- If a penalty stroke is awarded, any eligible player on the roster may take the penalty stroke. The penalty stroke will take place before the next available shoot-out takes place.

A player may be suspended by a yellow or red card but not by a green card during the 1-on-1 procedure.

If during the 1-on-1 procedure, a player is suspended by a yellow or red card:

- The player takes no further part in the 1-on-1 procedure. Any goals scored before being suspended count as a goal
- If the GK, a fully kitted GK shall be allowed reasonable time to put on protective equipment

If during a 1-on-1 procedure:

- A defending GK or player is incapacitated, they may be replaced by another eligible player from the roster
- An attacker is incapacitated, that attack player may be replaced by another player on the roster
- Any replaced player (defender or attacker) takes no further part in the 1-on-1.

66-4-3 Six-Goal Rule-The Six-Goal Rule shall be in effect for all VHSL games. The Six-Goal Rule provides that if, at any time after the third quarter is complete and one team leads by six (6) or more goals, the game shall be terminated. When schools play games outside their district, the six goal rule will apply.

66-4-4 Exception-Prior to the start of the season, a Council may elect not to use the Six-Goal Rule for its VHSL games.

SECTION 68: FOOTBALL.

68-1-1 Schedules-Each member school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

68-1-2 Schedules-All schedules (in-state, out-of-state and non-public Virginia schools) for the next school year shall be submitted to the League Office by May 1 of the current school year. Failure of a school to comply with this provision shall result in that school being fined $100.

68-1-3 Additional games may be scheduled after May 1 provided they are reported in writing to the Executive Director on or before September 15.

PM 68-1-1 (1) FOOTBALL/Schedule Waiver (9-90)-The requirement that schools must report scheduled games prior to September 15 may be waived if schedule changes are necessary because opponents discontinue fielding a team.

PM 68-1-1 (2) FOOTBALL/Schedule Change Responsibility (1-73)-In reference to schools adding to or changing their football schedules after those schedules have been submitted to the League office, it is the responsibility of both schools concerned to report to the League office additions to or changes in their football schedules.

68-1-4 No member school shall play more than 10 football games during any one season, exclusive of play-off games authorized by a group board, nor more than an average of one game per week by the same team. By group board adoption, schools in that classification may permit football players to compete in no more than 40 quarters. Additionally, by group board adoption, a classification may permit junior varsity players, when participating on both varsity and junior varsity teams, to compete in no more than 48 quarters. When member schools have been reclassified, the present rule shall apply until the new group's membership can reconsider the 40-quarter or 48-quarter rule option.

68-1-5 Dates 1 through the 11th football playing weekend shall be regular season dates, the 12th, 13th and 14th football playing weekends are regional play dates, and the 15th and 16th football playing weekends are state semifinals and championships respectively.

68-1-6 The first official play date shall be Week 8 of the NFHS calendar and after all preseason requirements have been met.

68-1-6 Exception-If a district or region designates a district/region first contest date later than the first official contest date as published in the VHSL calendar, those football teams shall have had a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 regular daily sessions of training and practice prior to that designated district/region first contest date. All other provisions of 68-2-1, 68-2-2 and 68-2-3 shall apply.

68-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirements-Prior to the first contest date, the football team of a member school shall have had a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 20 regular daily sessions of training and practice, the first 3 days of which players' protective equipment shall be limited to helmets and shoes, and the next two days shall be limited to helmets, shoes and shoulder pads. Each individual player, regardless of when he/she reports for practice, must undergo the first three days wearing protective equipment limited to helmets and shoes, and the next two days shall be limited to helmets, shoes and shoulder pads.

68-2-2 *Fifteen or twenty daily practice sessions* means 15 or 20 calendar days, not counting Sundays, and has no reference to the actual number of times the squad of players appears and reappears for practice sessions.

68-2-3 Schools must adhere to the VHSL Fall Practice Guidelines as provided in this *Handbook*, or with those guidelines submitted to the Executive Director and accepted for use by the member school.

68-2-4 Football players are limited to a maximum of ninety (90) minutes of full contact practice per week. For the purposes of this rule, "full contact" is defined as game situation; tackling to the ground; playing football.

68-2-5 Football players are restricted from any post game padded contact practice.

68-3-1 Postponed or Suspended/Interrupted Games-Postponed or suspended games must be rescheduled for the same evening or the afternoon of the next calendar date, except for Sundays and except for extenuating circumstances approved by the district chairman if both schools involved are within the same district. If it is not a district contest, the VHSL Executive Director will rule on the extenuating circumstances. Friday games would be rescheduled for Saturday; Saturday for Monday; and Monday for Tuesday.

(1) Schools, who have reported such incidents prior to the official release of the brackets for that classification, will receive the allowable bonus/rider points when a game involving a non-VHSL member school is not played and a forfeit has not been awarded as part of the result of that game.

(2) Schools who experience an opponent canceling a game have the options of receiving a forfeit for that game, scheduling another opponent, or declaring a nine-game schedule. After the official release of the initial power ratings, schools who experience an opponent canceling a game will only have the options of receiving a forfeit for that game or scheduling another opponent.

68-3-2 All make-up games must be concluded by Tuesday preceding the first regional play-off date. Games not concluded by that day will be counted as a loss for both teams. If two schools cannot agree on a make-up date, the VHSL Executive Director shall set the date. A school may choose to forfeit only if approved by the VHSL Executive Director.

68-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

PM 68-4-1 (1) FOOTBALL POINT RULE-When a thirty-five (35) point differential is reached at half-time or at any point during the second half, the game clock will continue to run anytime there is an incomplete pass, the runner goes out of bounds or the offensive team obtains a first down. Additionally, when the mercy rule is in effect and there is a:

- Change of possession the clock will stop for substitutions and setting the chains and then start on the "ready for play" signal.
- Score, the clock will stop for the extra point. The clock will run by rule during the subsequent free kick, then after setting the chains, started on the "ready for play" signal.
- Charged timeout, the clock will stop and then start on the "ready for play" signal following the timeout.

Should the point differential subsequently be reduced to less than thirty-five points, game officials will discontinue the use of this timing adjustment. This adoption will be utilized during regular season and playoff games and at all levels of play (varsity and sub-varsity). This adjustment may not be utilized when Rule 3-1-3 is in effect.

PM 68-4-1 (2) FOOTBALL/Officials Associations (3-98)-Associations shall meet with every football team prior to the team's first game to discuss safety, sportsmanship and rules.

PM 68-4-1 (3) FOOTBALL/Film Exchange-Schools advancing to state semifinal or state final games will exchange a minimum of two (most recent) game films with the opponent no later than noon Sunday preceding the next postseason game.

68-4-2 Recommendation-The League recommends that no member school which has less than 25 students physically fit and eligible for participation engage in varsity football.

68-4-3 Non-Varsity Games-Ten-minute quarters shall be used for sub-varsity games. For games involving only 8th graders, eight-minute quarters shall be used.

68-4-4 Determining Championships-The League declares football champions in each classification at the district level and has provisions for single division champions at the regional and state levels. District champions are determined on the basis of their won-and-lost records, as prescribed in this *Handbook* and by each school's compliance with all provisions in this section.

68-4-6 Rating Scale-To find the rating of a team, total the number of points it has earned in accordance with the following table and divide that total number by the number of games played.

Note: The VHSL shall apply a 2.0 multiplier, for classification purposes, to any Virginia non-public school that serves students of one gender (e.g., an all-boys high school). Other multipliers are defined in 10-1-4 (a), (b) and (c).

	6	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
For winning from	26	24	22	20	18	16
For losing from	14	12	10	8	6	4
*Two (2) bonus points per classification						
For each game won by a defeated opponent** in ANY classification	2	2	2	2	2	2
For each game won by a non-defeated opponent** in ANY classification	1	1	1	1	1	1

**Bonus points award to higher classification teams playing lower classification teams*

***VHSL rating scale recognized opponents*

68-4-6 (1) To calculate ties in football games with out-of-state teams (when the games are played out-of-state) and rider points for out-of-state games ending in a tie.

	6	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
For tying	20	18	16	14	12	10
For each game won by the tied opponent	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
For each game lost by the tied opponent	1	1	1	1	1	1

68-4-6 (2) When the Rating Scale is used to designate teams for championship playoffs, only games between members of the Virginia High School League, other public schools and non-public Virginia schools, as well as non-public member schools of other National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) state associations shall be counted. The following provision applies:

(1) It is the VHSL member school's responsibility to inform the VHSL office by May 1 of the following:

(a) Non-VHSL opponent's schedule.

(b) VHSL enrollment standards for classification will be applied so as to determine the awarding of bonus rating points to the VHSL member school.

68-4-6 (3) Penalty-Failure to comply with 68-4-6 (2) (1) and (2) shall result in the school being fined as stated in 30-5-1.

PM 68-4-6 (3) FOOTBALL/Out-of-State Football Schedules (9-05)-For counting out-of-state school's 10 games of an 11-game schedule, use the following criteria: (a) if a game occurs before the first contest date set by the VHSL, it is not counted; (b) if no game is played before the first contest date set by VHSL, do not count the 11th and subsequent games.

Note: Any state in which a VHSL member school plays that allows Endowment Games, those schools may exchange a win in accordance with that state's rules which will be recognized in the VHSL football ratings, unless that out-of-state school should subsequently exchange a loss with a VHSL member school for a win with another opponent, the VHSL Rating Scale will recognize that out-of-state game exchanged for VHSL rating purposes and not count the first game of the season for the out-of-state opponent since that game traditionally is outside of the VHSL playing dates.

68-4-6 (4) Only those games originally scheduled to be played on or before the 11th football playing weekend (inside back cover, *Handbook*), with all games scheduled by or before September 15, shall be used in determining a school's rating.

68-4-6 (4) Penalty: Competing schools that fail to comply with 68-4-6 (4) shall be fined as stated in 30-5-1; neither school shall receive rating points for the unreported game. Their opponents will receive appropriate rating points.

68-4-6 (5) A forfeiture shall be counted as a game won by the team receiving the forfeit, and as a game lost by the team forfeiting.

68-4-6 (6) Any school that has scheduled a game to be played after the 11th football playing weekend (inside back cover, *Handbook*) shall not be eligible to compete in the championship football play-off series.

68-4-7 Playoff Sites

PM 68-4-7 (1) FOOTBALL/State Semifinal Sites (9-09)-For state football semifinal games, each region would determine at least three sites for the region to use as alternate sites in the event of inclement weather or poor field conditions and submit their sites to the VHSL office by October 1. All sites must meet the minimum criteria for hosting a state football semifinal or have been pre-approved as an appropriate site by the VHSL staff. A Region Independent Inspection Study Team would determine the best site.

PM 68-4-7 (2) FOOTBALL/Independent Inspection Study Team (9-09)-Each region will determine an inspection team to be a neutral decision making authority on suitability of semifinal sites in cases of inclement weather or poor field conditions. This team must be made up of a minimum of three members. Other suggestions for the committee include:

(a) Teams should have a coach, principal and athletic administrator represented (retired representatives could be used for institutional knowledge as well as neutral association).

(b) Some regions may need to select more than three sites based on geography.

(c) Reporting of findings should be made to both the host director as well as VHSL staff.

68-4-8 Regional Playoff Representation-There shall be four regions for each classification consisting of no more than 8 playoff teams in each region.

(1) District champions will not automatically advance to the regional playoffs. All ties, including seeding ties, between or among any teams eligible to participate in the regional play-off series shall be resolved by applying the following provisions in the order listed:

(a) The Rating Scale-Considering all regular season games played against public and non-public Virginia schools and scheduled in accordance with the provisions of 68-4-6.

(b) The winner of any games between the two tied teams if only the tied teams are involved. If more than two teams tied, and one of the tied teams beat all other tied teams, that team shall advance.

(c) The team with the better record against all common opponents.

(d) A team that played an opponent with an effective nine (9) game schedule (non-recognized opponent, i.e., home school or out-of-state non-public school, or inability to schedule/play a 10th game) shall be seeded ahead of a school whose opponents play 10 game schedules.

(e) Schools that played an opponent with nine-game schedules shall be seeded ahead of opponents who played 10-game schedules.

(f) The team with the highest winning percentage against rating scale-recognized opponents.

(g) The team with the higher average rating of all of each team's opponents.

(h) The team with the higher average rating of all of each team's VHSL public and VHSL non-public school opponents.

(i) The regional chairman, or his/her alternate if his/her school is involved, shall draw by lot to determine the playoff representative.

(j) The group chairman or vice chairman if the chairman's school is involved, shall draw by lot to determine the playoff representative. Should both the group chair and vice chair be involved in the tie the group secretary would oversee the process.

(2) The rating scale will be used to determine the regional representation.

(3) Seeding for the regional playoff would be based solely upon the final power ratings.

(4) A region may opt to bracket its football championship in two four-team sections.

68-4-9 Regional Championships-Regions using the described football format shall determine their state football semifinalists in four regions through playoff games held no later than the date published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar. The arrangements for conducting regional games shall be described by the classification.

(1) Within each region playoff, teams will be seeded from one to a maximum of eight based on their VHSL power rating. Ties shall be resolved by the procedures outlined in Section 68-4-8.

(2) The regional playoff shall be conducted as a bracketed playoff and the seeded matchups shall be as follows: 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6, 4 vs. 5. This pairing format may be changed by group board adoption.

(3) If any regional game should end in a tie, the tie shall be resolved by the procedures outlined in the NFHS Football Rules Book.

58-4-10 State Semifinal and Championship Seeding Ties-All ties between state semifinal and championship teams shall be resolved by applying the following provisions in the order listed:

(a) The Rating Scale-Considering all regular season games played against public and non-public Virginia schools and scheduled in accordance with the provisions of 68-4-6.

(b) The winner of any games between the two tied teams if only the tied teams are involved. If more than two teams tied, and one of the tied teams beat all other tied teams, that team shall host.

(c) The team with the better record against all common opponents.

(d) A team that played an opponent with an effective nine (9) game schedule (non-recognized opponent, i.e., home school or out-of-state non-public school, or inability to schedule/play a 10th game) shall be seeded ahead of a school whose opponents play 10 game schedules.

(e) Schools that played an opponent with nine-game schedules shall be seeded ahead of opponents who played 10-game schedules.

(f) The team with the highest winning percentage against rating scale recognized opponents.

(g) The team with the higher average rating of all of each team's opponents.

(h) The team with the higher average rating of all of each team's VHSL public and VHSL non-public school opponents.

(i) The team with the higher seed.

(j) The team at the top of the bracket as posted on the VHSL website.

68-4-11 State Championships-Each classification shall determine a state football champion by single elimination play-off games which shall be held no later than the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar. Regional champions shall be matched in the semifinal games and the winners of these two games shall play for the state championship. If a semifinal or final game ends in a tie, the tie shall be resolved by the procedures outlined in the NFHS Football Rules Book.

SECTION 70: GOLF.

70-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

70-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 12 matches per season, exclusive of district, regional and state tournament matches. A multiple school match shall count as one match.

70-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirements-There is no minimum practice requirement for golf.

70-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Matches/Rounds-Matches/rounds which are suspended or interrupted prior to completion and cannot be completed which are contested from:

(1) The same tee and scheduled for 9 holes will consist of three three-hole stipulated rounds and will follow USGA calculation of scores.

(2) The same tee and scheduled for 18 holes will consist of three six-hole stipulated rounds and will follow USGA calculation of scores.

(3) Multiple tees and scheduled for 9 holes will consist of three three-hole stipulated rounds and will count only scores for holes completed by every individual. The Committee must determine the stipulated rounds and make that information available to the competitors prior to the start of the contest.

(4) Multiple tees and scheduled for 18 holes will consist of three six-hole stipulated rounds and will count only scores for holes completed by every individual. The Committee must determine the stipulated rounds and make that information available to the competitors prior to the start of the contest.

(5) For the purpose of satisfying this rule, a District Council is determined to be "The Committee" for district play, a Regional Council is determined to be "The Committee" for regional play, and the Executive Committee is determined to be "The Committee" for state play.

Note: If a district or region desires to be more restrictive by requiring more than three holes per stipulated round for a scheduled 9-hole contest or more than six holes per stipulated round of a scheduled 18-hole contest, the district or region must declare that intent prior to the start of a regular season competition.

70-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

PM 70-4-1 GOLF/Carts (12-14)-Players may use a push cart or pull cart provided that the cart is not motorized or in any other manner self-propelled. The use of push carts or pull carts is subject to course discretion. The Executive Director can approve use of riding golf carts for players with a significant and permanent disability if proper medical documentation for the need for the riding cart as a reasonable and necessary accommodation is provided. Use of a riding cart is not permitted to accommodate a sports injury or other similar temporary condition.

70-4-2 Course Distance-Girls competing on boys teams, where there is no separate girls team, will play 85 percent of the distance from the men's tees. The course manager or pro will determine which holes and which tees are necessary to accomplish the 85 percent (or as close to as reasonably possible). It is the home team coach's responsibility to provide this information to opposing teams prior to the start of the match. If the course pro cannot determine the 85 percent factor, girls may play from the designated forward tees.

70-4-3 Playing Etiquette-

(1) A player will not be permitted to throw or abuse any piece of equipment during the match.

Penalty-Such action constitutes a sportsmanship violation and must be reported to the League.

(2) A player shall not use profanity during the match.

Penalty-Such action constitutes a sportsmanship violation and must be reported to the League.

(3) A player shall not use tobacco or tobacco-like products during the match.

Penalty-Disqualification from match.

70-4-4 Playing Procedures-A team shall consist of a minimum of four players and a maximum of six players.

70-4-5 Determining Regional Championships-A team shall consist of a minimum of four players and a maximum of six players. Each entrant shall play either 18 or 36 holes of stroke play (determined in advance by individual Councils). The four-person team with the

lowest aggregate score for the tournament shall be declared the champion. The individual with the lowest aggregate score shall be declared the individual champion.

70-4-6 Determining State Championships:

(1) All groups shall determine state team and individual championships on the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar. All championship matches on the state level shall be determined by stroke play.

(2) For the state tournament each region may qualify two teams that will provide an eight team state tournament. Alternates for individual qualifiers will be determined by the results of regional tournaments. The tournament director must be notified by the regional director regarding substitutions by noon of the day before the state tournament begins. Each region may further qualify 3 individual golfers determined by the 3 lowest regional scores attained by golfers who are not members of qualifying teams. A team shall consist of a minimum of four players and a maximum of six players.

(3) Each entrant should play 18 holes of stroke play. The team score for 18 holes will be the total of the four lowest scores for the individual team members for those 18 holes. The team score for the tournament will be the total of each team's 18 hole round as determined above. The team with the lowest score for the tournament will be declared the state team champion. The individual with the lowest 18 hole aggregate shall be declared the individual champion.

(4) The tournament director will assign competitors on the basis of schools represented and scores reported on the entry form.

a. Pair Region A/Region B champion and Region C/Region D champion together, Region A/Region B runner-up and Region C/Region D runner-up together with No. 1 through No. 6 players respectively in each foursome, and one from each team in each foursome.

b. Pair the first through the third individuals from each region in the same manner.

c. Players from the same classification will tee off from the same tee, with the best scores teeing off first to promote faster play. Tee times will be based on entries.

d. Individuals will tee off first followed by teams.

e. Alternates listed on the team entry form may be inserted on either day of the tournament until the scheduled tee time for the individual being replaced.

(5) In addition to provisions of USGA Rule 8, each team may appoint only one person, either its head or assistant coach as identified to the tournament director before the start of the competition each day, to give advice or ask for advice from members of that team. The designated coach may not be given advice or ask for advice from another team's players or coaches or from any other representative of his/her own team. Advice may be given anytime on the course except on the green, where coaches will not be permitted. Swing demonstration and shot alignment will also be prohibited by the coach. Coaches whose players fall out of position when competing in an event in which the VSGA Pace of Play flag system is

in effect will only be allowed to give advice from green to tee, and only when all balls of all players in the group are no longer in play. Once players are back in position as noted by the flag system, coaches will regain their full advice privileges. Advice is to be given in a private manner that does not unduly delay play. The penalty for breach of conditions by a player is a two-stroke penalty, by a coach is two strokes added to his/her team's score.

(6) Local rules of the host club shall be observed implicitly, and the authorized faculty sponsor for each competing school shall be responsible for such compliance by members of his/her group. As noted under Rule 6-3 of the USGA rules, if the player arrives ready to play within five minutes after his/her starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is two strokes to be added to the first hole score. No caddies or carts shall be used by participants. The tournament director may share his/her responsibility to rule on technical questions arising from play to some other person and/or committee, appointed by the director. The decisions of the committee are final.

70-4-7 Committees-The USGA rules stipulate that "The Committee may make a local rule allowing players to use devices that measure or gauge distance only." For the purposes of satisfying this rule a District Council is determined to be "The Committee" for district play, a Regional Council is determined to be "The Committee" for regional play, and the Executive Committee is determined to be "The Committee" for state play.

70-4-8 Play Stoppage-In case the state tournament cannot be completed in its entirety (inclement weather, darkness or otherwise), the following rules shall apply:

(1) All rounds in which participants begin on the same tee will consist of three, six-hole stipulated rounds and will follow USGA rules in calculation of scores.

(2) All rounds in which a six-hole stipulated round cannot be completed will be canceled.

(3) If all stipulated rounds are not completed, all ties will be broken using the last stipulated round (6 holes) completed by all players. If ties remain unbroken, the last three holes of the last stipulated round will be used, then the last hole of the last stipulated round. In the case of ties involving teams, the four lowest individual scores for that day will be used to break ties in all calculations.

Exception: If the first day is entirely rained out or otherwise canceled, the second day of play will consist of six three-hole stipulated rounds.

70-4-9 Breaking Team Ties-Team ties for regional and state champions and qualifiers for the next level of play, and for place finishers at the state tournament will be resolved in the following manner:

(1) The playoff holes for state golf events will be chosen based upon availability and the format of the final round. The appropriate representative with input from the VSGA and/or course manager will determine the appropriate playoff option. Competitors involved will be informed of the intended rotation prior to teeing off in the playoff. All playoffs are stroke play therefore NO concessions can be made and all shots of the winner necessary to finish play must be completed.

(2) Each coach will select 4 players to represent the school in the playoff.

(3) The playoff will start on a hole designated by the tournament director.

(4) A sudden victory format will be used. The aggregate total, after each hole, of the four-member teams, will count.

(5) Each coach must rank his/her players 1 through 4.

(6) In a two team playoff, the third and fourth ranked player from each team will be paired together in a foursome. In a three or four way tie, one player from each team will be paired with equally ranked members of each team.

(7) Play should be continuous. When the first group finishes the first hole, they should move directly to the second hole and continue play.

(8) Play will continue until all ties are broken.

(9) In the event a playoff cannot be completed, all ties will be broken using the acceptable method of matching cards as prescribed in Appendix I of the USGA Rules of Golf.

70-4-10 Breaking Individual Ties:

(1) In the event of a tie in a stroke play competition for medalist, a hole-by-hole playoff will be used to determine placement. The playoff holes for state golf events will be chosen based upon availability and the format of the final round. The appropriate representative with input from the VSGA and/or course manager will determine the appropriate playoff option. Competitors involved will be informed of the intended rotation prior to teeing off in the playoff. All playoffs are stroke play therefore NO concessions can be made and all shots of the winner necessary to finish play must be completed.

(2) In the event a playoff cannot be completed, all ties will be broken using the acceptable method of matching cards as prescribed in Appendix I of the USGA Rules of Golf.

70-4-11 Practice Round on Sunday-When the regional or state championship is scheduled to open on Monday, schools have permission to have a practice round at the site on the Sunday preceding the championship unless the region denies permission for a Sunday practice preceding its own championship. It is recommended that only courses that can provide adequate practice time be considered for a state championship.

70-5-1 Additional Golf-Related Policy Manual References

PM 70-5-1 (1) GIRLS GOLF (12-05)-Approved the following guidelines to establish a stand-alone girls golf program:

1. 18-hole (three 6-hole or two 9-hole stipulated rounds) zone qualifiers will be used to determine entrants into the VHSL State Girls Open.
2. Qualifying will remain on an individual basis, with the possibility of team competition and/or championships at the zone level within zones where an adequate number of golfers from the same schools participate.

3. Suggested "zones" are based on the Department of Education Superintendent Zones and are identified as follows:
   a. Zone 1 (Central Virginia) - comprised of member schools in the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, Surry, Sussex, as well as the cities/towns of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond.
   b. Zone 2 (Tidewater) - comprised of member schools in the counties of Accomack, Isle of Wight, James City (Williamsburg), Northampton, Southampton, York, as well as the cities/towns of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg (James City County).
   c. Zone 3 (Northern Neck) - comprised of member schools in the counties of Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, King George, King William, King & Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Westmoreland, as well as the cities/towns of Colonial Beach, Fredericksburg, and West Point.
   d. Zone 4(A) (Northern Virginia "A") - comprised of member schools in the counties of Arlington and Fairfax as well as the cities/towns of Alexandria, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park.
   e. Zone 4(B) (Northern Virginia "B") - comprised of member schools in the counties of Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, and Warren, as well as the city of Winchester.
   f. Zone 5 (Valley) – comprised of member schools in the counties of Albemarle, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Campbell, Fluvanna, Greene, Highland, Louisa, Nelson, Rockbridge, and Rockingham, as well as the cities/towns of Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro.
   g. Zone 6 (Western Virginia) – comprised of member schools in the counties of Alleghany, Botetourt, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, and Roanoke, as well as the cities/towns of Covington, Danville, Martinsville, Roanoke, and Salem.
   h. Zone 7 (Southwest) – comprised of member schools in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, as well as the cities/towns of Bristol, Galax, Norton, and Radford.
   i. Zone 8 (Southside) – comprised of member schools in the counties of Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Greensville, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward.
4. All players must qualify through participating in a Zone Qualifier. The girls zone qualifiers will be conducted on the Monday or Tuesday in between the VHSL State Tournament and the VHSL State Girls Open.
5. Players that wish to play out of zone may do so with written permission from the League office.
6. The number of golfers advancing to the State VHSL Girls Open will be 15% from each of the zone qualifiers. Any partial number achieved when calculating the 15% will be rounded up to the next whole number and those ties which fall into the 15% calculation will advance. (1-18)
7. The expense of the Zone qualifiers will be borne by the member school(s).
8. Girls will be permitted to play on their boys golf teams until such time as a viable stand-alone program for girls exists. Girls who qualify as individuals from regional competition to state competition must choose whether they intend to participate in the individual portion of the Boys State Championship event or in the Girls Open Championship. (12-10)

9. The girls open championship will be conducted as an 18-hole scheduled event.

SECTION 74: GYMNASTICS.

74-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own competition schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

74-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 10 meets per season, exclusive of district, regional and state championship meets. A multiple-school meet shall count as one meet.

74-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum practice requirement for gymnastics.

74-3-1 Interrupted/Suspended Meets-In the event a meet must be suspended by the Meet Referee because of conditions which make it impossible to continue competition on that day, if all teams have completed at least two "common" events (the same two events), the meet will be considered official and the results final based on scores in the completed common events. If all teams have NOT completed at least two common events, the meet, if rescheduled, shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

74-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

74-4-2 State Meet Entries, Team Championships-Each region may qualify one team to compete for each classification's team championship.

(1) Each team shall be limited to a maximum of five entries per event, and if five gymnasts are entered, one entry must be all-around. If no all-around is entered, a team is limited to four entries per event. Alternate(s) for team competition are permitted.

(2) Only entries which are properly submitted to the state director by the deadline date will be accepted. No additions in the official list of entries shall be permitted after the entry form has been received by the state director, except as noted in (2) below.

74-4-3 State Meet Entries, Open Individual/All-Around Championships-Each region may qualify the top four finalists per event (inclusive of all-around), the top two all-around finalists, any individual not placing who scores a state qualifying individual score by event, and any all-around gymnast not placing who scores a state qualifying all-around score in the regional meet.

(1) State qualifying scores shall be published by VHSL each year.

(2) Alternates are permitted for events in team competition, and for events in individual competition. If a gymnast qualifies to the state meet in an individual event and then withdraws from competition, her place may be taken by the next placing contestant for that event in the regional meet. Known scratches shall be reported to the State Gymnastics Meet director by noon, the Wednesday before the State Open Meet with the name and school of the qualified replacement. No alternates for individual competition will be allowed after noon, the Wednesday before the State Open Meet.

SECTION 77: LACROSSE.

77-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

77-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 15 games, exclusive of district, regional and state championship games.

77-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirements-There are no minimum practice requirements for lacrosse.

77-3-1 Interrupted/Suspended Games

(1) Suspended/Interrupted Boys Games-In the event a game must be suspended by the referee because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the game shall:

(a) Be declared an official game if three periods or more of the game has been played and one team is ahead;

(b) After completion of three periods or more of the game and the game is tied, resume the game from the point of interruption;

(c) If less than three periods have been played, resume the game from the point of interruption.

77-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

PM 77-4-1 GIRLS LACROSSE/Eyewear (3-04)-The use of eyewear is required in practices as well as in games.

SECTION 78: SOCCER.

78-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

78-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 17 games, per season, exclusive of district, regional and state championship games.

78-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum practice requirement for soccer.

78-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Matches-In the event a match must be suspended by the officials because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, the officials/tournament director shall:

(a) Declare it an official match if one complete half or more of the match has been played and one team is ahead;

(b) At any point after completion of the first half if the score is tied, resume the match from the point of interruption unless both teams agree to the tie;

(c) If less than one complete half has been played, resume the match from the point of interruption.

78-3-2 Exception-Prior to the beginning of the season an appropriate council may opt to not use this rule.

78-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

78-4-2 Breaking Ties, Regular Season Play-If a tie exists in regular season play, the teams shall play two five-minute overtime periods. At the end of the first overtime period, teams shall change ends of the field. If a tie still exists, the game shall be recorded as a tie.

78-4-3 Breaking Ties, Post-Season Play-If a tie exists during post-season play, the tie shall be broken by the Tie-Game Procedure posted on the VHSL website.

78-4-4 Eight-Goal Rule-The Eight-Goal Rule shall be in effect for all VHSL matches. The Eight-Goal Rule provides that if, at anytime after the mid-point of the second half of play, one team leads by eight (8) or more goals, the match shall be terminated. When schools play outside their district, the eight-goal policy applies.

78-4-4 Exception-Prior to the start of the season, any Council may elect not to use the Eight-Goal Rule for its VHSL matches.

SECTION 79: SOFTBALL.

79-1-1 Schedules-Each member school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

79-1-2 Each team shall be limited to a maximum of 21 games, excluding district, regional and state tournament games.

79-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirements-There is no minimum practice requirement for softball.

79-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Games-A game called for any reason where a winner cannot be determined (less than 4 1/2 or 5 innings have been completed or the game is tied) or any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, irrigation systems, etc) will be treated as a suspended game. The game will be continued from the point of interruption with the line-up and batting order of each team exactly the same as the line-up and batting order at the moment of interruption subject to the rules of the game.

79-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

PM 79-4-1 (1) SOFTBALL/Pregame Equipment Inspection (2-11)-It is the responsibility of member schools to verify that any equipment used by a player meets the quality and technical inspection standards dictated by NFHS and VHSL rule. While umpires may

be requested to check equipment before the game the burden for compliance rests with the member school. Students/athletes who participate using illegal equipment are subject to ejection from that game and a further suspension for the next two games.

PM 79-4-1 (2) SOFTBALL/Double first base (9-99)-Schools may use a double first base.

PM 79-4-1 (3) SOFTBALL/Doubleheaders (5-00)-By mutual agreement of the competing schools, doubleheaders may consist of only five (5) innings per game.

PM 79-4-1 (4) SOFTBALL/Pitching Machines (2-91)-Pitching machines are prohibited in the state playoff games.

79-4-2 Ten-Run Rule-The Ten-Run Rule is in effect for all VHSL games.

79-4-2 Exception-Prior to the start of the season, any Council may elect not to use the Ten-Run Rule for its VHSL contests.

79-4-3 Courtesy Runner Rule-The suggested courtesy runner rules as listed in the NFHS Softball Rule Book shall be allowed in all VHSL softball contests.

79-4-4 Resolving Ties During the Regular Season-If an appropriate council has opted not to use the Suspended/Interrupted Game Rule and a regulation called game ends in a tie score, the game shall be counted as one-half (1/2) game won and one-half (1/2) game lost (NFHS Softball Rules Book). Tie games shall not be completed (or made up) by mutual agreement.

PM 79-4-4 Softball Tie-Breaking Procedure:

(1) The VHSL Softball Tie-Breaking Procedure is to be used beginning in the 9th inning of any regular season contest. The tie-breaking procedure (often referred to as the "International" or "Olympic" tie-breaker) shall use the following procedure:

(a) Each half-inning shall begin by placing a runner on second base.

(b) That runner is the player in the batting order who precedes the lead-off batter in that inning and this procedure is maintained until a winner is determined in that inning or subsequent innings.

(2) Prior to the beginning of the season, District Councils may opt to not use this tie-breaking procedure.

(3) This procedure may NOT be used in region or state tournament play.

(4) Local commissioner of officials shall be contacted so their association may be prepared to implement this rule.

(5) If opponents are in conflict over implementation of this rule, the home team's policy will prevail for that contest.

SECTION 80: SWIMMING AND DIVING.

80-1-1 Schedule-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

80-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 10 meets per season, exclusive of district, regional and state championship meets. A multiple school meet shall count as one meet.

80-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum practice requirement for swimming and diving.

80-3-1 Suspended/interrupted Meets-Suspended/interrupted meets shall be resumed from the point of the last completed heat, unless all competing schools agree to accept, as final, the results at the point of interruption.

80-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

80-4-2 Relay Teams-As allowed by State Association adoption, schools may enter their relay teams without individual names. It shall not count as an entry unless the competitor actually competes in the event. Any individual on the team may swim in the preliminaries, swim-offs and/or finals provided he/she does not exceed the permitted entries for the meet.

80-4-3 Qualifying Standards-VHSL state qualifying standards will be produced annually in accordance with the NFHS rules. Regions shall set swimming and diving standards for qualifying into their respective championship meets in accordance with NFHS rules. If a region fails to set such standards, the default for those championships will be the VHSL state qualifying standards.

80-4-4 State Meet Entries-Eligibility of individual contestants shall be governed by the following provisions:

(1) Only entries which are properly submitted using the Hy-Tek Meet Manager file, provided by the State Meet Director, and received by the State Meet Director not later than the deadline date for entry, will be accepted.

(2) The entry list must show those relay teams that place first, second, third and fourth and those individuals that place first, second, third, fourth and fifth in individual events in a regional championship or who were certified by the regional meet director as having met the qualifying performance times and/or scores for the state meet during the regional championship meet or in a regular meet as defined by the NFHS rules book.

(3) No additions to, or changes in, the official list of entries (other than scratches) shall be permitted after the entry form has been received by the meet director.

(4) Relay events are considered as school team events. Any student included on a school's Master Eligibility List may be included on the state meet entry form as an alternate.

(5) Each school's relay team must place first, second, third, or fourth in a regional champinship meet or must have met the state qualifying standards in the regional championship meet or a regular meet, as defined by the NFHS Swimming and Diving Rules Book.

80-4-5 Other Swimming and Diving Related Policy Manual References

PM 80-4-5 (1) SWIMMING AND DIVING/Whistle Start (9-05)-It is required by all member schools sponsoring swim/dive teams to use the NFHS whistle starting protocol at all dual, district, regional and state championship meets.

PM 80-4-5 (2) SWIMMING AND DIVING/Use of Hy-Tek (9-05)-The use of Hy-Tek Software by teams submitting entries in the VHSL state swim and dive meets is mandatory.

PM 80-4-5 (3) SWIMMING AND DIVING/State Championships (9-03)-Four relay teams and five individuals qualify from each region to the state championship.

SECTION 82: TENNIS.

82-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

82-1-2 Schedule-Each school team shall be limited to 16 matches, per season, exclusive of district, regional and state championship matches.

82-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum practice requirement for tennis.

82-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Matches-Matches which are suspended or interrupted prior to completion shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless both schools agree to accept the score at the time of interruption as final. When resuming from the point of interruption, the line-ups and game/set/match scores shall be the same as when the suspension occurred.

82-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

82-4-2 Team Match-A team match shall consist of nine matches–six singles and three doubles. One team point shall be scored for each singles or doubles match won.

82-4-3 Regular Season Match Format-Districts may adopt one of two match formats for regular season play:

(1) Singles playing first using the best of three tie-break sets with regular scoring. Any set reaching a score of 6 games each will play a seven-point tie-breaker to determine the set. If sets are split, a 10-point tie-breaker will be played to determine the match; or

(2) Eight- or ten-game "pro set" matches with a seven-point tie-breaker at eight or ten games all. Note: If a team has scored 5 points, then doubles can be played using an eight game pro set with no ad scoring. Substitutions can be made to allow lower seeded players the opportunity to play.

82-4-4 Post Season Match Format-All post-season play will be best of three sets using "traditional" (advantage) scoring with seven-point tie-breaker played if a set score reaches six games all and if a third set is necessary, a ten-point tie-breaker will be played to determine the winner. The same format will be used for doubles.

82-4-5 Exception-Prior to the start of season, District or Region Councils may elect to substitute the best of three sets "traditional" (advantage) scoring with seven-point tie-breaker with the eight- or ten-game "pro set format" for any district and region post season tournament matches.

82-4-5 Player Limitations-Individuals are limited to three "traditional" matches per day, or four eight- or ten-game "pro set" matches per day.

82-4-6 Team Composition and Line-up-Each team shall consist of six singles players and three doubles teams. Singles players may be members of a doubles team. The six singles players on a school team shall be seeded according to their ranking and ability when compared to other players on that school team. Accordingly, the team's best player shall play in the Number 1 division, the second best player shall play in the Number 2 division, and so forth, with the weakest player in the Number 6 division. The doubles teams shall also be seeded according to their ranking and ability when compared to other doubles teams on that school team. The school's best doubles team shall play in the Number 1 division, the second best team shall play in the Number 2 division, and the weakest doubles team shall play in the Number 3 division.

82-4-6 (1) Individual Competition Line-up-Each single and doubles team entered in an indiidual state advancing event shall be based on ranking and ability compared to other players representing that school team.

82-4-7 Team Line-up Substitution-Substitutions shall be made by the following provisions or the match at the vacated division shall be forfeited.

(1) Substitute alternate in the vacated position; or

(2) In singles, substitute alternate in the 6th singles division and move all other players up one division until all divisions are filled; or

(3) In doubles, substitute alternate in the 3rd doubles division and move all other players up one division until all divisions are filled.

82-4-7 (1) Individual Doubles Substitution-Once the state advancing process has begun substitutions in doubles play will only be allowed using the following criteria:

(1) The sum of the ordinals of competing team may not be lower than the original entry. Example: School X enters its #2 and #3 players as their best double team (ordinal sum is 5). The school designated #1 player would not be eligible to replace either #2 or #3 in competition (reason - the sum ordinal would be lowered to either 3 or 4 depending on the substitution.)

(2) A player who defaults in an earlier match would not be eligible to return the same day to play in any individual competition.

(3) With principal or their designee verification, a substitution will be allowed in cases of injury, sickness, family emergency or when a match is delayed due to weather creating a school-related scheduling conflict.

82-4-8 Exchange of Line-ups-Prior to the start of a team match, coaches shall exchange singles and doubles line-ups. Each team's line-up should be in compliance with 82-4-6. Unless there has been a successful challenge in practice, the team's line-up/ladder shall be the same as that used in the most recent preceding match. If a coach elects to play a substitute(s), the coach shall draw a line through the name(s) of the player(s) for whom he/she is substituting and write the name(s) of the substitute(s) on the same corresponding line(s). Substitution for doubles play may be made until the first doubles match begins. All substitutions must comply with the substitution rules prescribed in this section.

Note: Coaches should be prepared to show proof of any challenge matches.

82-4-9 Playing Etiquette-A player shall not display unsportsmanlike conduct such as, but not limited to, throwing/abusing equipment; hitting a ball in the direction of an opponent, official or spectator; using profane or obscene language in any way that may be heard by other persons; using obscene gestures; or threatening bodily injury.

82-4-9 (1) Penalty-Apply the penalty designated by the current USTA Rule Book.

82-4-10 Use of Tobacco-A player shall not use tobacco or tobacco-like products during the match.

82-4-10 Penalty: First Offense - Loss of game; Second Offense - Loss of match

82-4-11 Tennis Apparel-All contestants are required to wear appropriate tennis apparel. Any major lettering or pictures on clothing must pertain to the school name or emblem and must be approved by the school's principal or their designee and appropriate tournament or match director.

82-4-12 Forfeits-For purpose in ranking, a forfeiture shall count as a match won by the school receiving the forfeit and as a match lost by the school forfeiting. In determining singles or doubles champions and runners-up, a singles player or doubles team shall play more than one-half of the matches in the team's first division.

82-4-13 Determining Regional Championships-Qualifications for regional tournaments shall be set by the appropriate Regional Council, except that the official line-up for team tennis listed on the official Regional Tournament Entry Forms shall be the same line-up, including alternates, as used for the last regular season district contest. Subsequent substitution of an alternate listed on the official Regional Tournament Entry Forms is permissible if it conforms to the regulations listed in Section 82 of this *Handbook*.

Note: Once the district/regular season has ended and the state advancing process begins (regional play) bracket challenges are suspended for the duration of that competitive season.

82-4-14 Determining State Championships-Each classification shall determine the state team, singles and doubles team champions for girls and boys on the date specified on the VHSL Activities Calendar.

82-4-15 State Tournament Entries-Eligibility of teams and contestants shall be governed by the following provisions:

(1) Regional team champions and runners-up, singles champions, and doubles champions will play in the state tournament. In the event a team, singles or doubles qualifier(s) cannot participate, the next-place team, singles or doubles winner may participate. Scratches of the regional team, singles or doubles team qualifiers must be announced, through the principal or their designee, to the state tournament director at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the state tournament or a forfeit will result.

(2) Only entries which are submitted on the official state advancing entry form (available on the website) received not later than the deadline date will be accepted.

(3) No changes in the official list of entries shall be permitted after the entry form has been received by the tournament director, unless the substitution of alternates conforms with substitution regulations.

(4) Substitutions shall be made by the provisions in Section 82.

SECTION 84: TRACK AND FIELD.

84-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

84-1-2 Each school's team shall be limited to 10 schedule meets per season, exclusive of district, regional and state championship meets.

84-1-3 Each individual team member may compete in four other sanctioned meets and each competition shall count as one of the ten contests as permitted in 54-8-1 of this *Handbook* for that individual, but shall not count for the team.

84-1-4 A multiple school meet shall count as one meet.

84-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirements-Fourteen (14) days is the minimum number of practice days required prior to the first contest. The 14 daily practice sessions means 14 calendar days, not counting Sundays, and has no reference to the actual number of times the team appears and reappears for practice sessions.

84-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Meets-Suspended/interrupted meets shall be resumed from the point of the last completed heat, unless all schools agree to accept the results at the time of interruption as final.

84-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

PM 84-4-1 (1) Track and Field (5-78)-No team championship shall be designated if the state track meet is terminated by weather conditions unless a clear-cut champion can be determined based on the events that are completed. Individual medals will be presented to those athletes whose events have been completed.

84-4-2 Separate Programs for Boys and Girls-The League sponsors separate state track and field programs for boys and girls and recommends that districts and regions offer separate programs. If a school sponsors separate teams for boys and girls, the boys team shall follow the VHSL boys standards and NFHS boys rules at all levels of participation and

the girls team shall follow the VHSL girls standards and NFHS girls rules at all levels of participation. If a school sponsors one team composed of members of both sexes, the principal or their designee shall designate the team as a boys team on the eligibility form. The principal or their designee shall make only one such designation each school year. The team shall follow the VHSL boys standards and NFHS boys rules at all levels of participation.

84-4-3 A contestant may compete in up to six events in a Track and Field meet with the stipulations below.

A contestant may participate in these different scenarios:

3 individual running events and 3 field events	No relays allowed
2 individual running events and 3 field events	1 relay allowed *may be listed in any number of relays but may compete in only 1
1 individual running event and 3 field events	2 relays allowed *may be listed in any number of relays but may compete in only 2
0 individiaul running events and 3 field events	3 relays allowed *may be listed in any number of relays but may compete in only 3

Declaration Rule-All individuals declared for participation at the deadline set by the state meet director in consultation with the VHSL office will have those events count toward their participation limit as specified in this rule whether they compete in them or not. If an athlete is declared in more than the allowable number, the meet director has the authority to remove the athlete from the last event declared according to the meet schedule.

If an athlete at the district, region or state meet is excused from an event by a certified athletic trainer or a physician appointed by the games committee, that athlete will be eligible for any and all other events entered unless the certified athletic trainer or physician determines that the athlete's health would be in danger with any further participation.

84-4-3 Interpretation: A 1600 meter qualifying race and the 1600 meter run are considered two events, as are a 3200 meter qualifying race and the 3200 meter run.

84-4-4 School Participation-A school may enter as many athletes in any individual event of a district, regional or state track meet as have met the qualifying standards for that meet. In state events of 200 meters or less, including hurdles, hand held qualifying times will be converted for seeding purposes.

84-4-5 Determining Regional Qualifiers-A region may determine the number of entries per event that each school may qualify for the regional meet. A school's entry list must show only those participants certified by the regional director as having met regional meet standards or who are certified by the regional director as having met regional standards in a regular season meet.

84-4-6 State Meet Entries-Eligibility of individual contestants shall be governed by the following provisions:

INDOOR

(1) Only entries which are properly submitted on the official entry form, available from each regional track meet director, and received by the State Director not later than the deadline date for entry, will be accepted.

(2) The entry list must show those participants who place first, second or third in a regional championship meet or who were certified by the regional meet director as having met the qualifying times, heights and distances for the state meet during the regional championship meet or in a regular meet of 3 or more teams (if fully automated timing is utilized).

(3) No additions to, or changes in, the official list of entries (other than scratches) shall be permitted after the entry form has been received by the meet director.

(4) Relay events are considered as school team events. Any student included on a school's Master Eligibility List may be included on the state meet entry form as an alternate.

(5) Each school's relay team must place first, second or third in a regional championship meet or must have met the state standards in the regional championship meet or a regular season meet involving 3 or more teams, contingent on verification by the meet director.

OUTDOOR

(1) Only entries which are properly submitted on the official entry form, available from each regional track meet director, and received by the State Meet Director no later than the deadline date for entry, will be accepted.

(2) The entry list must show those participants who place first, second, third or fourth in a regional meet or who were certified by the regional meet director as having met the qualifying times, heights and distances for the state meet during the regional meet or a sanctioned meet involving 10 or more teams (5 or more teams if fully automated timing is utilized) which is verified by the meet director.

(3) No additions to, or changes in, the official list of entries (other than scratches) shall be permitted after the entry form has been received by the meet director.

(4) Relay events are considered as school team events. Any student included on a school's Master Eligibility List may be included on the state meet entry form as an alternate.

(5) Each school's relay team must place first, second, third or fourth in a regional championship meet or must have met the state standards in the regional championship meet or a sanctioned meet involving 10 or more teams (5 or more teams if fully automated timing is utilized), contingent on verification by the meet director.

(6) For the state track and field meet a school may enter a contestant who meets the state qualifying standards in a regional championship meet as posted on the VHSL website.

84-4-7 State Meet Regulations-The following regulations, along with those specified under Section 84 above, shall apply to state meets, and, where applicable or practicable, to regional meets also:

(1) **Scoring**-Points are scored 10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1.

(2) **Order of Events**-The order of events for state meets shall be that published by the NFHS with all authorized preliminaries in the 100, 200 and hurdles being run immediately before the regular order of events.

(3) **Seeding**-Seeding for running events shall be conducted with the following provisions:

INDOOR

A contestant qualifying for the State Indoor Championship by placing among the top three finishers in his/her regional championship meet, may use for seeding purposes in the State Meet his/her best performance of the season as long as that performance has been made in a meet that serves as a state qualifying meet and has been verified by the Regional Meet Director.

OUTDOOR

Seeding shall be done on the basis of times attained in the regional championship meet or times attained in meeting the state qualifying standard at a sanctioned meet involving 10 or more teams (5 or more teams if fully automated timing is utilized) which is verified by the meet director.

(4) **Lane Assignments**-Lane assignments will be made in advance for preliminary events.

(5) **1600 and 3200 Meter Run**-These events may be run in one or more sections.

(6) **800 Meter Run**-This event may be run in heats or sections.

(7) **Special Arrangements**-Provided the host school can arrange it, the 1600 meter run and 800 meter run may be staggered with a break on the back stretch.

(8) **400 Meter Run**-This event is run in lanes with the number of participants in each section being determined by the number of lanes available at the host school's track.

(9) **Relays**-These events may be run in lanes (through the first handoff for the 1600 meter relay). Sections are to be set up on the basis of times with the top seeded competitors running in the last section. If it is found necessary to run relay events in sections because of the number of entries, winners shall be selected on the basis of comparative times.

(10) **Reporting for Events**-Each contestant in a running event shall report to the clerk of the course by the third call. Failure to report by the third call will result in a scratch. All individuals declared for participation at the deadline set by the state meet director in con-

sultation with the VHSL office will have those events count toward their participation limit as specified in rule 84-4-3 whether they compete in them or not. When a contestant who has qualified in a preliminary withdraws from competition, no substitute may replace him/her. No event in the meet is to be held up because a participant is engaged in another event. If a contestant is entered in a field event which conflicts in the time schedule with a track event in which he/she is entered, he/she shall make advance arrangements with the official in charge of the field event to postpone his/her trials until after the track event has been run. No track event will be held up to accommodate a contestant likewise competing in a field event.

(11) **High Jump and Pole Vault**-The starting heights for the boys and girls high jump and the boys and girls pole vault shall be set by the Games Committee and announced at the coaches' meeting. The starting height should not be higher than one increment below the qualifying standard. The Games Committee is authorized to change announced heights and to determine successive elevations depending on the number of entries and the weather conditions.

(12) **Shot and Discus**-Shots, discuses and pole vault poles shall be certified.

(13) **Disqualification**-A competitor shall be disqualified from an event if the coach, manager, attendant or anyone associated with the competitor's team is in a restricted area as designated by the Games Committee.

(14) **Events**-Meet events for the boys and girls state track and field meet shall be as follows:

INDOOR

55 meter hurdles (boys-39"; girls-33"), 55 meter dash, 800 meter relay, 1600 meter run, 500 meter run, 1000 meter run, 300 meter dash, 3200 meter run, 1600 meter relay, 3200 meter relay, shot put (boys-5.443 kg; girls-4.0 kg), long jump, pole vault, triple jump and high jump.

OUTDOOR

Boys state track and field meet shall be as follows: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 and 3200 meter runs, 400 meter relay, 1600 meter relay, 3200 meter relay, 110 meter high (39") hurdles, 300 meter intermediate (36") hurdles, long jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put (5.443 kg.), discus (1.6 kg.). and triple jump.

Girls state track and field meet shall be as follows: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600 and 3200 meter runs, 400 meter relay, 1600 meter relay, 3200 meter relay, 100 meter high (33") hurdles, 300 meter low (30") hurdles, long jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put (4.0 kg.), discus (1 kg.) and triple jump.

(15) **Equipment**-Competing schools shall furnish their own equipment, such as shot, discus, vaulting pole and starting blocks. Meet management reserves the right to require teams to use equipment with the exception of the vaulting pole provided by meet management.

(16) **Dress**-Participants shall be required to wear school uniforms and adhere to NFHS Track & Field Rules Book regulations.

84-5-1 Registration-Schools will use the VHSL designated registration partner for all sanctioned track and field activities.

SECTION 86: VOLLEYBALL.

86-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

86-1-2 Each school team shall be limited to 20 dual matches; or 18 duals and 1 invitational tournament; or 16 duals and 2 invitational tournaments per season, exclusive of district, regional and state tournament matches.

86-1-3 Invitational tournaments shall be conducted over no more than two consecutive days.

86-1-4 Teams participating in invitational tournaments may play a maximum of 15 sets per tournament.

86-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-Fourteen days is the minimum number of practice days required prior to the first contest. The 14 daily practice sessions means 14 calendar days, not counting Sundays, and has no reference to the actual number of times the team appears and reappears for practice sessions.

86-2-2 Fall Practice Guidelines-Schools must adhere to the VHSL Fall Practice Guidelines as provided in this *Handbook*, or with those guidelines submitted to the Executive Director and accepted for use by the member school.

86-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Matches-Matches which are suspended or interrupted prior to completion shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless both schools agree to accept the score at the time of interruption as final.

86-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

PM 86-4-1 (1) VOLLEYBALL/Length of Matches (12-04)-Districts are allowed to approve two-out-of-three game matches in regular season play.

PM 86-4-1 (2) VOLLEYBALL/Match Scoring (9-03)-Prior to the start of the season, a district council may adopt a modified match format for series other than dual-varsity matches; the match format for non-district, non-dual varsity matches (including invitation tournaments) shall be set by the host school. Match format in volleyball would include the number of points that constitute a game and the number of games that constitute a match, but would not include the manner in which points are scored. Districts could opt, for example, to play non-varsity matches in a best two-out-of-three games format, with each game played to 21 points (rally scoring). Districts cannot, however, modify the manner in which points are scored. All games, varsity and non-varsity, must be scored using rally scoring. Traditional (side-out) scoring is not an option.

PM 86-4-1 (3) VOLLEYBALL/Officials (5-98)-Four certified volleyball officials are required for all regional and state playoff matches.

PM 86-4-1 (4) VOLLEYBALL/Volunteers-Student and/or adult volunteers may be used as line judges for regular season matches under the following provisions:

a. The student must be at least 16 years of age.
b. The student/adult volunteer must complete the VHSL registration process for volleyball officials. There will be no registration fee.
c. The student/adult volunteer must attend a training session for line judges if one is offered by the local volleyball officials association.

SECTION 88: WRESTLING.

88-1-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own playing schedule and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar.

88-1-2 Each member school shall be limited to participation in 12 interscholastic meets.

88-1-3 Each individual team member may compete in three other sanctioned meets and each competition shall count as one of the 12 contests as permitted in 54-8-1 of this *Handbook* for that individual, but shall not count for the team.

PM 88-1-3 WRESTLING/Match Limitations (3-83)-Wrestling teams may participate in tournaments as long as they do not exceed 6 matches per individual per day or 10 over no more than two days.

88-2-1 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum practice requirement for wrestling.

88-3-1 Suspended/Interrupted Match-Matches which are suspended or interrupted prior to completion shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless schools agree to accept the results at the time of the interruption as final.

88-4-1 Special Rules/State Association Adoptions

(1) All wrestlers must wear a legal uniform as described in NFHS Rule 4-1-1 when competing. The VHSL shall not require undergarments as described in NFHS Rules 4-1-1 and 4-5-7 be worn during weigh-ins. Undergarments may be worn per NFHS Rules 4-1-1 and 4-5-7. If requested female wrestlers shall be allowed to weigh in with a female official/ trainer in a separate area.

88-4-2 Weight Classes-Weight classes shall be 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190, 215, 285.

88-4-2 (1) Weight Classes for Girls-Weight classes shall be 100, 107, 114, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185 and 235.

88-4-3 Weight Requirements:

(1) Wrestlers will follow all provisions of the VHSL Weight Control Program (WCP). All coaches are cautioned that rapid reduction and exaggerated fluctuations in weight can endanger the health of a wrestler.

(2) All wrestlers will establish a minimum weight using the procedures established under the VHSL WCP. This minimum weight must be established in a time period beginning one week prior to the VHSL practice start date and ending two weeks after the VHSL practice start date for a total of a three week period. Wrestlers weighing in at the official weigh in at a weight lower than permitted based on the allowable weight loss per week including buffer will be ineligible for that date event. Wrestlers competing in a weight class lower than their proper weight class as established by the VHSL WCP shall be considered an unsportsmanlike violation, shall be ineligible participants subject to the prescribed penalty of match forfeiture(s) and school fine for use of an ineligible. There will be no appeals in cases of VHSL WCP violations.

(3) All wrestlers will receive a one-pound growth allowance on December 24 when WCP testing is completed on or before December 8 with the exception of wrestlers participating in fall season playoffs as outlined in Section 88. All wrestlers will receive an additional one-pound growth allowance on January 24 when WCP testing is completed on or before January 8 for a two-pound total allowance.

(4) A wrestler's minimum weight class will be determined by the initial measurements of the VHSL WCP. The minimum weight class is not impacted by any proposed growth allowance.

(5) Wrestlers must have at least one official competition weigh-in at scratch weight for a weight class and participate that day at that event at that weight class or one weight class above to be eligible for regional tournament participation at the weight class they weighed in at. The wrestler cannot use the buffer to get to a weight class earlier than the WCP allows in order to wrestle that weight class in the post season.

(6) A wrestler eligible for competition in a weight class who makes that weight as the result of the 2% buffer may be eligible to wrestle at that lower weight class that day. The wrestler cannot use the buffer to get to a weight class earlier than the WCP allows in order to wrestle that weight in the post season.

(7) Forms for reporting original wrestling weights and for necessary supplements to the original list are available upon request to all schools participating in wrestling. If a wrestler fails to make his/her weight, or fails to have his/her exact weight shown on the scales when wrestling one weight above his/her certified weight, he/she shall be reclassified and placed in the proper weight classification. The wrestler’s weight classification for state competition shall be that classification in which he/she entered the region tournament.

(8) A wrestler may wrestle one weight class above his/her current weight at weigh-in for that particular competition.

(a) If the wrestler desires to return to his/her certified weight after wrestling up a weight class, he/she may do so at any time during the season pending compliance with the allowable weight loss per week as indicated by the VHSL WCP. At no time may a wrestler compete in a weight class lower than his/her lowest allowable weight class as indicated by the VHSL WCP.

(b) The coach must provide proof of actual weight for all weigh-ins for each entry in the region tournament. VHSL weight form with required signatures will be used for verification.

(c) The regional tournament director will be responsible for checking verification of each region entry prior to the region tournament.

(9) Principal or designee shall verify each wrestler's compliance with the VHSL WCP through verification comparing MELs with WCP Coach Official Team Reports and match weight sheets one time during the season, during the second week of January.

(10) Athletes participating in fall sport playoffs occurring after Dec. 1 are provided the option of being tested in the VHSL WCP within 8 days of participation in the athlete's last playoff contest and still be eligible for the first allowable growth allowance pound and appeals process. The eligibility for the growth allowance pound will not impact the athlete's eligibility to reach a lower weight class based on current testing results. If the athlete who competes in fall sport playoffs is not tested with 8 days of their last participation in a playoff contest, they may be tested within one week of the athlete's first wrestling practice date, and are not eligible for the growth allowance pound if the test is completed after Dec. 15.

(11) Coaches are required to complete the W-1 form for all dual meets providing allowable weight loss per week and verification the weight class entered is permitted based on the WCP Coach Official Team Report for each athlete. The date and actual weight of the most recent weigh-in is also required on the W-1 form which must be reviewed for accuracy and compliance and signed by the principal or their designee (not a coach) within 24 hours from the time of weigh-in. The host school is responsible to confirm accuracy and compliance of both team W-1 forms.

(12) Coaches are required to provide WCP Coach Official Team Report and all W-1 forms (to date) to opposing coaches for review, if requested, within 24 hours of a match or tournament. Coaches are to report any problems to match/tournament official.

(13) Athletes should weigh prior to each practice and record the weight on a weight chart providing a tracking system that can be reviewed daily by coaches to monitor and discourage unhealthy weight bouncing.

(14) In tournaments or matches conducted in a non-dual, multiple school open format, schools may enter more than one wrestler from the same weight class into the event.

PM 88-4-3 (1) WRESTLING/Weights Requirements (7-11)-VHSL member schools will use the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) on-line Weight Loss Calculator. Use of this program will require:

(1) School administrators to load wrestling schedules in the NWCA program by Nov. 1 each year.
(2) Event weights to be loaded within 24 hours of each weigh-in. In order to determine ineligibility prior to a match this process must occur at the time of the weigh-in.
(3) School administrators to access a program switch, when permission is received by the League office, to allow 1 pound allowances for inclement weather.
(4) School administrators to access a program switch to allow consecutive-day-match pound allowances as allowed by rule.
(5) The WCP program allows for one pound of weight allowance to be removed from the system, when multiple pounds are granted for an event, at the time a wrestler's data is entered for that event.

PM 88-4-3 (2) WRESTLING/Weights Requirements (7-11)-Using the NWCA program weight loss and weight loss allowance will be determined on a daily basis.

88-4-4 Determining Regional and State Championships:

(1) Procedures for regional tournaments will be set by the appropriate Regional Council. Required regional and state tournaments shall be held no later than the deadline date specified on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar. Where sectional tournaments are held, a wrestler must participate and qualify through the meet to be eligible to participate in the regional tournament. A school must enter a regional meet to be eligible to enter the state tournament. Regions shall designate wrestlers placing 5th and 6th. Team points shall be scored for these places. Entering a wrestler in the regional tournament requires the wrestler who subsequently qualifies for the state tournament to compete. In the event a qualified wrestler cannot compete, his/her place shall be taken by the next placing contestant. Known scratches shall be reported to the State Wrestling Tournament meet director no later than the Thursday coaches meeting before the State Tournament with the name and school of the qualified replacement. The contestants who qualify in each weight class from the regional tournaments, four from each region, for the state tournament shall be bracketed for competition as designated under Section 88-5-2. In the event a region or school fails to have its qualified wrestler contest his/her assigned match, the match shall be automatically forfeited.

(2) Girls will be permitted to participate on their boys wrestling teams until such time as a viable stand-alone program for girls exists. Girls will need to choose if they intend to participate in boys or girls regional and state competitions prior to the region tournament start date.

(3) The girls tournament will be conducted as an 16-person bracketed event as participation allows.

Girls Wrestling

Number of Championships: Two team championships (Class 5-6, Class 1-4)
Format: Bracket tournament as determined by the region
Class 1-4 Regions: Region 1, Region 2, Region 3, Region 4 (schools in regions are posted on the VHSL Wrestling page)
Class 5-6 Regions: Region 1 (6C, 6D), Region 2 (6A, 5C), Region 3 (5A, 5B), Region 4 (6B, 5D)

(4) No additions to, or changes in, the official list of entries (other than scratches and another school's replacement for scratches) shall be permitted after the entry form has been received by the meet director; however, it is mandatory that known scratches be reported to the director no later than the Thursday coaches meeting before the meet. Attention to this item will facilitate meet organization and permit all weight classes to be completely contested. When a competitor enters and subsequently withdraws from competition, no substitute may replace him/her.

88-4-5 Pairings-State wrestling pairings are drawn from one of three possible bracket options. The League office shall randomly select one of the three available brackets. This is a random draw and the same bracket may be used successive years. The release of this selection will take place after the conclusion of the last Region tournament and will be made available to the League schools immediately thereafter. When two regions from a classification make up the state championship bracket, the lowest seed/place finisher from one region will be paired against the highest seed/place finisher from the other region (W4 vs. E1), the next lowest remaining seed/place finisher from one region will be paired against the next highest remaining seed/place finisher from the other region (W3 vs. E2) and so on until bracketing is completed.

88-4-6 Penalty for Unsportsmanlike Forfeiture-Any competitor in an advancing bracket of district or regional tournament who fails to compete without a medical reason or extenuating emergency circumstances will forfeit their placement in that tournament and subsequent advancement to the next level of competition.

88-5-1 Other Wrestling Related Policy Manual References

PM 88-5-1 (1) WRESTLING/Videotaping (1-82)-Wrestling teams may videotape regular season wrestling matches as permitted by the National Federation Wrestling Rules book.

SECTION BREAK

The following pages include information on dramatic, speech, literary and academic activities. The following sections are included:

Section	100-101	Dramatic Activities
	100	Introduction
	101	Theatre Festivals
Section	110-116	Speech Activities
	110	Introduction
	111	Forensics
	112	Extemporaneous Speaking
	113	Original Oratory
	114	Impromptu Speaking
	115	Oral Interpretation
	116	Debate
Section	120-122	Literary Activities
	120	Introduction
	121	Creative Writing Contests
	122	Publications Evaluation Services
Section	126-136	Academic Activities
	126	Scholastic Bowl
	128	Film Festival
	129	Narrative
	130	Documentary
	131	Animation
	132	Experimental
	133	Commercial
	134	Public Service Announcement
	135	Preview and Officials Selection Process
	136	State Film Festival
	137	Awards
	138	Robotics

Dramatic Activities

SECTION 100: INTRODUCTION.

100-1-1 Sponsored Activity-The League sponsors a competitive interscholastic program within groups leading to sectional, super-regional and state recognition in one form of dramatic activity: Theatre Festival.

100-2-1 Purpose and School Participation-The general purpose of this program is to stimulate interest and participation in dramatic art as a means of furthering the cultural and educational development of students in Virginia high schools. This purpose is best served when a large number of schools engage in the program on school sectional levels. The theatre festival program is intended to motivate the development of a broad school drama program in which many students participate as well as to provide a means of evaluating and improving standards of school dramatic performance.

Notes:

(1) Virtually all schools include in their offering some form of dramatic activity, usually of the co-curricular type, such as class plays, club skits and the like. Few are able to provide opportunities for participation in dramatic art for all who might enjoy or profit from this experience. The theatre festival serves as a means of stimulating school interest in a type of vehicle which can be produced in a comparatively short time at little expense, so that a number of plays, rather than a few, may be included in the school's drama calendar. A bill of three short plays, produced by the players of the same school or of neighboring schools, has proved to be a popular means of increasing the number of participants in the drama program as well as an effective means of providing general school and community entertainment.

(2) The principal should formulate plans for his/her school's participation in the theatre festival early in the school year and he/she should select the teacher or sponsor who will be in charge of the program well in advance of the dates for the sectional/super-regional festivals. As a general rule, four to six weeks are required for preparation and preliminary presentations before school and community audiences. The principal should also allow students and faculty who are participating in sectional, super-regional and state festivals the time and opportunity to participate in the total festival as audience and observers or critiques.

100-3-1 Program-The League's dramatic art program consists of a series of theatre festivals conducted on optional sectional, regional, required super-regional and state levels within groups. Each participating school selects a play, in accordance with the regulations and suggestions given in Sections 100 and 101, and enters it in the appropriate sectional festival, if available, or in the appropriate regional or super-regional festival. Schools receiving first and second place awards in sectionals opting to hold a sectional festival and all interested schools in sectionals not opting to hold a sectional festival are eligible for participation in the regional or super-regional festivals; schools opting to be rated for possible advancement to the state festival and receiving first place in the regional festival or first and second place awards in the super-regional festivals are eligible for participation in the state festival. A school may not change plays between rounds of competition. If a first or second-place school is unable to advance to the regional, super-regional or state competition, the second or third-place school in the appropriate sectional, regional or super-regional festival may compete at the next level. No replacements beyond third-place schools shall be permitted.

100-3-2 Schools in sectionals which do not hold a festival must make known their desire to participate.

100-4-1 Aids to Coaches and Sponsors-Whenever circumstances make it possible, the League sponsors clinics on dramatic and speech activities in various sections of the state.

SECTION 101: THEATRE FESTIVALS.

101-1-1 Selection-Any script, including musical theatre, children's theatre and mime, may be selected and used in theatre festivals provided it meets the following qualifications:

(1) An entry may not exceed 45 minutes, inclusive of set, playing time, and strike. No grace period will be granted for productions that exceed 45 minutes at any sectional, regional, super-regional or state festival.

(a) Timing begins with the festival director's instruction to begin set. Timing stops when the strike is complete, meaning all production items are back in the school space designated by the festival director.

(2) An entry may not have been presented at a VHSL regional or state festival by the same producing school during the last two years.

(3) The school must have secured the necessary permission to perform a published selection, including payment of royalty if any, from the author or publisher.

(4) The school submitting a play -- published or unpublished -- for theatre competition must fully credit the author(s). If unpublished, the following guidelines shall apply:

(a) An original play must either be conceived in full by the director and/or cast, or receive necessary verification from the author that the work is unpublished and original, and that the school has permission from the author to perform the work.

(b) An adaptation, in full or in part, must cite the written or oral source(s) of the story in the program. The dramatic/theatrical realization of adapted sources must be conceived by the director and/or cast; otherwise, images and moments seen from another production must have permission for creative use. Any part of the play taken from another original play, protected published work or work existing in manuscript form only must have permission from the source or author(s) and be acknowledged in the program.

(c) In entering original work, the director must sign off on these guidelines on the festival entry form. Appropriate sources/references must be given in the festival program. If the competing school is found to be in violation of these guidelines (i.e. theatrical plagiarism as opposed to copyright infringement for published works) the school shall be disqualified from the festival.

(5) Proof of required permission to perform a published play or an unpublished adaptation from another source must be presented to the festival director prior to performance.

(6) If a school uses a cutting from a full-length script, it may not be a scene from a full-length production the school has performed during the current school year.

101-1-2 The choice of the script is important. The principal's signature on the entry form shall indicate approval of material to be performed. Competition directors will not disqualify a selection approved by the principal unless editing or performance decisions significantly alter the selection after approval has been given.

Note: It is important that coaches review questionable content, language, use of firearms or other weapons or use of tobacco or other drug with the principal prior to performance.

101-1-3 Any editing of published work must be honest to the original text. No changes or deletions in the text, lyrics, music, title or gender of the characters shall be made for the purpose of production unless permission is granted by author or author's representative. This includes changes or updating the time and place/setting of the play.

101-1-4 Each school participating in a sectional, regional, super-regional, or state festival must bring a copy of its script to the festival site.

101-1-5 If a challenge of material, performance, royalty, or publication is made, and the competition director deems the challenge is legitimate, a school representative must provide the script on the spot. If the script is not made available immediately, the school will be disqualified.

Note: If a school is producing a cutting from a full-length play, both the original, full-length script and the cutting must be brought to the festival site.

101-1-6 All challenges involving material, performance, royalty or publication status will be settled at the sectional, regional, super-regional or state level where the challenge was made.

101-2-1 Rules and Regulations-In all theatre festivals both individual representatives and member schools are required to observe and comply with all League rules and regulations set forth in Sections 26 through 33 of this *Handbook*, with the exception of those that make specific reference to athletics, as well as with those rules and regulations which govern the theatre festival program as set forth in Sections 100 and 101. All members of the cast and crew, as well as any person providing live music as part of the performance, must meet eligibility requirements. Violations of any of these rules render the offender liable to such disciplinary action as the appropriate sectional, regional or state committee may impose.

101-2-2 Adult directors' participation at VHSL festivals must cease when the set is complete and may resume after the play time ends. Adult directors may take part in pre-performance production meetings, set and strike. Adult directors must not assist backstage or in the sound/light booth during the performance, as such tasks are considered work of crew.

101-2-3 Four critic judges shall be used at all League theatre festivals; however, if a festival director cannot secure four critic judges, or a secured judge cancels at the last minute, he/she may go ahead with the festival with three judges with the notification of all participating schools.

101-2-4 Each critic judge shall rank and score each production without consulting with the other judges. The tournament director or designee shall then compile the results, dropping the low rank/score combination for each production (rank/score is not dropped if fewer than four judges are used). The production with the lowest total of three ranks shall be declared the winner and the school with the second lowest total the runner-up. In the event of a tie in total rank, the decision will be given to the tied production with the highest total of the three scores. In the event there is still a tie, the dropped ranks will be added for the tied productions, and if there is still a tie, the dropped scores will be added. If there is still a tie, all judges will consult in making a decision.

101-2-5 Each judge shall also rate each production as superior, excellent or good, and the three highest ratings will be averaged to determine an overall rating for each play.

101-3-1 Festivals-Each school is limited to one entry in a state advancing competition. Each entry will have at least two opportunities to participate prior to the culminating state event. Each Region Council determines their regions format. Festival regulations and procedures are given in this section. The specific time, place and date for the festival is determined by the festival director, who is approved by the Region Council. The names of the festival director and critic judges must be reported to the League Office at least two weeks in advance of the festival. Approval or disapproval of the critic judges selected if not on the list of recommended critic judges sent to the festival director will be sent within 48 hours if the backgrounds of the persons selected are given. The director is responsible for the conduct of the festival in accordance with League regulations. He/she is supplied by the League Office with a festival kit, containing all necessary instructions, critic judges' rating forms and supplies, well in advance of the deadline date for the festival.

Note: The format for festivals may include sectionalizing at the region level or conducting a super-regional at the post-region level. A super-region consists of two regions. Groups choosing the super-region option must, prior to the beginning of the season, determine the rotation of region pairings and hosting responsibility.

101-4-2 Schools whose productions receive first and second place awards in sectionals opting to hold a festival and up to two schools in sectionals opting not to hold a festival are eligible to participate in regional or super-regional festivals. However, a Region Council may, prior to the beginning of the season, approve more than two schools advancing from sectionals which do not hold festivals. If a sectional does not hold a festival and the region or super-region does not opt prior to the beginning of the season to permit more than two schools to advance, it is up to the sectional to determine by some other system which schools will advance. A qualifying school may not change plays between rounds. (See 100-4-1.)

101-5-1 State Festival-A state theatre festival for all classes shall be held annually on dates specified on the VHSL Activities Calendar. Only those schools opting to be rated for possible advancement to the state competition and whose productions receive first-place awards in region and first and second-place awards in the super-regional festival shall be eligible to perform those plays in the state festival. (See 100-4-1.) Regions shall not advance more than one school and super-regions shall not advance more than two schools to the state festival; therefore, they must resolve ties or disputes in accordance with policies in the VHSL Theatre Resource Guide since only one school may qualify from region and two schools may qualify from each super-region to state.

101-5-2 Each school participating in the state festival should carefully adapt its production for presentation on the festival stage. Because of the tight scheduling involved in the state festival, schools are reminded that there will be no time for rehearsal at the festival stage. Each producing group will set up immediately before it performs.

101-6-1 Festival Regulations and Procedures-Only entries submitted on the official entry form, properly certified by the school principal, and received by the deadline date for entry, shall be accepted.

101-6-2 A production shall be eligible for entry only if (1) it does not exceed 45 minutes in total time, inclusive of set, playing time, and strike and (2) it has not been presented at a VHSL sectional, regional, super-regional or state festival by the same producing school during the last two years.

101-6-3 The order of presentation shall be determined by the festival director.

101-6-4 Specifications of the festival stage will be sent to all entering schools. All productions shall, if possible, be presented before a curtain backdrop.

101-6-5 Use of microphones are prohibited for actors on stage, backstage and from the booth, as well as for special effects requiring amplification. Special effects may be prerecorded and played from backstage, from the booth or produced live without the use of a microphone. Use of a non-live microphone as a prop only is permitted.

101-6-6 Use of Weapons-Any school using weapons in its performance must use simulated or dummy weapons, and follow established safety regulations for the use of same. State and federal laws must be honored at all times. Selected state laws pertaining to firearms may be accessed at https://www.vsp.virginia.gov/Firearms_StateLaws.shtm.

101-6-7 Participating schools shall provide their own costumes, make-up and all stage and hand properties. All items must be self-supporting. The festival director shall provide a trained stage crew to assist the group's technical staff.

101-6-8 All expenses of travel, board, lodging and royalties shall be defrayed by participating schools or their participants.

Note: The foregoing regulations and procedures shall govern sectional, regional, super-regional and state festivals.

101-7-1 Bases for Critic Judges' Evaluations-The criteria for evaluation shall include, but not be limited to: execution of direction, acting and ensemble effect.

101-7-2 Execution of direction shall include: casting, blocking, interpretation of dramatic values and realization of the playwright's intent.

101-7-3 Acting shall include: characterization, interpretation, focus, concentration, articulation and movement.

101-7-4 The focus of the critic judges' evaluation shall be on the above criteria rather than on such incidental elements as costumes, sets, properties and lighting. An oral critique of each production shall be given after all schools have completed their performances.

101-8-1 Penalties-Any production that exceeds the maximum of 45 minutes, inclusive of set, playing time, and strike, at any sectional, regional, super-regional or state festival shall not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition, or receive a first or second place ranking. Any school that does not secure permission from the publisher to produce the competition play and pay applicable royalties will be disqualified from competition.

101-9-1 Awards-Each Regional Council shall adopt a program of awards for its theatre festival competition. The Virginia High School League shall present trophies to first and second place productions at the state festival, and medals shall be presented to individuals whose number shall not exceed four selected by the judges for their outstanding performances.

Speech Activities

SECTION 110: INTRODUCTION.

110-1-1 Contests-The League sponsors a competitive interschool program within groups, leading to regional, super-regional and state championships in 10 speech contests of two types, grouped for competitive purposes, and four debate formats, as follows:

(1) *Speaking:* Extemporaneous Speaking on Foreign and Domestic Affairs, Original Oratory and Impromptu Speaking.

(2) *Oral Interpretation:* Storytelling, Prose Interpretation, Poetry Interpretation, Serious Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Dramatic Interpretation, Serious Duo Interpretation of Literature and Humorous Duo Interpretation of Literature.

(3) *Debate:* Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Student Congress and Public Forum.

110-2-1 Purpose-The general purpose of these contests is to motivate participation in and to improve the level of speech and debate activities among Virginia high school students. This purpose may be served effectively only when a large number of students participate on the school level.

110-3-1 School Participation-Speech contests are closely related to curricular offerings and should be deeply rooted in the instructional program of the school. Principals are urged to plan a school speech program and to encourage student participation. It is recommended that the principal:

110-3-2 Discuss and review plans for school participation in speech and debate activities at a meeting of the faculty held early in the school year and present these plans to a subsequent student assembly.

110-3-3 Appoint a teacher to sponsor and develop the school program and to coach participants therein. It is recommended that this sponsor be appointed early in the school year and that he/she be encouraged to attend conferences conducted for speech sponsors and coaches.

110-3-5 Request all teachers, especially those instructing in English, speech and drama, to cooperate in the selection of promising students in their classes for participation in preliminary and school speech and debate meets.

110-4-1 Aid to Coaches and Sponsors-To assist individual coaches and sponsors of speech activities in preparing their students for participation in the several contests, the League conducts conferences and clinics when practicable. These are usually held in the fall in cooperation with interested colleges and universities throughout the state. The date, time, place and program for these conferences are announced on the VHSL website. Specialists in the field of speech lead discussions of problems common to speech and debate coaches and sponsors and suggest ways and means by which the program may be made more effective in the school.

110-5-1 Kits-A kit of materials and instructions containing the essential administrative items required in the conduct of a speech or debate meet is supplied by the League Office to directors of regional and super-regional meets.

110-6-1 Rules and Regulations-In all speech and debate contests, both individual representatives and member schools shall observe and comply with League rules and regulations set forth in Sections 26 through 33 of this *Handbook*, except those that apply exclusively to athletes, as well as with those rules which govern each specific contest as set forth in Section 110 through 119. Violations of any of these rules render the offender liable to such disciplinary action as the appropriate Regional Committee may impose.

110-6-2 In regional, super-regional and state contests, the judges shall determine at least first-, second-and third-place winners in speech, first- and second-place in policy debate, first- and second-place in Public Forum, and first-, second-, third- and fourth-place winners in Lincoln-Douglas debate; and first, second, third and fourth place winners in Student Congress. No ties shall be declared for any awards or alternates in regional, super-regional or state contests. Each region shall be responsible for resolving disputes in accordance with policies in the VHSL Speech and Debate Resource Guides so that no more than three individual entries per event in speech, three in policy debate, three in Public Forum, four in Lincoln-Douglas debate and twelve in Student Congress advance to state.

SECTION 111: SPEECH MEETS.

111-1-1 Program-The League program in speech activities consists of a series of meets conducted on school, regional, super-regional and state levels. The program for individual events (speaking and oral interpretation) culminates with the state meets held annually.

Note: A super-region consists of two regions. Each level (region or state) must determine the rotation of region pairings and hosting responsibility prior to the beginning of the season.

111-1-2 The program originates within each member school desiring to participate. Each school may enter two students or duo teams per category, not to exceed seventeen total entries in the regional meet.

111-1-3 Tournament Format-First, second and third place regional winners are eligible to compete in the super-regional contests. If a first, second or third place team or individual is unable to advance to the super-regional tournament, the fourth alternate team or individual in the appropriate regional tournament may compete at the next level and will be inserted in the schematic pairings in the vacated spot without regard to protection. If the fourth alternate team or individual is unable to advance to the super-regional tournament, the firth alternate team or individual in the appropriate regional tournament may compete at the next level and will be inserted in the schematic pairings in the vacated spot without regard to protection. No replacements beyond fifth place teams or individuals shall be permitted. First, second and third place super-regional winners are eligible to compete in the state championship meet held annually on the dates specified in the VHSL Activities Calendar. If a first, second or third place team or individual is unable to advance to the state tournament, the fourth place team or individual in the appropriate super-regional tournament may compete at the next level and will be inserted in the schematic pairings in the vacated spot without regard to protection. No replacements beyond fourth place teams or individuals shall be permitted.

(a) Speech competitors advancing from the regional to the super-regional meet and from the super-regional to the state meet are expected to participate at the next level except in emergency situations. A discretionary drop, as opposed to an emergency drop, must be completed at least one week prior to the super-regional or state tournament, or it will be considered a sportsmanship violation and is to be addressed under *Handbook* rules 27-13-11 and 27-13-12 (7).

(b) Schools are not permitted to make substitutions for competitors who are unable to advance, excxept for one-half of a duo interpretation team when that participant's withdrawal could not have been anticipated.

(c) Such circumstances as illness or an unexpected family commitment may justify a substitution. A substitution will not be allowed for a duo team member who is aware of another commitment on the dates of the super-regional or state tournament at the time of entry into the regional tournament.

(d) If a substitution for one member of a duo team is necessary, the principal may contact the League office in writing and explain the circumstances, giving the name of the student unable to attend the tournament and the name of that student's replacement. The decision on the substitution will be based on the information given.

(e) If a first-, second- or third-place team or individual is unable to advance to the super-regional or state tournament, the fourth-place alternate in the appropriate regional or super-regional tournament may compete at the next level and will be inserted in the schematic pairings in the vacated spot provided that the alternate placement is made given four days advanced notice (or Tuesday at 12 noon for tournaments held on Saturday). No replacements beyond fourth-place teams or individuals shall be permitted.

111-2-1 Meet Regulations and Procedures-A meet shall consist of ten separate contests, as follows: extemporaneous speaking on foreign and domestic affairs, original oratory, impromptu speaking, storytelling, prose interpretation, poetry interpretation, serious dramatic interpretation, humorous dramatic interpretation, serious duo interpretation of literature and humorous duo interpretation of literature.

111-3-1 Regional Meets-Regional speech meets shall be held not later than the deadline date specified in the VHSL Activities Calendar to determine regional championships in each of the contests comprising the meet and to qualify winners for participation in the super-regional meet. Failure of a region to conduct a meet on or before this deadline date shall disqualify regional winners from participation in the super-regional meets.

Note: Subject to region council approval, a tournament director may establish a drop-dead deadline and refuse to accept additional entries. To impose the drop-dead deadline, the director must inform the school principal or speech coach by telephone, fax or email at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline that additional entries will not be permitted after the deadline.

111-4-1 Director Attendance (9-95)-Every regional and super-regional speech director shall attend one of the speech rules clinics. If a director is unable to attend, the region or super-region should consider replacing him/her.

111-4-2 Each school is limited to a maximum of two entries in each of the contests comprising the regional meet, with each school limited to no more than seventeen entries total. No student shall represent his/her school in more than one contest.

111-4-3 Tournament directors may wish to appoint a rules committee of three diverse, knowledgeable coaches, plus alternates, in the event there is a conflict of interest, to assist in the review of any dispute over rules violations (other than tabulations and time violations) prior to distribution of awards.

111-4-4 Regional meets shall be structured following one of four options:

(1) Option A: Regional speech meets shall consist of three preliminary rounds of competition followed by a final championship round. Multiple sections of no more than six competitors per event per round shall be used. At the conclusion of the three preliminary rounds, the six finalists will be announced in each event. The final round will immediately follow the posting. One judge shall be used for each preliminary round and three judges shall be used for each final championship round. Judges shall not see the same event more than once per tournament.

(2) Option B: Regional speech meets shall consist of three rounds of competition. This could be three consecutive rounds of competition or two preliminary rounds followed by a final round of six competitors. Multiple sections of no more than six competitors per event per round shall be used. If there are three consecutive rounds, two judges shall be used for each round. If there are two preliminary rounds followed by a final round, two judges shall be used in the preliminaries and three judges shall be used in the final round. One judge shall not see the same event more than once per tournament.

(3) Option C: A two-round speech tournament shall be used at the regional level. Multiple sections of no more than six competitors per event per round shall be used. At least two judges should evaluate each round with no judge judging the same event more than once in a tournament.

(4) Option D: If fewer than eight competitors participate in each event of the regional speech tournament, a one-round tournament may be used at the regional level. If a one-round format is used, three judges shall be used.

When eight or more contestants are scheduled to compete in any event, tournament directors are encouraged to conduct a three-round tournament. Likewise, if an event has eighteen or more competitors, tournament directors are encouraged to schedule a final round made up of the top six competitors from the initial three rounds of competition. Three judges should be used for any final round.

111-5-1 Super-Regional Meets-Super-regional speech meets shall be held not later than the deadline date specified in the VHSL Activities Calendar to determine super-regional championships in each of the contests comprising the meet and to qualify winners for participation in the state meet. Failure of a super-region to conduct a meet on or before the deadline date shall disqualify regional winners from participation in the state meets.

Note: A super-region consists of two regions. Groups must, prior to the beginning of the season, determine the rotation of region pairings and hosting responsibility.

PM 111-4-1, 111-5-1 SPEECH/Director Attendance (9-95)-Every regional and super-region speech director shall attend one of the speech rules clinics. If a director is unable to attend, the region or super-region should consider replacing him/her.

111-5-2 First, second and third place winners in each regional meet are eligible to compete in the super-regional meet.

111-5-3 Meet regulations and procedures are given hereafter in this section. The specific date, time and place of the meet is determined by the appropriate Regional Council, which likewise designated the meet director. The director is responsible for the conduct of the meet in accordance with League regulations. He/she is supplied by the League office with a meet kit well in advance of the deadline date for the meet.

111-5-4 Procedures for super-regional meets parallel in general those followed in regional meets. Super-regions may choose any one of the four options listed in Section 111-4-4 for conducting the regional speech tournament. Super-regions are encouraged to have at least a two-round tournament to determine super-regional championships and to qualify winners for participation in the state meet.

111-6-1 Honorarium and Travel Expense-Experience has shown that Region Councils which pay judges an honorarium plus travel expense find the judging situation to be much improved.

111-7-1 State Meets-State meets for all groups shall be held not later than the deadline dates specified in the VHSL Activities Calendar to determine state championships in each of the contests comprising the meet. Entrants shall be the first, second and third place winners of super-regional contests. In addition to declaring first, second and third place individual champions in each event by group classification, a team champion and runner-up shall be determined.

111-8-1 General Judging and Scoring Procedures-The following procedure for judging and scoring are in place for all speech competitions.

(1) Independently and without conferring, judges shall rank each individual performer 1, 2, 3, 4, etc., assigning Rank 1 to the best overall performer, Rank 2 to the next best performer, and so on, being careful to avoid any ties in ranking.

(2) Judges shall also assign each performer a numerical score from 70-100. If there is a violation of the time limit, there is no scoring penalty, but no judge may rank or score that performer first in the round.

(3) The tournament director will tabulate the results and prepare a cumulative score sheet. If a final-round format is used, ranks/scores for the final round should be added to ranks/scores for preliminary rounds to determine final placement.

(4) The first criterion for determining the order of finish is each performer's cumulative ranking. The performer with the lowest overall ranking is the first-place finisher, the next lowest ranking is second, etc.

(5) In the event of a tie in total ranking, the cumulative numerical scores of the tied performers will be compared, with the greatest score being the highest finisher and so on. If the tied performers' numerical scores are also identical, the tie should be broken first by reinserting any dropped ranks, second by reinserting any dropped scores, and then by counting the number of first place ranks each performer received, the number of second place ranks, etc. until the tie is broken.

(6) When an odd number of entries or last-minute drops prevent balanced sections of an event, the Tab Room needs to adjust ranks to avoid penalizing lower finishers in the larger section. No competitor in either section should be ranked lower than the lowest rank in the smaller section (for example, four competitors in one section would be ranked 1, 2, 3, 4 and six competitors in the other section ranked 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4). No adjustment would be made in the scores.

Note: The following scoring system may be used by regions and super-regions if they so desire. It is particularly appropriate when multiple rounds/judges are employed.

(7) To eliminate extreme disparities, the worst of the six rankings in preliminary rounds will be dropped and reinstated only when necessary to break a tie. This means ranks/scores are only dropped in a three round plus final tournament. The five remaining judges' ranking of each entry are totaled for a cumulative rank. For example, a student receives three first-place ranks, one second-place rank, one third-place rank and one sixth-place rank from the judges; the Tab Room drops the lowest (the sixth-place), totals the remaining ranks, and assigns an overall rank of 8. The six entries earning the highest rankings would advance to the finals. If there is a tie for the last spot, the five numerical scores (excluding the score given by the judge who gave the lowest ranking) would be added for each of the entries involved in the tie, and the entry with the highest score would advance.

(8) Following the final round, the three additional ranks will be added to the five best preliminary ranks to determine the final overall rank for each entry, with the lowest rank total place first, second lowest placing second, etc. In the event of a tie, the three numerical scores earned in the finals would be added to the five preliminary scores (excluding the score given by the judge who gave the lowest ranking) for those students tied to determine their final placing, with the higher numerical total placing ahead of a lower total. If both total rank and total numerical scores are tied, then the lowest ranks are reinstate; if still tied, the lowest numerical scores are reinstated; if still tied, a progressive comparision of the total number of first-place ranks is made, then second, third, etc.

(9) Because of potential tabulation errors following preliminary rounds when a final-round format is used, an audit to ensure that all students who qualify for the finals are permitted to participate shall be conducted. A comparison of computer tabulations and hand tabulations (if both systems are used) will be considered an audit. Otherwise, the following system will be used:

(a) An audit of preliminary results is required after the final round begins by a team of coaches not involved in the original tabulations. Students who did not advance are not to leave until the audit confirms the posted results. If a mistake is found, the entry incorrectly eliminated is to be taken immediately to the final round. That will result in seven finalists, with the top six medaling at the state level.

(b) At the state level, the audit will be done by asking each Tab Room staff to audit the results from a different Tab Room. For example, the Class 1 Tab Room staff might audit Class 2, Class 2 audit Class 3 and Class 3 audit Class 1. At regional or super-regional competition, where there is only one Tab Room, the director will appoint a team of auditors who are not part of the Tab Room staff.

(c) If a student who should have qualified leaves the tournament before the audit finds the error, he/she forfeits the right to advance. If the audit does not uncover the error, the results stand, but the student unfairly eliminated will share last place among the finalists.

Note: This is not an issue in those sections, regions and super-regions that do not use the preliminary/final round format.

(10) At the state meet, six rankings (two from each round of competition) will be totaled to determine the overall cumulative rank for each entry. The lowest rank will place first, the second lowest will place second, continuing in this manner for all six contestants. If there is a tie in cumulative rank, the six scores will be totaled and the contestant with the highest cumulative score will place ahead of the lower score. If there is a tie in cumulative rank and score, the highest number of first places will prevail, followed by number of second places and so on as needed.

111-8-2 The choice of the selection, with reference to its intrinsic merit and its suitability to the contestant, constitutes one of the bases of evaluation. Schools should select material which is honest in its fundamental concept, which is suited to the emotional development of the contestant and which is handled with taste and restraint. Content should be appropriate to the audience for which it is performed and in support of contemporary community standards. Any editing of published work must be honest to the original text. It is important that coaches review questionable content or language with the principal prior to performance. The principal's signature on the entry form will indicate approval of material to be performed. Competition directors will not disqualify a selection approved by the principal unless editing or performance decisions significantly alter the selection after approval has been given.

111-8-3 Forfeits-Once the tournament is underway, the discretionary decision by any student or duo team not to participate in any round of scheduled competition constitutes a sportsmanship violation, a forfeit and immediate elimination of that student or duo team from competition.

111-8-4 As a means of standardizing competition conditions, students should not be permitted to use a lectern or podium even if it is available in the competition room.

111-8-5 A student may be disqualified by the tournament director for a violation of a *Handbook* rule.

(a) A violation of the 30-second grace period following the time limit for an event means that a student may not be ranked first or scored highest for that round.

(b) To earn disqualification, the violation must be clear and absolute (e.g., a student using the same selection as was used in last year's competition).

(c) If a judge questions whether or not a rules violation took place, he/she should evaluate the presentation without prejudice, and share his/her concern with the tournament director, who shall make a ruling on whether or not a disqualification is in order based on the evidence presented. The judge is the arbiter of the presentation and what did or what did not happen in the room. The tournament director makes the final call on disqualifications.

111-8-6 No student shall represent his/her school in more than one contest.

111-8-7 Only entries which are submitted on the official entry form, properly certified by the school principal and received by the deadline date for entry, shall be accepted.

111-8-8 State speech meets shall consist of three consecutive rounds of competition. One section of no more than six competitors per event per round shall be used. Two judges shall be used for each round. Judges should not see the same event in the same tournament more than once.

111-8-9 All expenses of travel, board and lodging shall be defrayed by the competing schools or their contestants.

111-8-10 Each school participating at the state meet must provide at least one qualified judge to evaluate competition in a group other than the one represented by the school. The coach may serve as the school's required judge. Penalty for violation is as stated in 30-5-1.

111-9-1 Awards-Each Region Council shall adopt a program of awards for its speech competition. The Virginia High School League shall present trophies to first and second place teams (sweepstakes) at the state level, and medals shall be presented to the top four finishers in each category.

111-9-2 Team scoring and awards are based on a 7-5-3-1 format for finalists in each event when there is a final round. A first place individual earns 7 points, a second place individual earns 5 points, a third place individual earns 3 points, and all other individuals in the finals receive 1 point.

Note: If the format selected for all events does not include a final round and all entrants compete in each round, scoring in all events should be based on 5 points for first, 3 points for second and 1 point for third, with no points given to other contestants.

111-9-3 The sum of all its individuals' points represents a school's team score. If there is a tie for either first or second place in the school sweepstakes, the tie should be broken by counting the number of firsts, the number of seconds, etc. earned by each school until the tie is broken. A sweepstakes tie below second place will not be broken.

Note: Scoring at sectional, regional and super-regional levels should follow the same cumulative methods for both individuals and team standings. The number of evaluations and scores may be different for individuals at the regional and super-regional levels depending upon the option that best suits the size of your local tournament.

SECTION 112: EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING.

112-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in extemporaneous speaking leading to championships in each group. These contests are held as part of the school, regional, super-regional and state speech meets.

112-2-1 Purpose-The purpose of the extemporaneous speaking event is to encourage students to combine clear thinking, good extempore, conversational speaking and interesting presentation in establishing a definite thought with respect to current fact and opinion on a designated topic as presented by contemporary sources.

112-3-1 Contest Regulations-Topics for extemporaneous speaking shall be chosen from articles appearing in the issues of national newsmagazines such as *Newsweek*, *Time* and *U. S. News and World Report* or from mainstream newspapers with national circulations. Topics will be selected from these periodicals, may relate to either domestic or foreign affairs and will be released at least 30 days before each tournament.

112-3-2 Questions pertaining to topics will be provided and are not to be made known to the contestants before the event.

112-3-3 The speech shall not exceed seven minutes in length. There is no minimum time requirement as long as the topic is adequately covered; however, the contestant is encouraged to speak at least four minutes.

112-4-1 Preparation-Speeches should have as their purpose either to stimulate, to convince, to persuade or to influence action.

112-4-2 In preparing his/her speech, the contestant should concentrate on originality of his/her theme, relevance of his/her content to his/her topic, depth and logic of thought in his/her content, fresh and challenging approach, clarity of organization and adequate evidence. When delivering his/her speech, the contestant should keep in mind the conversational style of delivery, earnestness and concerned delivery (sincerity plus ardor), simplicity, accurateness and vividness of language and manner, pleasing and varied vocal qualities, posture and bodily movement that are neither stiff nor slovenly, and gestures that are *felt* as necessary. Above all, he/she should concentrate more on quality of content than on quality of delivery even though the latter is important in the process of communication.

112-5-1 Contest Procedures-The order in which contestants speak is determined by lot on the schematic pairings.

112-5-2 Contestants shall report to an assigned area where they will, in order, draw three questions each. From these, each contestant is to choose one and return the other two. All students in each section will draw from the same list of questions. After the first speaker has chosen his/her question, the second speaker will draw his/her question ten minutes later, and so on, in ten-minute intervals for each speaker. A different topic area will be used for each round.

112-5-3 Each contestant shall have 30 minutes to prepare before he/she is to speak. Timing begins immediately after the three questions are drawn. The speaker shall withdraw to the specified area and prepare himself/herself to speak. During this preparation period, he/she must not consult with anyone or make use of previously prepared notes. Reference books, newspapers and magazines shall be permitted. The use of a laptop computer during preparation is allowed under the provisions below.

112-5-4 Extemporaneous Source Materials-Any student who opts to use a laptop during preparation must provide his or her own laptop and is not allowed connectivity to other computers, persons or the internet. The penalty for students found using connectivity will be immediate disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of all rounds. Use is limited to retrieval of sources that the student has researched previously and stored on the laptop in PDF, JPG, or another static, uneditable format. Students are also responsible for their own battery and power; tournaments are not responsible for providing outlets.

Note: Students may take a simple bibliography with them to the preparation room. It must NOT be an annotated bibliography. It may contain authors, titles, publications and dates. It may be arranged in broad, general categories (all articles on the Middle East, for example, may be listed together). Students may also have their own resource file containing articles or clippings, but prepared and annotated notes are not allowed. This includes notes and markings (other than one color highlighting) in the publications themselves. Students may have acquired background information via the Internet and included it in their files and they may use computers as specified in the VHSL *Handbook*. All stored documents must be in static format and may not have notes or markings, consistent with the restrictions above. Internet connectivity is strictly prohibited.

112-5-5 The speaker shall be allowed to use both sides of one note card not exceeding 4" x 6" in size and provided by the tournament.

112-5-6 At the end of the 30-minute preparation period, it shall be the responsibility of the student to report immediately to the speaking area. Students must not leave the prep room with any materials other than their question strip and optional note card.

112-5-7 Either before beginning the speech or as part of the introduction, the contestant is to read his/her question in the *exact words or phrasing* as it appears on the paper he/she selected.

112-5-8 Visual aids and/or props used while speaking are prohibited.

112-5-9 A judge or person appointed by the judge will use a stopwatch to time each speech, indicating progress with hand signals. There is NO minimum time requirement but the contestant must cover the subject adequately. The timekeeper will indicate time elapsed at the beginning of the fourth minute of the speech, show the progression of minutes at five and six, 6:30 and at the end of the seventh minute indicate that time has expired. The speaker must conclude the speech at the end of the seven minutes. The timekeeper will note for the speaker and judges the time for each speech. Extemp students have a seven-minute time limit plus a 30-second grace period.

112-6-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria followed by judges in determining winners are relevance of theme to topic, thought content, logic, freshness, depth, clarity of organization, sincerity of speaker, adequacy and concreteness of supporting details, use of language (vividness, simplicity and comprehension), voice and diction (variety, acceptable pronunciation, clear enunciation), and control and use of body. Judges' rating forms are supplied by the League Office. All contestants are ranked and scored. Judges shall write a criticism for each speaker. Judges may not question a speaker at the conclusion of his/her speech.

112-7-1 Penalties-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. Any contestant at any regional, super-regional or state contest who violates any other regulation in this section shall be disqualified.

SECTION 113: ORIGINAL ORATORY.

113-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in original oratory leading to championships on all levels within each group. These contests are held as part of the regional, super-regional and state speech meets.

113-2-1 Purpose-The purpose of the original oratory contest is to train and encourage students to present speeches intelligently and truthfully (in an interesting and original manner, direct and conversational in delivery, clear in arrangement and presentation, and with some profit to an audience) on any worthwhile topic suitable for a public speech.

113-3-1 Contest Regulations-A speaker may not use a speech he/she has delivered in any previous year's contest.

113-3-2 Each contestant shall deliver his or her own original speech not to exceed ten minutes in delivery. Contestant must present the same speech in each round of a given tournament. Adjudicator will not provide time signals, and there is no minimum time requirement.

113-3-3 The oration shall not contain in excess of 150 words of directly quoted material, nor shall the oration be a paraphrase taken completely from one source. The speaker shall clearly acknowledge the sources of any quotations used.

113-3-4 Speeches shall have been thoroughly prepared. The speaker shall be allowed to use both sides of two note cards each of which may not exceed 4" x 6" in size. Visual aids used while speaking are not permitted.

113-3-5 Each speaker shall prepare a manuscript of his/her speech for competition. At registration, each speaker shall submit a copy of his/her manuscript upon check-in for submission to the tournament director. Scripts must also be uploaded on Tabroom.com by the deadline date established for registration.

113-4-1 Preparation-The original oration should have as its purpose to persuade. Therefore, one might wish to speak in order to convince, to stimulate or to inspire.

113-4-2 Any idea might become a subject for an oration, provided it "bothers" a speaker and interests the audience.

113-4-3 In preparing his/her speech, the contestant should concentrate on originality and worthwhileness of content and theme, soundness of thinking, excellence of organization, adequacy and concreteness of developmental or supporting details and illustrations and vividness of style. In rehearsing his/her speech, the contestant should keep in mind the conversational style of delivery, earnestness and concerned delivery (sincerity plus ardor), simplicity, accurateness and vividness of language and manner, pleasing and varied vocal qualities, posture and bodily movement that are neither stiff nor slovenly, gestures that are *felt* as necessary, and general effectiveness as a persuasive, convincing, stimulating or inspirational speaker whose speaking gives prominence to imaginative and emotional elements. ("Soundness of thinking and weight of content are supplemented by a degree of eloquence in delivery by a speaker who is stirred, aroused, and challenged by his/her subject and audience.") Above all, the speaker should predominately concentrate on quality of content rather than on quality of delivery even though the latter is important in the process of communication.

113-5-1 Contest Procedures-The order in which contestants speak is determined by lot on the schematic pairings.

113-6-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria followed by judges in determining winners are originality and worthwhileness of subject, thought content (logic, freshness, depth), clarity of organization, sincerity of speaker, voice and diction (variety, acceptable pronunciation, clear enunciation), and control and use of body. Judges rating forms are supplied by the League Office. All contestants are ranked and scored. Judges shall write a criticism for each speaker. Judges may not question a speaker at the conclusion of his/her speech.

113-7-1 Penalties-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. A violation of any other rule in this section, if discovered and reported to the tournament director before the end of the competition will result in disqualification and a redistribution of awards as necessary.

SECTION 114: IMPROMPTU SPEAKING.

114-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in impromptu speaking leading to regional, super-regional and state championships.

114-2-1 Topics-Impromptu topics will include ordinary objects, events, quotations and famous people. All students, in each section, will draw from the same list of topics. A different subject area will be used for each round. Enough topics will be provided so that each student will have at least three topics to choose from. Each student will deliver a speech on their own topic each round. No topics will be repeated.

114-2-2 Drawing-Students will be assigned to a room with an adjudicator present. All students will report to the assigned room and remain in the room for all the speeches. When the student is asked to speak, he/she will draw three topics from the envelope and will choose

one. The other two topics will be returned to the envelope so that other students have the opportunity to draw from them. All students will have the opportunity to select from at least three topics.

114-2-3 Preparation-The contestant shall prepare a speech without consultation and without reference to prepared notes or research materials. The student may make limited notes on both sides of one note card not exceeding 4" X 6" in size and provided by the adjudicator.

114-2-4 Time-Timing begins immediately after the three topics are drawn. There is NO minimum time requirement, but the contestant must cover the subject adequately. The maximum time for preparation and speaking is seven minutes. The student may divide this time in any way he/she see fit. Visual aids and/or props are prohibited. The adjudicator is expected to provide the student with oral time signals, indicating the amount of time elapsed at one minute, two minutes, etc. until the student begins speaking. The adjudicator should then provide the student with hand signals, showing the progression of each minute, again at 6:30 and at the end of the seventh minute, indicate that time has expired. The speaker must conclude the speech at the end of the seven minutes. Impromptu students have a seven-minute time limit plus a 30-second grade period.

114-2-5 Recuse-A student may not leave the impromptu round until all students have finished speaking.

114-3-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria followed by judges in determining winners are relevance of theme to topic, thought content, freshness, depth, clarity of organization, sincerity of speaker, adequacy of support and development, use of language, voice and diction and control and use of body. Judges' rating forms are supplied by the League office. All contestants are ranked and scored. Judges shall write a criticism for each speaker.

114-4-1 Penalties-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. A violation of any other rule in this section, if discovered and reported to the tournament director before the end of the competition will result in disqualification and a redistribution of awards as necessary.

SECTION 115: ORAL INTERPRETATION.

115-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors a program in oral interpretation leading to championships on all levels within each group. Championships are determined in storytelling, prose interpretation, poetry interpretation, serious dramatic interpretation, humorous dramatic interpretation, serious duo interpretation and humorous duo interpretation. These contests are held as part of regional, super-regional and state speech meets.

115-2-1 Purpose-The purpose of these contests is to encourage appreciation of the full meaning of the printed page and the oral communication of that meaning to others with apparent spontaneity, directness, simplicity and sincerity, without distracting the hearer through faulty pronunciation or indistinct enunciation. A speaker may not use a selection he/she has written or a selection written about his/her own experiences.

115-3-1 Oral Interpretation Regulations-Oral interpretation events require the use of published work. Selections used shall be cuttings from published, printed material, the approved list of online sources, the approved list of apps, or e-books that also exist in published printed format. Recorded material not printed and published is prohibited. If a selection is challenged, a school representative must be able to identify the printed source or e-book on the spot and will be asked to produce an original or copy of an original to verify publication. For online sources, a school representative must provide a printed copy of the complete, original text with cuts denoted, in addition to a digital copy loaded from the original source link. For apps, a school representative must be able to identify the published material by accessing it on the spot via the app. If publication cannot be verified to the satisfaction of the tournament director, the student will be disqualified. All disputes will be settled at the regional, super-regional or state level where the challenge was made.

115-4-1 Storytelling Contest Regulations-A contestant will present a published children's story, not exceeding ten minutes in length including an introduction. Contestant must present the same selection in each round of a given tournament. Adjudicator will not provide time signals. The use of a manuscript or notes is prohibited and a contestant may not use a story he/she has presented in any previous year's contest. Each contestant is to work alone without costume or props since he/she will be judged only on storytelling ability. Gestures are encouraged; however, movement must be restricted to movement in place, no walking. The contestant should assume that the audience consists of a group of children. The contestant may differentiate characters by the use of different voices, focal points and body postures.

115-5-1 Prose Interpretation Contest Regulations-Each contestant shall read one prepared published prose selection of his/her own choice with a total reading time of not more than ten minutes. The contestant should preface his/her reading with an introductory statement which will give the audience a better understanding of the selection read, provided this total time does not exceed ten minutes. Contestant must present the same selection in each round of a given tournament. Adjudicator will not provide time signals. The use of a manuscript is required. No reader may use a prepared prose selection, adaptation or cutting that he/she has read in a regional, super-regional or state contest in a previous year.

115-6-1 Poetry Interpretation Contest Regulations-Each contestant shall read one prepared published poem or poetic group of his/her own choice with a total reading time of not more than ten minutes. The contestant should preface his/her reading with an introductory statement which will give the audience a better understanding of the selection read, provided this total time does not exceed ten minutes. Contestant must present the same selection in each round of a given tournament. Adjudicator will not provide time signals. The use of a manuscript is required. No reader may use a prepared poetry selection, adaptation or cutting that he/she has read in a regional, super-regional or state contest in a previous year.

115-7-1 Serious Dramatic Interpretation Regulations-Each contestant shall present one selection of a serious nature chosen from published material. Contestant must present the same selection in each round of a given tournament. The selection should emphasize character development through consistent use of distinct voices, focal points and postures. Adaptations may be for the purpose of continuity only. The contestant should preface the selection with an introductory statement that will give the audience a better understanding of the selection, provided the total time does not exceed ten minutes. Adjudicator will not provide time signals. The use of a manuscript is prohibited. No contestant may use a selec-

tion, adaptation or cutting that he/she has used in a regional, super-regional or state contest in a previous year. Properties or costumes are not permitted. Movement is allowed, but such movement should be restricted to bending (knees and/or waist); leaning, twisting or swiveling; and no walking. Use of body (gestures, appropriate audience/eye contact, etc.) to suggest character is permitted.

115-8-1 Humorous Dramatic Interpretation Regulations-Each contestant shall present one selection of a humorous nature chosen from published material. Contestant must present the same selection in each round of a given tournament. The selection should emphasize character development through consistent use of distinct voices, focal points and postures. Adaptations may be for the purpose of continuity only. The contestant should preface the selection with an introductory statement that will give the audience a better understanding of the selection, provided the total time does not exceed ten minutes. Adjudicator will not provide time signals. The use of a manuscript is prohibited. No contestant may use a selection, adaptation or cutting that he/she has used in a regional, super-regional or state contest in a previous year. Properties or costumes are not permitted. Movement is allowed, but such movement should be restricted to bending (knees and/or waist); leaning, twisting or swiveling; and no walking. Use of body (gestures, appropriate audience/eye contact, etc.) to suggest character is permitted.

115-9-1 Serious Duo Interpretation of Literature-Each duo team must present one selection of a serious nature chosen from a single published work. Though the material may contain humorous tones, the climax and resolution must be a serious dramatic nature. Contestant must present the same selection in each round of a given tournament. Each interpreter may present one or more characters and either or both may present narration. A selection must maintain the author's intent, characters and words as written, except for minor use of transitions, unless written permission is granted by the author or publisher for modification and/or adaptation of the published work. No contestant may use a selection, adaptation or cutting that either member of the duo team has used in a regional, super-regional or state contest in a previous year. The contestants should preface the selection with an introductory statement that will give the audience a better understanding of the selection. The use of a manuscript is prohibited. The performers may not have eye or physical contact with each other except during the introduction and should focus off stage. The performers must begin their presentation from center stage and restrict their physical blocking to movement around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. No properties or costumes are permitted. The timing for this event shall be a maximum of ten minutes, with no minimum time requirement. Adjudicator will not provide time signals.

115-10-1 Humorous Duo Interpretation of Literature-Each duo team must present one selection of a humorous nature chosen from a single published work. Though the material may contain serious tones, the climax and resolution must be of a humorous nature. Contestant must present the same selection in each round of a given tournament. Each interpreter may present one or more characters and either or both may present narration. A selection must maintain the author's intent, characters and words as written, except for minor use of transitions, unless written permission is granted by the author or publisher for modification and/or adaptation of the published work. No contestant may use a selection, adaptation or cutting that either member of the duo team has used in a regional, super-regional or state contest in a previous year. The contestants should preface the selection with an introductory statement that will give the audience a better understanding of the selection. The use of a

manuscript is prohibited. The performers may not have eye or physical contact with each other except during the introduction and should focus off stage. The performers must begin their presentation from center stage and restrict their physical blocking to movement around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. No properties or costumes are permitted. The timing for this event shall be a maximum of ten minutes, with no minimum time requirement. Adjudicator will not provide time signals.

115-11-1 Preparation-In preparing for the contests, the following definition of good oral interpretation should be carefully considered: The prime requisite of oral interpretation is intelligibility, and to that end the contestant must have an intelligent comprehension of what he/she interprets and a due appreciation of its values, as well as the ability to communicate them to his/her audience. A pleasant voice, an acceptable accent and clear enunciation are first of all desirable. Monotony of tone or of pace and overemphasis or acting are to be avoided. Through modulation, proper stress and timing not only must the meaning of the passage be brought out, but also its *mood*-whether of humor, pathos, earnestness, excitement, satire or whatever. The audience must be given an opportunity to *hear*, to *understand*, and to *feel what the author is striving to convey*.

115-12-1 Contest Procedures-The order in which contestants read is determined by lot on the schematic pairings.

115-13-1 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria followed by judges in determining winners are choice of selection, interpretation, pronunciation, timing, enunciation, eye contact, posture, gestures, voice, poise, appearance, energy level, coherence of story cutting, vocal expression, facial expression, characterization, appeal to children and impact of message and performance. All contestants are ranked and scored. Judges shall write a criticism for each speaker.

Note: Appeal to children only applies to storytelling.

115-14-1 Penalty-In each contest, the contestant shall be given a 30-second grace period beyond the time limit for that event. Any student going over the grace period may not rank first in the round. No other penalty for a time violation shall be assessed. A violation of any other rule in this section, if discovered and reported to the tournament director before the end of the competition will result in disqualification and a redistribution of awards as necessary.

SECTION 116: DEBATE.

116-1-1 Introduction-The League sponsors four forms of debate: Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Student Congress and Public Forum. The League will offer state-level championships for each form of debate based on level of participation. In cases of low participation, groups may be combined to facilitate competition. Team championships will be based on sweepstakes points earned in each of the four debate events.

Note: A super-region consists of two regions. Each level (region or state) must determine the rotation of region pairings and hosting responsibility prior to the beginning of the season.

116-2-1 Purposes-The purposes of the debate program include training in research, analysis, sound argument, quick thinking and effective extemporaneous speaking.

116-3-1 Preparation-Schools planning to participate in the debate program are urged to make preparations well in advance of the date for regional tournaments. Organization of a debate club early in the fall session and a series of intramural club debates are recommended. A schedule of interscholastic debates prior to the regional tournament is suggested.

PM 116-3-1 DEBATE/Source Materials (3-06)-Any student who opts to use a laptop in debate competition must provide his or her own laptop and is not allowed connectivity to other computers, persons, or the Internet. The penalty for students found using connectivity will be immediate disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of all rounds. Use is limited to the taking of notes and for the retrieval of evidence that the student has pre-written and stored on the laptop. Students are also responsible for their own battery and power; tournaments are not responsible for providing outlets.

116-3-2 Coaches and sponsors of debate are encouraged to charge participating students with full responsibility for the collection of facts and materials in preparation for debates. Students should make maximum use of their school and community libraries as well as other sources available to them. All evidence used in a debate must be printed matter in general circulation.

116-4-1 Policy Debate Contest Rules and Regulations-Each school entering Policy debate on the regional level may enter in each event a maximum of two two-speaker debate teams, each of which is prepared to debate both sides of the resolution.

116-4-2 Tournament Format-Each region entering the super-regional meet may certify first, second and third place teams in each event to the super-regional meet. Each super-region entering the state meet may certify first, second and third place teams in each event to the state meet. If one of the first three Policy teams is unable to advance to the super-regional or state tournament, the fourth place Policy team in the appropriate region or super-regional tournament may replace the Policy team unable to attend. No replacements beyond fourth place shall be permitted. Each super-region shall be responsible for resolving ties or disputes in accordance with policies in the VHSL *Handbook* so that it advances no more than three teams to state.

(1) **Substitutions**-Debate teams advancing from the regional to the super-regional tournaments and from the super-regional to the state tournament are expected to remain intact. However, under unusual circumstances a school may substitute one member of a team advancing to the next tournament. Such circumstances as illness or an unexpected family commitment may justify a substitution. A substitution may not be allowed for a debater who is aware of another commitment on the dates of the super-regional or state tournament at the time of entry into the regional tournament. A discretionary drop, as opposed to an emergency drop, must be completed at least one week prior to the super-regional or state tournament, or it will be considered a sportsmanship violation and is to be addressed under *Handbook* rules 27-13-1 and 27-13-12 (7).

(2) If a substitution for one member of a debate team is necessary, the principal may call the League office and explain the circumstances giving the name of the student unable to attend the tournament and the name of that student's replacement. The decision on the substitution will be based on the information given. If a first- or second-place team is unable to advance to the super-regional or state tournament, the third-place team in the regional or super-regional tournament may replace the team unable to attend. No replacements be-

yond third-place teams will be allowed. If a team member is replaced for the super-regional tournament, he may not rejoin the team for the state tournament.

116-4-3 Pairings shall be determined by the tournament director to provide the most equitable schedule possible depending on the number of participants in each group. A director may choose either a round-robin format, with each team assigned a debate against each of the other teams, or five or six preliminary rounds utilizing power pairings as published in the VHSL Debate Resource Guide, followed by a single elimination tournament pairing the top four or eight qualifiers.

116-4-4 Policy debate teams will alternate between the affirmative and negative sides, with a draw for sides in the final round. An adaptation of the Oregon Plan is used in Policy debate. The procedure is as follows:

(a) First affirmative speaker: eight minutes.
(b) Second negative speaker questions first affirmative speaker: three minutes.
(c) First negative speaker: eight minutes.
(d) First affirmative speaker questions the first negative speaker: three minutes.
(e) Second affirmative speaker: eight minutes.
(f) First negative speaker questions the second affirmative speaker: three minutes.
(g) Second negative speaker: eight minutes.
(h) Second affirmative speaker questions the second negative speaker: three minutes.
(i) First negative speaker presents rebuttal speech: five minutes.
(j) First affirmative speaker presents rebuttal speech: five minutes.
(k) Second negative speaker presents rebuttal speech: five minutes.
(l) Second affirmative speaker presents rebuttal speech: five minutes.
(m) Each team shall have a total of eight minutes preparation time to use during the debate.

(1) Cross-examination will be a closed format, whereby the individual whose turn it is to ask questions, will be the only one to ask questions and the individual whose turn it is to answer will be the only one to answer questions.

(2) All requests for evidence or other materials count against either the questioning time or the preparation time (or both of the requesting team).

116-4-5 The critic judge (or set of three judges at the discretion of the meet director) decides the better team in each debate and ranks each individual debater. After each debate, the judge(s) will rank each debater in order of excellence (first for best, second for next best, etc.) and pick a winning team. After each debate, the judge will also provide a numerical score for each team and comment briefly on the required critique form. If three judges are used, each judge makes his/her decision independent of the other two. Each judge's ballot is counted as a win or a loss in determining the winner of the meet.

116-4-6 Total wins of each team are computed to determine the teams winning the tournament or advancing to elimination rounds. In case of ties in number of wins, the decision in head-to-head competition (first if it is a clean decision), total speaker points (second) and total speaker ranking (third) are employed to determine a winner.

116-4-7 A judge may serve throughout a meet, but it is preferable that he/she not judge the same team twice.

116-4-8 Judging Requirements-Each school participating in Policy debate at the state meet must provide at least one qualified judge to evaluate Policy competition in a group other than the one represented by the school, unless judge is provided by host. The coach may serve as the school's required judge. Penalty for violation is a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

116-4-9 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria used by judges in determining winners include all aspects of general effectiveness in debate. Most important of these criteria are analysis of issues, extension of major and minor arguments, adequacy and accuracy of evidence, primary qualities of the affirmative case, clarity of organization and refutation and persuasiveness of over-all argumentation by both teams.

116-4-10 Suggestions-Competing teams should strive to clash on the issues. Teams should strive to show essential differences in regard to policy with reasons for the differences. Penetrating analysis, clear exposition of terms and arguments and a definite evaluation and summary should be sought throughout. In general, it is better to develop one or two crucial issues rather than to mention many without developing any.

116-4-11 The role of the questioner or cross-examiner is very important. He/she should frame in advance a great many questions, but should use in any given debate only those which are relevant and those which manifestly tend to reveal the weakness of the opponent's case or to emphasize and amplify the strong points of his/her own case. The questioner should show an awareness of the affirmative position and should adapt his/her questions to the affirmative arguments. The affirmative should in turn shift in point of view to take account of and satisfy the negative objections. The purpose of cross-examination is to bring to light weaknesses or inconsistencies in the opponent's case, preparatory to refutation in rebuttal. Such weaknesses or inconsistencies as are uncovered should be exploited. Questioners should avoid the use of trick queries and of farfetched and elaborate traps, and should not become legalistic, nor resort to hair-splitting.

116-4-12 In Policy, emphasis should be placed on teamwork and on the function of each speaker as a part of the team. Every effort should be made by the coach to stimulate flexibility and independence of thought. Judges look for direct and forthright speaking, informality, and ease and good humor in delivery. Speakers should be prepared to establish all authorities quoted and to relate quotations to the point at issue. The validity of each quotation should be established individually. In general, fewer and more effective quotations are recommended.

116-5-1 Lincoln-Douglas Contest Rules and Regulations- Each school entering Lincoln-Douglas debating on the regional level will be afforded the option of entering a maximum of three Lincoln-Douglas debaters, each of whom is prepared to debate both sides of the resolution.

116-5-2 Each region entering the regional meet shall qualify a maximum of four debaters to the regional meet. Each region entering the state meet shall qualify a maximum of four debaters to the state tournament. If one of the first four debaters is unable to advance to the regional or state tournament, the fifth place debater in the appropriate regional or super-regional tournament may replace the debater unable to attend. No replacements beyond fifth

place shall be permitted, and each region shall be responsible for resolving ties or disputes in accordance with policies in the VHSL Debate Resource Guide so that it advances no more than four Lincoln-Douglas debaters to state.

116-5-3 Pairings shall be determined by the tournament director to provide the most equitable schedule possible depending on the number of participants in each group. A director may choose either a round-robin format, with each team assigned a debate against each of the other teams, or five or six preliminary rounds utilizing power pairings as published in the Debate Resource Guide, followed by a single elimination tournament pairing the top four or eight qualifiers.

116-5-4 The following format is used in Lincoln-Douglas debates:

(a) Affirmative speaker presents constructive speech: six minutes.
(b) Negative speaker questions the affirmative speaker: three minutes.
(c) Negative speaker presents constructive speech: seven minutes.
(d) Affirmative speaker questions the negative speaker: three minutes.
(e) Affirmative speaker presents first rebuttal speech: four minutes.
(f) Negative speaker presents rebuttal speech: six minutes.
(g) Affirmative speaker presents second rebuttal speech: three minutes.
(h) Each speaker shall have a total of three minutes preparation time to use during the debate.

116-5-5 The critic judge (or set of three judges at the discretion of the meet director) decides the better speaker in each debate. If three judges are used, each judge makes his/her decision independent of the other two. Each judge's *ballot* is counted as a *win* or *loss* in determining the winner of the meet. In case of ties in number of wins, decision in head-to-head competition (first if it is a clean decision) and total speaker points (second) are employed to determine a winner.

116-5-6 A judge may serve throughout a meet, but it is preferable that he/she not judge the same contestant twice.

116-5-7 Judging Requirements-Each school participating in Lincoln-Douglas debate at the state meet must provide at least one qualified judge to evaluate Lincoln-Douglas competition in a group other than the one represented by the school, unless judge is provided by host. The coach may serve as the school's required judge. Penalty for violation is a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

116-5-8 Bases For Judges' Decision-Criteria used by judges in determining winners include all aspects of general effectiveness in debate. Most important of these criteria are clear and persuasive speaking, analysis of issues, persuasiveness of over-all argumentation, clarity and organization of arguments, adequacy and accuracy of evidence and consistent defense of a core value. If a judge determines that a contestant speeds, spreads, uses technical jargon, or otherwise employs Policy tactics in a manner that makes his/her argument unable to be understood by an intelligent high school student or well-informed citizen, that judge must vote against the offending contestant.

116-6-1 Student Congress Rules and Regulations-Each school entering Student Congress may send up to six representatives to the regional tournament and each region may send up to twelve representatives to the super regional tournament. Each super region may send up to twelve senators to the state tournament. A list of topic areas will be published by the VHSL Clerk of Congress at least 30 days before each tournament; students should be able to speak on all topic areas. Each participating student must write either a bill or a resolution to be discussed. This legislation should be labeled "A." Participants may write one additional bill or resolution, labeled "B," which may be considered only after first bills/ resolutions "A" from all participants in the chamber have been brought forward.

(1) Bills/resolutions must be electronically submitted at least one week in advance of the regional and/or state tournament(s) via the Student Congress website.

(2) The Clerk of Congress will choose two domestic topics, two international topics, two economic topics and two statewide topics that provide a breadth and depth of topic areas without presenting an overwhelming research burden. To provide debate on a wide variety of subjects, schools are encouraged to have no more than one bill or resolution per topic area. A tournament official may scan all legislation prior to the posting deadline to eliminate duplicate legislation, nontopical legislation or inappropriate material. The tournament official will notify students and coaches of any problems or concerns, but will not edit or revise student-produced legislation. Once the legislation has been approved, it is up to the students to determine the order of the docket at the beginning of the tournament. Legislation must alternate (domestic, international, economic and statewide) among the topic areas.

(a) The Clerk's interpretation of the docket of legislation must follow the DIEV format for the entirety of docket A legislation. After a chamber has set the docket of legislation and has started debate procedures, the chamber must follow the DIEV format for one complete DIEV cycle. After this cycle is completed, the chamber may modify the legislative order using standard procedures for altering the docket. The Super Session must also follow the DIEV format for a minimum of one cycle.

116-6-2 Each school may enter a maximum of six students to the region; each region may qualify a maximum of twelve representatives to the super regional tournament; each super regional may qualify a maximum of twelve senators to the state final. Up to three call-ups from the regional to the super regional tournament are permitted. At the regional and super regional levels, student competitors shall be called "representatives," and at the state tournament they shall be called "senators." There will be no difference in the rules of procedure. Regional, super regional, and state tournaments in Student Congress may be held in conjunction with the regional, super regional, and state tournaments in debate.

(1) In order for a call-up from the regional or super-regional tournaments to be able to compete at the next level, he or she must have submitted legislation prior to the deadline for the tournament for which he or she is being called up to compete in.

116-6-3 The number of representatives or senators participating determines whether the meet is divided into multiple chambers. In general, 24 representatives or senators per chamber is ideal, with chambers ranging in size from 15 to 30 members. If there is to be more than one chamber, schools and regions should be split equally between or among chambers. At the regional and super regional tournaments, each chamber should meet between two and four sessions, as determined by the Clerk of Congress. At state, each chamber will meet in four sessions, with a fifth Super Session set for any group split between two chambers. The Super Session will include all students placing in the top half of the two split chambers. Each school qualifying for the state tournament in a group with split chambers will provide one bill or resolution to be considered for the Super Session docket, and that bill or resolution must be submitted electronically on the Student Congress website at least one week in advance of the state tournament. At the regional and super regional tournaments, the time of each legislative session will be determined by the Clerk of Congress. At state, each session will last 90 minutes.

116-6-4 A parliamentarian will be chosen by the Clerk of Congress to preside over all sessions and will fill out an evaluation of each student. In preliminary sessions, two judges will evaluate each speaker using ballots provided by the League. In Super Sessions, three judges will be used. The judges will change for each legislative session, with no judge being used more than twice. Students will elect presiding officers for each session. An individual may not serve as Parliamentarian and judge speeches in the same chamber. The two judges will evaluate each speaker and the presiding officer using ballots provided. Three judges may be used if needed at the region and super region levels.

116-6-5 The following format is used for Student Congress:

(a) An elected official or appointed student presiding officer will call the chamber to order followed by a call for a main motion.

(b) Call for a three-minute authorship speech followed by two minutes of questioning.

(c) Call for a three-minute negative speech; time not used by the speaker may be used for questioning. The speaker has the right to refuse to answer questions.

(d) Repeat b and c until an appropriate motion is made (motion to table or to call the previous question, etc.).

(e) Exact precedence for speaking order and approximate precedence questioning order will be kept by the parliamentarian and the presiding officer. In the event of a conflict, the parliamentarian's tally is final.

(f) Once action has been taken on a bill or resolution, the next legislative item on the docket will be considered.

(g) Each session may last between one and three hours, as determined in advance by the tournament director and the participating schools.

116-6-6 Speeches-All speeches shall have been written by the competing student during the school year in which the contest is conducted and not contain an excess of directly quoted material, nor shall the speech be a mere paraphrase taken completely from one source. The student shall acknowledge the sources of any quotations used. Penalty for a plagiarized speech is disqualification.

116-6-7 Speaker's Precedence-The presiding officer and parliamentarian will number student speeches, with the presiding officer's opening comments considered the first speech of the session. Speaker order will be determined by precedence, meaning the presiding officer will select first the representatives/senators (R/S) who have given no speeches, then R/S's who have given one speech and so on. In the event that two or more R/S's who have the same number of speeches wish to speak, the presiding officer will recognize the one who spoke least recently. Numbering speeches will facilitate determining who has precedence to speak. In the event of a discrepancy between the parliamentarian and the presiding officer, the parliamentarian's tally will control.

116-6-8 Judging Requirements and Bases for Judges' Decision-Each school participating in Student Congress debate at the state meet must provide at least one qualified judge to evaluate Student Congress competition in a group other than the one represented by the school, unless judges are provided by host. The coach may serve as the school's required judge. Penalty for violation is a fine as stated in 30-5-1. Criteria used by judges will include all aspects of general effectiveness in debate. Most important will be clear and persuasive speaking, documentation of sources, clarity, organization and responding to previous arguments.

116-6-9 Determining Winners-Each representative or senator may speak up to six times. His or her best two speeches will be added to the parliamentarian's score. The highest score will place first, the next highest second and so on. In the case of a tie, drop the parliamentarian's score. If scores are still tied, refer to the third best speech and continue until ties are broken. If there is a Super Session, the representative or senator's best Super Session speech score is added to the parliamentarian's score. This score is then added to the preliminary score. Thus, the Super Session final score will be the sum of three scores: (1) the representative or senator's best speech score, (2) the Super Session parliamentarian's score, and (3) the preliminary score. In the case of a tie, drop the Super Session parliamentarian score. If scores are still tied, drop the preliminary parliamentarian score.

116-7-1 Public Forum Debate Contest Rules and Regulations-Each school entering Public Forum debate on the regional level may enter a maximum of two, two-speaker debate teams, each of which is prepared to debate both sides of the resolution.

116-7-2 Each region entering the super-regional meet may certify first, second and third place teams in each event to the regional meet. Each region entering the state meet may certify first, second and third place teams in each event to the state meet. If one of the first three Public Forum teams is unable to advance to the regional or state tournament, the fourth place Public Forum team in the appropriate region or super-regional tournament may replace the Public Forum team unable to attend. No replacements beyond fourth place shall be permitted. Each region shall be responsible for resolving ties or disputes in accordance with policies in the VHSL Debate Resource Guide so that it advances no more than three teams to state.

116-7-3 Pairings shall be determined by the tournament director to provide the most equitable schedule possible depending on the number of participants in each group. A director may choose either a round-robin format, with each team assigned a debate against each of the other teams, or five or six preliminary rounds utilizing power pairings as published in the debate resource guide, followed by a single elimination tournament pairing the top four

or eight qualifiers. In Public Forum debate, pro or con positions are decided by coin toss every round. The team winning the toss may choose to either go first or select a position. The opponent then has the opportunity to choose the remaining option. For example, Team A wins the coin toss and decides to go second. Team B would then have a choice of going pro or con.

116-7-4 The following format is used for Public Forum debate:

(a) Speaker 1 (Team A, 1st speaker presents Constructive): four minutes.
(b) Speaker 2 (Team B, 1st speaker presents Constructive): four minutes.
(c) Crossfire (between speakers 1 & 2): Speaker 1 asks the first question; thereafter, either speaker may ask questions: three minutes.
(d) Speaker 3 (Team A, 2nd speaker): four minutes.
(e) Speaker 4 (Team B, 2nd speaker): four minutes.
(f) Crossfire (between speakers 3 & 4): Speaker 3 asks the first question; thereafter, either speaker may ask questions: three minutes.
(g) Speaker 1 (Team A) Summary: three minutes.
(h) Speaker 2 (Team B) Summary: three minutes.
(i) Grand Crossfire (all speakers): one member from Team A asks the first question; thereafter, any speaker may ask questions: three minutes.
(j) Speaker 3 Final Focus: two minutes.
(k) Speaker 4 Final Focus: two minutes.

Each team may use up to three minutes of prep time.

116-7-5 The critic judge (or set of three judges at the discretion of the meet director) decides the better team in each debate. *Note*: If three judges are used, each judge makes his/her decision independent of the other two. Each judge's ballot is counted as a win or a loss in determining the winner of the meet.

116-7-6 Total wins of each team are computed to determine the teams winning the tournament or advancing to elimination rounds. In case of ties in number of wins, the decision in head-to-head competition (first if it is a clean decision), total speaker points (second) and total speaker ranking (third) are employed to determine a winner.

116-7-7 A judge may serve throughout a meet, but it is preferable that he/she not judge the same team twice.

116-7-8 Judging Requirements-Each school participating in Public Forum debate at the state meet must provide at least one qualified judge to evaluate Public Forum competition in a group other than the one represented by the school, unless judge is provided by host. Qualifications for judging Public Forum debate are guided by the notion that the activity be geared for a "person on the street" and that decisions be based upon that person's impression, not be prescribed burdens like those in Policy debate. The coach may serve as the school's required judge. Penalty for violation is a fine as stated in 30-5-1.

116-7-9 Bases for Judges' Decisions-Criteria used by judges in determining winners include all aspects of general effectiveness in debate. Most important of these criteria are clash of ideas in a persuasive manner; support of assertions through logical thinking and

evidence when needed; adequate and accurate use of evidence; strong and solid argumentation; clarity of speech, organization and refutation; fairness; courtesy; professionalism, and persuasiveness of overall argumentation by both teams. Judges look for a professional and serious debate, as well as direct and forthright speaking. If a judge determines that a contestant speeds, spreads, uses technical jargon, or otherwise employs Policy tactics in a manner that makes his/her argument unable to be understood by an intelligent high school student or well-informed citizen, that judge must vote against the offending team.

116-7-10 Competing teams should strive to clash on the issues in a persuasive manner. In Public Forum debate contests, teams should strive to advocate or reject a position posed by the resolution. Penetrating analysis, clear exposition of terms and arguments and a definite evaluation and summary should be sought throughout. In general, it is better to develop two or three crucial issues rather than to mention many without developing any. Good Public Forum debaters should display logic and analysis. They should use evidence when needed with the understanding that evidence is not limited to traditional cards often associated with Policy Debate, but rather, any information that helps a judge understand a position and may include analogies, examples, anecdotes or stories. They should win their case and refute that of their opponents. They should communicate effectively, using the fundamentals of good speaking. There are no burdens on either side.

116-7-11 The role of the questioner or cross-examiner is very important. He/she should frame in advance a great many questions, but should use in any given debate only those which are relevant and those which manifestly tend to reveal the weakness of the opponents' case or to emphasize and amplify the strong points of his/her own case. The questioner should show an awareness of the pro position and should adapt his/her questions to the pro arguments. The pro should in turn shift its point of view to take account of and satisfy the con objections. The purpose of cross-examination is to bring to light weaknesses or inconsistencies in the opponents' case, preparatory to refutation in rebuttal. Such weaknesses or inconsistencies as are uncovered should be exploited. Questioners should avoid the use of trick queries and of farfetched and elaborate traps, and should not become legalistic, nor resort to hair-splitting.

116-7-12 In Public Forum, emphasis should be placed on teamwork and on the function of each speaker as a part of the team. Every effort should be made by the coach to stimulate flexibility and independence of thought. Judges look for a professional and serious debate, as well as direct and forthright speaking, informality and ease and good humor in delivery. Speakers should be prepared to establish all authorities quoted and to relate quotations to the point at issue. It is recommended that quotes are effective, but few in number.

116-8-1 Tie-Breaking-As no first-, second- or third-place ties shall exist in VHSL competition, the following tie-breaking procedures shall be used at sectional, region and super-region competitions. Regions and super-regions are expected to establish additional tie-breaking methods to be employed if a tie still exists even after the procedures below are followed. Such additional methods could include, but are not limited to: (1) a coach's ballot, (2) restage head-to-head competition and (3) coin flip or draw.

Ties in win-loss record will be broken on the basis of:

(a) Decision if the teams have debated and if in the event of ties involving multiple debaters there is a clear decision
(b) Total speaker points
(c) Total speaker rankings
(d) Median speaker points (drop highest and lowest)

Ties in speaker awards total points will be broken on the basis of:

(a) Total ranks
(b) Median points (drop highest and lowest)

116-9-1 Debate Tournaments-Regional, super-regional and state tournaments in Policy debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate, Student Congress and Public Forum shall be held not later than the dates specified in the VHSL Activities Calendar.

116-9-2 A student may participate in Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Student Congress and/or Public Forum debate but may participate in only one form of debate at the regional, super-regional and state tournaments.

116-9-3 Forfeits-Once the tournament is underway, the discretionary decision by any student or team not to participate in any round of scheduled competition constitutes a sportsmanship violation, a forfeit and immediate elimination of that student or team from the competition.

116-9-4 Penalty-Unless prescribed otherwise, a violation of any rule in this section, if discovered and reported, will result in disqualification.

116-10-1 Tournament Limitations-No individual or team may participate in more than 16 tournaments during the school year, excluding VHSL regional, super-regional and state tournaments. A student who registers at and participates in a debate tournament under a name other than his/her own or under a name other than his/her bona fide school name shall be disqualified from participating in the regional, super-regional and state debate tournaments.

Note: **Limitations (2-89)**-This section was interpreted to address individual and two-person team limits rather than the total number of debate tournaments a school may enter.

Literary Activities

SECTION 120: INTRODUCTION.

120-1-1 Contests-The League sponsors a competitive interscholastic program in two fields of literary activity, as follows:

(1) *Creative Writing:* School Folder Contest, Short Story Contest, Essay Contest, Poetry Contest.

(2) *Publications:* Newspaper Evaluation, Yearbook Evaluation, Magazine Evaluation, Newsmagazine Evaluation, Online News Evaluation, Broadcast Evaluation.

120-2-1 State Area School Media Meetings Attendance-In order to assist school broadcasting, magazine, newspaper/newsmagazine, yearbook and online news advisers to better understand the role for and obligations of student media, the League shall conduct regular area meetings to clarify the responsibilities of advisers and review VHSL support programs. Every adviser shall be required to attend a meeting annually.

SECTION 121: CREATIVE WRITING CONTESTS.

121-1-1 Purpose-The purpose of the Creative Writing Contests is to encourage and stimulate the development of creative writing ability among the high school students of the state. While the emphasis is upon the general quality of the school's product rather than upon the work of the individual student, the contests provide for recognition of both school and individual.

121-2-1 School Participation-Principals should request their teachers of English to announce the contests in their classes early in the school year. The teachers should select the best examples of each type submitted (short story, poem and creative non-fiction) for inclusion in the school's folder entry. All schools are urged to submit entries, since each individual contribution is rated and the ratings and criticisms are helpful in improving the standards of the school's work in this field. Complete entries only are accepted; no individual short story, creative non-fiction or poem will be considered unless it is included in the school entry.

PM 121-2-1 CREATIVE WRITING/Eligibility (9-93)-Creative writing students are exempt from the eligibility rules.

121-3-1 Program-The League program in creative writing consists of separate contests in each of four divisions: school folder (the cumulative effort of the six original compositions submitted; see 121-5-1 and 121-5-2), short story, creative non-fiction and poetry. Each member school desiring to participate submits its entry for judgment in accordance with the following rules and regulations.

121-4-1 Aids to Sponsors-To stimulate interest in creative writing and to enable sponsors and students to evaluate the quality of writing submitted in the contest, the League publishes annually a booklet containing the winning selections in each category from the previous year. This booklet will be sent to member schools without charge upon request to the League Office.

121-5-1 Rules and Regulations-Each school entering the contest shall submit an entry containing six original compositions: two creative non-fictions, two poems and two short stories.

121-5-2 Only one selection by any one student shall be included in the folder.

121-5-3 All selections shall have been written by students during the school year in which the contest is conducted. A violation, if discovered and reported to the executive or assistant director prior to or within three weeks after the date results are distributed, will result in disqualification of both the individual entry and the school folder and a redistribution of awards as necessary.

121-5-4 Creative Non-Fiction-Entries should use story-telling styles and techniques to create factually accurate narratives. Creative non-fiction uses the creativity of storytelling but has to be true. Entries must be based on real events, people, and experiences. If the entry is history- or fact-based but includes fictional characters or occurrences, submit in the short story category. Creative non-fiction is a great place to explore personal interpretation of research, interviews, or other factual material, but is not the same thing as a book report or newspaper article. It is the difference between writing about your first day of high school and including all the sights, sounds, smells, and feelings, versus interviewing the school principal about their plans for the year.

121-5-5 Short Story-Entries in this category should be a work of fictional prose that tells a complete narrative with a beginning, middle, and end. Short stories may be based on true events, memories, or personal experiences, but to be accepted in this category, it cannot be 100% factual. The story should be self-contained (not part of a larger work) and should feature fully developed characters and a coherent plot structure. A short story that is written in poem-form (a story in verse), should submit in the poetry category.

121-5-6 Poem-Entries in this category should use carefully selected and arranged language to evoke emotion, imagery, or ideas. Poems may be written in free verse or follow specific formal structures (sonnets, villanelle, etc). Poems may rhyme but do not have to.

121-5-7 Creative non-fiction entries shall be limited to not more than 3,000 words and short stories to not more than 5,000 words. Poems may be between one and ten pages in length.

121-5-8 Entries shall be uploaded by March 15.

121-5-9 Entries shall be uploaded to the website noted on the creative writing entry guidelines. Each entry must be named according to the guidelines for entry and uploaded to the website.

121-5-10 Frequent errors in copy reading, spelling or punctuation shall disqualify entry.

121-5-11 No illustrations shall be used in the selections themselves.

121-5-12 Each school entering the contest shall make every effort to determine that all compositions included in the school entry are the original work of the student author named.

121-6-1 Judgments-Creative writing contest judges are selected from college and university faculty members or professional writers. The judges rate each school entry as a whole and each individual composition within each entry.

PM 121-6-1 CREATIVE WRITING/JUDGMENTS (1-90)-Creative writing competition judges rate the top eight schools.

121-7-1 Evaluations-A general summary of the contest entries by groups, with a critical evaluation of the standard of excellence attained by both schools and individuals, is prepared by the judges and distributed with the announcement of winners and individual school ratings to all competing schools. Outstanding creative non-fictions, poems and short stories are collected in a booklet available to interested schools without charge if requested.

121-8-1 Guidelines for Appropriate Content-Although the League has no desire or intention to act as a censoring agency, it does recognize a responsibility to maintain reasonable standards for written expression. The League recommends that each school adopt and publish policy guidelines on how students may deal with questionable or controversial content and that the principal or his/her designated agent ensures that entries approved for submission in the League's creative writing competition conform to those guidelines. No entry containing plagiarized or libelous material will be rated nor will it receive an award.

SECTION 122: PUBLICATIONS EVALUATION SERVICES.

122-1-1 Purpose-The six publications evaluation services (Newspaper, Yearbook, Magazine, Newsmagazine, Online News, Broadcasting) are intended to encourage schools to produce student publications as a part of their activities programs and to assist the advisers and editorial staffs of school publications in improving the quality of their products.

122-2-1 Program-The League program in the field of student publications consists of separate evaluation services for each group of schools in each of four divisions: newspapers, yearbooks, magazines, newsmagazines, online news and broadcasting. Each member school desiring to participate submits its publications for evaluation in accordance with the following regulations and instructions.

122-2-2 In order that all interested schools may receive the benefits of additional training as well as the comments and criticisms of the evaluators for all publications, League-sponsored workshops will be offered each fall on the dates specified on the Activities Calendar (inside front cover of *Handbook*). Information regarding the content and the general organization of the workshops will be mailed to every member school well in advance of each activity.

122-3-1 School Participation-Every school producing a publication, no matter how infrequently or in what form, is encouraged to participate in the appropriate publication evaluation service in order that its advisers and staffs may benefit from the criticisms, suggestions and comments of the evaluators. Each entry receives an individual evaluation. Each school will be evaluated on the criteria provided in the evaluation booklet and has an equal chance of receiving top awards.

PM 122-3-1 PUBLICATIONS/Eligibility (9-93)-Publication staffs are exempt from the VHSL eligibility rules.

Rules and Regulations:

122-4-1 Entry Deadline-Only publications which are uploaded to the VHSL portal and the appropriate entry form and payment is received in the League Office on or before the deadline date for entry specified on the Activities Calendar will be accepted for the evaluation services.

122-4-2 A school may enter any or all of the evaluation services.

122-4-3 Only entries which are uploaded and submitted with the official entry form and appropriate fees, complete and properly certified by the school principal, and received not later than the deadline date for entry will be accepted.

122-5-1 Evaluation Procedures-Each evaluator prepares an evaluation of each entry. This consists of a written report on the appropriate evaluative criteria booklet and annotated comments written on the publications which have been submitted.

122-6-1 Levels of Evaluation-For the purpose of assigning publications to levels of evaluation within each group classification, all schools entering publications shall be listed by order of their membership as recorded in their evaluative criteria booklets.

(1) Newspaper, Newsmagazine and Yearbook entries shall be listed in order from the largest school membership being served to the smallest and each publication shall then be subdivided into ranking levels, each with a separate evaluator.

(2) Magazine entries shall be listed in the same order and shall be subdivided into ranking levels as necessary, each with a separate evaluator.

(3) Online News and Broadcast shall be listed in the same order and shall be subdivided into ranking levels as necessary, each with a separate evaluator.

122-7-1 Awards-The ratings of Trophy Class, First Class, Second Class and Third Class will be awarded within each level of evaluation. No maximum or minimum number of awards, within the four award classifications, are allotted to any rating level.

122-7-2 All rankings and awards given will be announced at the Media Championship and a listing of all publications ranked shall be distributed to all member schools.

122-8-1 Evaluative Criteria-The Evaluative Criteria Booklets are designed to provide general guidelines for the incorporation of sound journalistic practices and will be sent to evaluators along with the registration form which assists the evaluator by permitting the staff to alert him/her to special problems in finance, production, personnel and/or possibly such complications as peer expectations and traditions. The more that an evaluator knows about a publication, the more capable he/she is in rendering a realistic reaction to the work accomplished and in suggesting methods for improvement.

122-8-2 Any member school may propose changes in the evaluating criteria by mailing suggestions to the League office, by presenting these suggestions, in writing, to the assistant director at a Publications Workshop or by sending the suggestions to the chairman of the Scholastic Publications Advisory Committee.

122-8-3 Proposed changes shall be discussed at the regular meetings of the Scholastic Publications Advisory Committee. Proposals which the committee adopts would become effective the following school year and would be printed and distributed to all member schools immediately after acceptance.

122-9-1 Publications Evaluators-Evaluators used to evaluate publications submitted to the Publications Evaluation Services shall be selected by the assistant director depending on their knowledge of the particular type of publication and their prior experience with evaluating publications. The assistant director may select both Virginia and non-Virginia evaluators for original evaluations and/or re-evaluations.

122-10-1 Guidelines For Responsible Journalism-Although the League has no desire or intention to act as a censoring agency, it does recognize a responsibility to maintain reasonable standards of responsible journalism. The League believes that the publication of slanderous and/or libelous statements, obscenities or nudity should not be a part of a secondary school publication. Experience has disclosed that while such violations are indeed rare, problems occasionally arise in areas such as letters to the editor, poems and staff attempts to produce "cute" captions, copy and/or headlines. The League recommends that each school adopt and publish a Code of Journalistic Standards which can serve as a guide for the various staffs and potential contributors and will spell out what will and will not be acceptable material for publication. Furthermore, no publication will be rated nor will it receive an award if it uses obscene graphics or language (whether obvious, coded or disguised). No publication that violates copyright or contains plagiarized or libelous material will be rated nor will it receive an award.

Academic Activities

SECTION 126: SCHOLASTIC BOWL.

126-1-1 Sponsored Activity-The Virginia High School League sponsors the activity called Scholastic Bowl, which is an academic competition held at local/district, region (and/or super-region), and the state levels, leading to recognition at each level.

126-2-1 Purpose-To stimulate interest and recognize student achievement in the academic program which is the foundation of a school's mission, the League encourages competition emphasizing knowledge of English, mathematics, science and social studies.

126-3-1 School Participation-The League program is designed to supplement, not replace any existing local or regional academic competition.

Note: The VHSL places no restriction on participation in independent tournaments or on travel out of state. However, individual regions may elect to place restrictions on teams in that region.

126-4-1 Program-The League's Scholastic Bowl competition begins at the regional level with optional regular season and/or district tournament competition designed to determine two schools that will advance to a regional tournament. Each region participating will hold a tournament to select first place and second place teams to advance to a super-region tournament. Each super-region will hold a tournament to select first place and second place teams to advance to a state tournament. If a region elects to hold only a region competition prior to state, the first place team only will advance. If a first or second place school is unable to advance to the super-regional or state competition, the third place school in the appropriate regional or super-regional tournament may compete at the next level. No replacements beyond third-place schools shall be permitted. Deadline dates for regional and super-regional tournaments and the date of the state tournament are published in the annual official VHSL Calendar.

Note: A super-region consists of two regions. Each level (region or super-region) must determine the rotation of region pairings and hosting responsibility prior to the beginning of the season.

126-4-2 Regional Qualification-Regions determine the number of teams that can qualify to a regional tournament through regular season and/or district tournament competition as determined by the Regional Council. If no more than two schools in a region want to participate, the region may designate the school(s) as the region's representative(s) in a regional tournament. Any disputes about which school should represent the region at the state tournament level must be resolved within VHSL rules and regulations at the regional level.

Note: The format for Scholastic Bowl may include sectionalizing at the region level or conducting a super-regional at the post-region level. A super-region consists of two regions. Groups choosing the super-region option must, prior to the beginning of the season, determine the rotation of region pairings and hosting responsibility.

126-4-3 The specific time, place and date for the regional tournament is determined by the tournament director, who is approved by the Regional Council. The name of the tournament director must be reported to the League office at least one month before the regional tournament. The director is responsible for the conduct of the tournament in accordance with League regulations. If a region opts to use questions provided by the state commissioner, the tournament director must meet all deadlines and requirements established by the commissioner. The League office will supply tournament directors with a festival kit, containing all necessary instructions, well in advance of the deadline date for the tournament.

126-5-1 Rules and Regulations-In all League sponsored academic competitions, both individual representatives and member schools are required to observe and comply with all League rules and regulations set forth in Section 26 through 33 of this *Handbook*, with the exception of those that make specific reference to athletics, as well as those rules that govern each specific contest as set forth in Section 126. All VHSL rules governing eligibility and sportsmanship shall apply. Violations of any of these rules render the offender liable to such disciplinary action as the appropriate district, regional or state committee may impose.

126-5-2 Certification-Only entries submitted on the official entry form properly certified by the school principal and received by the deadline date for entry shall be accepted.

126-6-1 Competition Format-Regions and super-regions holding qualifying tournaments must follow state guidelines governing the tournament format. The state guidelines are not mandatory for regular season competition or for tournaments independent of the VHSL series.

126-6-2 Tournament Format-Each team advancing to the state competition will compete in a round-robin tournament within its own classification group (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). The team with the best win-loss record shall be declared the state champion, and the team with the second best win-loss record shall be runner-up. Regions and super-regions may use either a double-elimination or a round-robin format. Extenuating circumstances are determined by the tournament director. At the beginning of each match, each student's paper must be blank. Players may start making notes on their paper when the quizmaster starts testing the electronic equipment, but substitutes, when they come in, must have a blank sheet of paper. Any poster or props, such as a list of Presidents or a periodic table, in the room should be covered or removed.

126-7-1 Participation-Each team must start each tournament with four players. If there are extenuating circumstances such as illness, a team may finish the tournament with fewer than four players. While an official team consists of four players, by agreement of a majority of the competing coaches and/or the permission of the tournament director, a team may begin with fewer than four, due to extenuating circumstances such as illness. Each school shall provide one person to serve as scorekeeper. Scratch pads and pencils will be provided by the host institution and available to teams during the competition. All other materials must be removed from the contestant's tables prior to the beginning of each round.

126-8-1 Questions-Questions will be drawn from the following areas--mathematics, science/health, social studies, English and miscellany. Miscellany questions will include current events, fine arts, music, entertainment and sports. The questions will be randomly selected from among the categories within a particular game. There will be no guarantee that questions will be evenly distributed among the categories, although a balance will be sought. Questions will be read once except math questions, which will be read twice. The

questions used for competition are to be kept secure and confidential at all times by official staff members. Coaches are not permitted access to questions until formally released by the commissioner at the end of the Scholastic Bowl season. Exception: coaches may be permitted to view a specific question(s) at end of match, but only for the purpose of resolving disputes or appeals. Seeking access to or sharing content of competition questions or answers before formal release - whether intentional or unintentional, in casual conversation, writing, or electronic means - is a VHSL sportsmanship violation.

126-9-1 Games-Each game consists of two toss-up rounds and one directed team round (which is played between the two toss-up rounds). Each toss-up round has 15 questions, and the directed team round has 20 total questions, 10 directed to each team.

126-9-2 Toss-up Rounds-Fifteen questions will be asked in each toss-up round for a total of 30 toss-up questions within each game. Any of the four team members from either team may respond by activating the electronic equipment and waiting to be recognized. Once the quizmaster finishes reading the question, a team member must activate the equipment within the designated time. Otherwise, time will be called, and the quizmaster will give the correct answer and proceed to the next question. Once a contestant has been recognized, he/she must immediately give the correct answer. ("Immediately" shall be defined as three seconds after the team member is recognized, at which time the timekeeper should call "Time.") Teammates may not confer during the toss-up round. If the game officials rule that conferring has occurred, that will be treated as if that team answered incorrectly, with a five-point penalty for interrupting with an incorrect answer if appropriate. The quizmaster will accept only the first answer given. Each correct answer is worth 10 points. There will be no penalty for an incorrect answer on an uninterrupted question. The opposing team shall have the remainder of the original designated response time for one person to buzz in and respond after the original answer has been ruled incorrect. If time is up, the other team must give an immediate answer. The default reponse time for all questions, unless otherwise noted, is 10 seconds.

126-9-3 Procedures for toss-up rounds:

(1) If there is a tie between the tone indicating time has expired or the timekeeper calling time and the player buzzing in during toss-up rounds (or the beginning of an answer during directed rounds) the tie will go to the player and he/she will have a chance to answer the question.

(2) When the timepiece marking the remaining time is not visible to participating players, the timekeeper shall count down verbally the final three seconds of remaining time. For example, "Three, two, one, TIME."

(3) If the quizmaster is unsure of a player's answer, the quizmaster may ask the player to repeat her/his answer - the player may not change his/her answer. If the quizmaster believes the player has changed his/her answer, the quizmaster will then determine the answer was wrong.

(4) The quizmaster and judges will determine whether conferring has occurred. Conferring is defined as:

(a) Any verbal or written communication during a toss-up between players or between players and audience members (including coaches and players not in the game). Players may, of course, make notes on their own scratch paper, but looking at a teammate's scratch paper, even if that teammate is unaware, is conferring. Coaches are permitted to whisper or write notes to other audience members to see (including other coaches and players not in the game), provided they cannot be seen or heard by players in the game.

(b) Any gestures players make which communicate information about an answer, or gestures made by audience members (including coaches and players not in the game) for players to see. Players are permitted to look at their teammates (provided they don't look at their teammates' scratch paper), hold their buzzers forward and/or extend their arm to indicate they know the answer, or to make appropriate "thinking" gestures.

(5) If the quizmaster has determined that a team is conferring, then that team forfeits the opportunity to answer that question.

(6) Players and coaches are allowed to communicate between rounds. Between questions, communication must be limited to brief words of encouragement or deciding whether or not to appeal a particular question.

(7) At any time, players, coaches or audience members may alert the officials to unsafe or unacceptable conditions, either in the room or with a player/official/audience member. This is not conferring.

(8) If a player discovers his lockout system is not working during a toss-up, that player may signal by saying, "Buzz," or something equivalent. This is not conferring. If the lockout system malfunctions and two or more players say "Buzz" simultaneously or the quizmaster cannot easily determine who "buzzes" first, then that question may be thrown out and replaced.

(9) If a player stalls during the giving of an answer, this will be considered incorrect. Stalling is defined as a cumulative pause of three or more seconds after an answer has begun. Likewise, if a player precedes his answer with an interjection such as "Oh no!" the quizmaster will not consider that as the answer. However, it should not be counted as starting an answer.

(10) If a player in the game stutters or has another physical condition that might reasonably prevent him/her from speaking quickly, this must be made known to the tournament director and game officials before the match. The quizmaster should be reasonable in accepting answers from those players; a handicap is not the same thing as intentional stalling.

(11) If a participant provides two intricately related pieces of information (e.g. author/book, character/work, composer/opus, creator/creation, person/title, etc.) this will be treated as one answer, provided the relationship is correct and the answer to the question must be contained in the two pieces of information. If three or more related pieces of information are given (e.g. a character in a book by an author), only the first two are to be considered.

Note: Only the first answer to a question may be accepted. If a participant gives an answer with two or more parts in an attempt to "hit upon" the correct answer, the quizmaster, with the assistance of the judges, should determine that part of the response that constitutes the first answer. The remainder of the response may not be considered.

126-9-4 Interruptions (on toss-up questions only)-If the question is interrupted, the quizmaster will stop reading the question at the point of an interruption. If an incorrect answer is given, a 5-point penalty will be assessed and the question will be reread for the opposing team from the beginning of the sentence in which the interruption occurred. One person from the opposing team may then buzz in to give an answer, with no consultation with team members. If the question is interrupted upon reading the question to the opposing team, no penalty is assessed in the event that they give an incorrect answer. No points are awarded unless they are correct, and the quizmaster moves on to the next question.

126-9-5 Special Procedures for Mathematics Questions-Mathematics questions are read twice.

(1) Unless a mathematics question explicitly asks for the answer to be given in lowest terms or in a certain format (e.g. degrees, radians, simplified radicals), an answer that is mathematically equivalent, can be shown as such in a reasonable amount of time and demonstrates knowledge of the process needed to obtain the answer, will be accepted. If a player buzzes in before the explicit request is made in the question (e.g. buzzes in with 90 degrees before the question asks "in radians") this will also be acceptable.

(2) In questions involving units of measurement (square feet, yards, etc.), unless the question mentions the unit of measurement (e.g. "How many square yards is..."), the player is expected to give the unit of measurement. If the player provides the correct number, but does not provide the unit of measurement, then the quizmaster will prompt the player (e.g. "Please provide the unit of measurement"). If the player provides an incorrect unit of measurement, then the quizmaster will rule the answer incorrect.

126-9-6 Answering Before Being Recognized-If a team member begins his/her answer after buzzing, but before being recognized, one warning will be issued per team. If the answer is correct when the warning is first given, the team will receive the full 10 points. A five-point penalty will be assessed after the warning for each improper response from the warned team -- a correct response will be awarded 10 points with a 5-point penalty; an incorrect response will receive a 5-point penalty only.

126-9-7 Wrong Person Answers-If the wrong person answers the question, but the proper person was identified, the quizmaster will turn to the first person from the other team to buzz in. If that response is incorrect, the question dies.

Note: If an improper person is identified by the judges and that person initiates a response (right or wrong), then a mistake in question presentation has occurred and the question must be replaced (Section 126-9-10).

126-9-8 Questions Directed to Teams-Each team will have the opportunity to answer 10 directed questions. At the end of the first toss-up round, the team that has the lower score may choose to answer directed questions "A" or "B." If they select "A," they will have ques-

tions directed to them first, and if they choose "B," they will go second. (If there is a tie at the end of the first round, the quizmaster will flip a coin with the team who is first alphabetically calling the loss. The winner of the coin toss will then select the order of questions.) During this part of the competition, team members may confer and all answers will be given by the team captain unless he/she explicitly designates another team member to answer a specific question. The team captain shall wait until the entire question has been read to respond. If a team fails to answer a directed question within the designated time, or answer incorrectly, the question will go to the opposing team. Ten points will be awarded to the team with the correct answer.

Questions will be alternated between teams, with the first question given to team A and the second question given to team B, etc. If a team fails to answer a directed question within the designated time, or answers incorrectly, the opposing team will be asked by the quizmaster to give an answer within the remainder of the designated time or immediately if the buzzer has already sounded without having the question reread.

126-9-9 Procedures for directed round:

(1) During directed questions, the captain or his/her designee must begin an answer before the designated amount of time expires. The designee cannot designate someone else. Designating a teammate does not count as starting an answer. If time expires while an answer is being given, the person answering must finish the answer without stalling. Stalling is defined as a cumulative pause of three or more seconds after an answer has begun.

(2) No penalty will be assessed during directed questions if the captain and his/her designee interrupts the reading of the questions and then gives an incorrect answer. However, the other team will have the opportunity to hear the question in its entirety and have ten seconds in which to confer. For computation questions, the other team will have the chance to hear the question in its entirety twice and have the designated time in which to confer.

(3) If the team to whom the question was directed answers incorrectly, the opposing team must begin its answer within the remainder of the designated time or immediately if the buzzer has already sounded.

(4) There are 20- and 30-second computation questions in the directed round. When questions have a longer response time, that question will have a written-in lead to clarify, for example: "This is a 30-second calculation question." Math toss-ups and directed conceptual questions will be 10 seconds.

Note: Players may choose to get up from their seats, or move their seats around, for the directed question round.

126-9-10 Mistake in Question Presentation-If the quizmaster misreads a question or presents in a way contrary to existing rules, the judges will confer with the quizmaster and rule whether a mistake in presenting the question has occurred. The judges' decision will be final. If it is ruled that a mistake in presenting the question has occurred, the judges will void the question and substitute a new question for both teams, if the mistake occurs in the

toss-up rounds. If a mistake is made by a quizmaster in a directed question (such as giving a correct answer before the second team has had an opportunity to answer), a replacement question will be directed only to the second team.

Notes:

(1) Replacement questions shall correspond to the round in which the mistake occurs (for example, the replacement question for a mistake made in the toss-up round must come from the longer, pyramidal questions, included for end of match tie-breakers. If the mistake occurs in the directed session, the replacement question must be one of the shorter questions (or computation question), included at the very end of the match tie-breakers.

(2) Toss-up questions refer to those in rounds one and three only. Directed questions are those in round two. Presentation refers to actions of all officials at discretion of quizmaster.

126-9-11 Answers Involving a Person's Name-If the answer to a question involves a person's name, the answer will be considered correct if only the last name is given, unless the question specifically calls for the first and last name or if a first name is required to properly identify a specific person. If an incorrect first or middle name is given, in either case, the answer will be considered incorrect, even if the proper last name is given.

126-9-12 Contesting-A team coach or designated assistant coach must contest or appeal a decision of the quizmaster or judges and note the reason for his/her protest at the time he/she believes there has been an error and not more than two questions later. However, the protest will be resolved only at the end of the match. The judges will consult both head coaches before reaching a decision. The judges' decisions are final.

126-9-13 Procedures for Resolution:

(1) If questions are raised about the correctness of an answer a player gives and there is easy agreement of players, coaches and/or judges on the appropriate response, the issue may be resolved immediately and the score adjusted as appropriate. This resolution may include throwing out the question, but only if both coaches agree.

(2) If agreement is not easy or immediate (10-15 seconds), the game officials will make a decision. A coach may then make a formal protest. A player may ask their coach to make a formal protest, but the final decision to protest lies in the hands of that team's coach(es).

(3) If points are a factor in tie-breakers (for example, in a round robin format), then all protests must be resolved. If points are not a factor in tie-breakers (for example, in head-to-head or double elimination format), then the protest will only be resolved if it could change the outcome of the match.

(4) If the judges or their designee(s) cannot provide a resolution to a formal protest after fifteen minutes of research, the initial decision of the game officials will stand, and the answer(s) printed on the question sheet will be regarded as correct. The tournament director will then contact the question provider with this protest, so he/she can make necessary adjustments.

126-10-1 Declaring the Winner-The team with the highest number of combined points in the toss-up and team rounds will be declared the winner of that game. If a tie exists at the conclusion of the final toss-up round, toss-up questions will be asked one at a time until the score changes, either because one team gets a correct answer or is penalized, thus breaking the tie. All rules applying to toss-up questions will also apply to tie breakers. The team with the best win-loss record shall be declared the state champion, and the team with the second best win-loss record shall be runner-up, and so on. In the event of a tie in win-loss record, the tie breaker shall be determined by head-to-head whereby the winner is selected based on which team won when the two played each other. If a head-to-head tie exists, the second tie breaker shall be total points scored in the tournament. One of the score sheets will be considered the official score sheet. Each team's coach must sign the score sheet at the conclusion of the match to indicate his/her acceptance of the final score and to forfeit the right to make further appeals.

126-10-2 Procedures for Declaring the Winner:

(1) If a team, which has previously been warned or penalized for answering before being recognized, buzzes in during tie-break and correctly answers the question but does so before being properly recognized, that team will earn ten points, minus a five point penalty, for a net gain of five points, and that team will be declared the winner.

(2) The third tie-breaker shall be a 15-question toss-up with a "sudden death" tie-breaker question if necessary. In the event of a three-way tie (on third tie-breaker), one school of the three shall be drawn from a "hat" and that school will get a first round bye for the toss-up round. The other two schools play, then the bye team plays the winner of the two other schools in a second round.

(3) A coach's refusal to sign the score sheet does not guarantee the right to further appeals.

126-11-1 Substitution-Substitutions are recommended but not required. Substitutions may be made only at the end of the first toss-up round, or after both teams have answered directed questions. If the captain is replaced by a substitute before the directed questions round, a new captain must be designated.

Note: If there are extenuating circumstances such as illness, a team may substitute in the middle of a round. Extenuating circumstances are determined by the tournament director (or quizmaster if the tournament director is not available).

126-12-1 Scoring-Ten points will be awarded for each correct answer. Five-point penalties will be assessed for interrupting a toss-up question with an incorrect answer and/or for answering without being recognized as outlined in 126-9-4 and 126-9-6. A double penalty will not be assessed against a single team on any one question. The quizmaster, with the help of the judges, must inform all officials, players, coaches and audience members when a five-point penalty is given.

Note: Score checks should be made after each round, and at the request of either coach.

126-13-1 Officials-Each quiz room shall be staffed with the following personnel: a quizmaster; at least one judge, who will also keep score; and a timekeeper. Each participating team will provide a scorekeeper, who will confirm results with the judge(s). The quizmaster and judge(s) and timekeeper must be adults. The decision of the judges is final.

Notes:

(1) Adults are defined as anyone who is out of high school and over the age of eighteen.

(2) Ideally, the room should be set up with quizmaster and staff positioned centrally or equidistant between both teams, and both players and officials facing the audience, forming three sides of a square and the audience forming the fourth side. If the quiz room contains a stage, both players and officials should be on the stage. See diagrams for acceptable playing room configurations in the Scholastic Bowl Resource Guide.

(3) Separate copies of instruction sheets for game officials should be provided. Legitimate copies of those sheets shall have the same weight and force as information contained in this document.

126-14-1 Awards-Each Regional Council shall adopt a program of awards for its Scholastic Bowl competition. The Virginia High School League shall present trophies to the teams placing first and second in the championship game in each group. Medals, not to exceed 12 per team, will be awarded to the individual team members of the first and second place teams in each group.

SECTION 128: FILM FESTIVAL.

128-1-1 Sponsored Activity and Purpose-The League sponsors academic film festival competition. The League believes that participating in film production supports education in visual storytelling through conceptualizing, researching, writing, casting, directing, acting, cinematography, and editing.

128-2-1 Program-The League's film festival competition is an “all-in” state event whereby all schools are invited to submit and compete in an open format without regard to classification. Submission deadline is March 15.

128-3-1 School Participation-The League program is designed to supplement any existing program and encourages schools to submit to multiple film festivals.

128-4-1 Expenses-All production, travel, board and lodging expenses shall be defrayed by the competing schools or their contestants.

128-5-1 Rules and Regulations-Member schools are required to observe and comply with all League rules and regulations set forth in Sections 26 through 33 of the *Handbook*, with the exception of those that make specific reference to athletics, as well as with those rules and regulations which govern the Film Festival program as set forth in Sections 128-137. All members of film crews including but not limited to writer, director, lead cast, cinematographer, editor, musicians, sound and lighting must meet eligibility requirements. A violation of any

rule in this section, if discovered and reported before the end of the competition, will result in disqualification and redistribution of awards as necessary.

PM 128-5-1 Eligibility-Film Festival participants are subject to all eligibility rules except the Scholarship Rule.

128-5-2 An entry must be produced by a crew in the current school year in which it is entered in competition.

128-5-3 Films must be the original work of the entrants. Films may not be based, in whole or in part, on any other fiction or non-fiction material, published or unpublished, produced or unproduced that is not already in public domain.

Note: Works cannot be word for word from any other fiction or non-fiction material. Spoofs or editorials are acceptable based on existing copyright laws.

(1) An entry must not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity or other intellectual property or other rights of any person or entity. If an entry contains any material or elements that are not owned by the entrant, and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, the entrant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submitting such entry, any and all written releases and consents necessary to permit the use and exhibition of the entry by the VHSL, including, without limitation, name and likeness permissions from any person who appears in or is identifiable in the entry, music licenses and location releases.

(2) Proof of any permissions granted shall accompany an entry.

128-5-4 The school submitting a film must fully credit all participants on MEL and in credits.

128-5-5 Neither a soundtrack nor music is required. Use of public domain or royalty free music is permitted. If copyright protected music is used, the use must be with permission, and such permission shall be submitted in writing with the entry form. Music used may also be the original work of the entrants and credited as such.

128-5-6 Films not in English must be subtitled in English unless dialogue is minimal and not necessary for the comprehension of the film.

128-6-1 Entries-Each submission requires an entry form. Incomplete entry form, failure to include payment or submitting materials that are unable to be viewed will disqualify your entry without refund. Only entries submitted on the official entry form properly certified by the school principal and received not later than the deadline date for entry shall be accepted. The League is not responsible for materials that are lost, stolen or damaged in transit. Materials received after the received by deadline will be discarded without refund. Entry materials will not be returned.

128-6-2 Each school may enter two films in each category not to exceed 12 entries total: narrative, documentary, animation, experimental and commercial and public service announcement.

128-7-1 Format-All films must be submitted according to the instructions on the entry form. The League is not responsible for materials that are lost, stolen, damaged or unable to be viewed.

128-8-1 Film Crews-A film crew may consist of writer, director, lead cast, cinematographer, editor, musicians, sound and lighting personnel.

128-9-1 Content-The content and choice of the topics for films is important. Schools must create work which is honest in its fundamental concept, which is suited to the emotional development of the students, and which is handled with taste and restraint. Content must be appropriate to the audience for which it is presented and in support of contemporary community standards. It is important that advisers review questionable content, language, use of firearms or other weapons or use of tobacco or other drug with the principal prior to recording. The principal's signature on the entry form will indicate approval of final film. Competition directors will not disqualify a film approved by the principal based on content, though it may receive a lower ranking/rating/score.

128-10-1 Non-exclusive Rights-Entry into the VHSL Film Festival constitutes filmmakers' irrevocable permission and consent, without compensation, for the VHSL to showcase submission at the VHSL Film Festival or any other VHSL event in as many screenings as the VHSL deems appropriate.

128-11-1 Promotion, Publicity and Marketing-Entrants permit the VHSL to use their name and/or likeness, contact information provided, title of work submitted, its logline and their results for promotional purposes. All films selected for screening may be edited, modified or excerpted for publicity purposes. The VHSL reserves the right to promote any film to print, broadcast or internet media as required to market the Festival or the VHSL.

SECTION 129: NARRATIVE.

129-1-1 Definition-The League defines narrative as "a film that depicts a fictional or fictionalized story or event."

129-2-1 Length-Narratives must be no shorter than five minutes and no longer than eight minutes in length. Timing includes opening titles and closing credits.

129-3-1 Bases for Evaluation-The criteria for evaluation shall include, but not be limited to: technical elements, storyline, acting/performance.

SECTION 130: DOCUMENTARY.

130-1-1 Definition-The League defines documentary as "a non-fictional film intended to document some aspect of reality, primarily for the purposes of instructing, informing or maintaining a historical record."

130-2-1 Length-Documentaries must be no shorter than five minutes and no longer than eight minutes in length. Timing includes opening titles and closing credits.

130-3-1 Bases for Evaluation-The criteria for evaluation shall include, but not be limited to: subject matter and technical elements.

SECTION 131: ANIMATION.

131-1-1 Definition-The League defines animation as "a film that creates continuous motion by means of rapid display of a sequence of static images that minimally differ from each other." Animations may be created from graphics, clay, puppets, stop motion, etc.

131-2-1 Length-Animated films must be no shorter than two minutes and no longer than eight minutes in length. Timing includes opening titles and closing credits.

131-3-1 Bases for Evaluation-The criteria for evaluation shall include, but not be limited to: technical elements, storyline, and acting/performance.

SECTION 132: EXPERIMENTAL.

132-1-1 Definition-The League defines experimental film "an artistic filmmaking practice that focuses on sensory aesthetics and is often characterized by the use of various abstract techniques (out-of-focus, rapid cuts, etc.), the absence of linear narrative, and often has the goal of placing a viewer in a thoughtful space."

132-2-1 Length-Experimental films must be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than eight minutes in length. Timing includes opening titles and closing credits.

132-3-1 Bases for Evaluation-The criteria for evaluation shall include, but not be limited to: creativity, artistic merit, sensory appeal, and technical elements.

SECTION 133: COMMERCIAL.

133-1-1 Definition-The League defines commercial as "announcements intended for television or the Internet that aim to persuade or sell a product."

133-2-1 Length-Commercials must be thirty or sixty seconds exactly in length. Timing includes opening titles and closing credits, if any.

133-3-1 Bases for Evaluation-The criteria for evaluation shall include, but not be limited to: persuasive merit, technical elements, and creativity.

SECTION 134: PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT.

134-1-1 Definition-The League defines public service announcement as "announcements intended for television or the Internet that aim to influence the public towards a particular course of action. Political ads are not part of the PSA genre.

134-2-1 Length-Public service announcements may be up to 60 seconds in length. Timing includes opening titles and closing credits, if any.

134-3-1 Bases for Evaluation-The criteria for evaluation shall include, but not be limited to: persuasive merit, technical elements, and creativity.

SECTION 135: PREVIEW AND OFFICIAL SELECTION PROCESS.

135-1-1 Jury-Members of the Jury (filmmakers, film educators, critics and film enthusiasts) will, independently and without consultation, review each submission in its entirety. All films will be evaluated in writing and ranked.

135-1-2 Official Selection-The festival director or designee shall compile the results, and the eight best films in each category will become Official Selections. In the event of a tie, jurors will consult to make a decision. Should a film be removed, disqualified or otherwise withdrawn from the Festival after the Official Selection announcement has been made, the next highest scoring film (First Alternate) will take its place. No alternates beyond first shall be permitted as an Official Selection. Official Selections will be screened at the VHSL Film Festival and the film with the best ranking in each category will be designated Best Film.

135-1-3 First Refusal-Once films are announced as Official Selections to the VHSL Film Festival, films may not be publicly screened or viewable online until after screening at the VHSL Film Festival.

SECTION 136: STATE FILM FESTIVAL.

136-1-1 State Film Festival-A state Film Festival shall be held annually on dates specified on the Activities Calendar.

136-1-2 A festival shall consist of six separate categories as follows: Narrative, Documentary, Animation, Experimental, Commercial and Public Service Announcement.

136-1-3 The order of screening shall be determined by the festival director.

136-2-3 All schools will receive a complete report of jurors' written evaluations and rankings. Entrants must accept without reservation the decisions rendered by the jurors.

136-2-4 Clerical or tabulation errors may be corrected within 60 minutes of the announced results. A school that leaves the festival site before the review period is complete forfeits the right to appeal or correct results.

SECTION 137: AWARDS.

137-1-1 Best Film-The production with the lowest total of three ranks shall be declared the Best Film in its respective category (Best Narrative, Best Documentary, Best Animation, Best Experimental, Best Commercial, Best Public Service Announcement). A trophy will be presented to each Best Film winner, and individual members of each winning film crew will receive medals.

137-2-1 Audience Choice- The production with the highest number of audience votes at the VHSL Film Festival live screening shall be declared the winner of the Audience Choice Award in its respective category (Audience Choice Narrative, Audience Choice Documentary, Audience Choice Animation, Audience Choice Experimental, Audience Choice Commercial, Audience Choice Public Service Announcement). A trophy will be presented to each Audience Choice winner, and individual members of each winning film crew will receive medals.

SECTION 138: ROBOTICS.

Note: This is an emerging activity beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

138-1-1 Purpose-The program is intended to encourage schools to participate in robotics as a part of their activities programs, to stimulate interest and exploration in the areas of STEM, and to assist the advisers and administration of their school in improving the quality of their student's experiences.

138-2-1 Program-The League program in the field of robotics consists of separate evaluation for each school relative to established evaluation criteria. Each member school desiring to participate submits its completed application for evaluation in accordance with the following regulations and instructions.

138-2-2 In order that all interested schools may receive the benefits of additional training as well as the comments and criticisms of program evaluators, League-sponsored workshops will be offered each fall on the dates specified in Weekly Update or the VHSL website. Information regarding the content and the general organization of the workshops will be provided to every member school well in advance of each activity.

138-3-1 School Participation-Every school sponsoring robotics, no matter how developed the program or in what form, is encouraged to participate in the League program in order that its advisers and students may benefit from the feedback, suggestions and comments of the evaluators. Each entry receives an individual evaluation. All schools have an equal chance of receiving top awards in comparison to all others as each will be considered on its merits within established criteria. In modern high school settings, STEM should be deeply rooted in the instructional program of the school. Principals are urged to plan a school robotics program and to encourage student participation. It is recommended that the principal:

(1) Discuss and review plans for school participation in robotics at a meeting of the faculty held early in the school year and present these plans to a subsequent student assembly.

(2) Appoint a teacher and administrator or other support staff to sponsor and develop the school program and to coach participants therein. It is recommended that this sponsor be appointed early in the school year and that he/she be encouraged to attend conferences conducted for robotics sponsors and coaches.

(3) Request all teachers cooperate in the identification of promising students in their classes for participation in the robotics program.

138-4-1 Rules and Regulations-In robotics, both individual representatives and member schools shall observe and comply with League rules and regulations set forth in Sections 26 through 33 of this *Handbook*, except those that apply exclusively to athletes as well as those rules and regulations which govern the robotics program as set forth in Section 137. A violation of any rule in these sections will result in disqualification from consideration.

138-4-2 Entry Deadline-Only those robotics applications which are received in the League Office by the deadline date published on the VHSL website will be accepted for evaluation.

138-4-3 Only entries which are submitted with the official entry form, complete and properly certified by the school principal, appropriate fees, and received not later than the deadline date for entry will be accepted.

138-5-1 Evaluation Procedures-Each evaluator prepares an evaluation of each entry. This consists of a written report on the appropriate evaluative criteria booklet and annotated comments written on the supplemental application materials which have been submitted.

138-6-1 Levels of Evaluation-For the purpose of assigning programs to levels of evaluation within each group classification, all schools entering robotics shall be listed by order of their membership as recorded in their evaluative criteria booklets.

138-7-1 Evaluative Criteria-The Evaluative Criteria Booklet is designed to provide general guidelines for the incorporation of sound robotics practices and will be sent to evaluators along with the application form and supplemental application materials which assist the evaluator by permitting the team to alert him/her to special circumstances in finance, production, personnel and/or peer expectations, and traditions. The more that an evaluator knows about a program, the more capable he/she is of rendering a realistic reaction to the work accomplished and in suggesting methods for improvement.

138-7-2 Any member school may propose changes in the evaluating criteria by mailing suggestions to the League office, by presenting these suggestions, in writing, to the assistant director at a robotics event or by sending the suggestions to the Robotics Advisory Committee.

138-7-3 Proposed changes shall be discussed at the regular meetings of the Robotics Advisory Committee. Proposals which the committee adopts would become effective the following school year and would be printed and distributed to all member schools immediately after acceptance.

138-8-1 Robotics Evaluators-Evaluators used to evaluate robotics program applications submitted to the League office shall be selected by the assistant director depending on their knowledge of robotics and their prior experience with evaluating robotics programs. The assistant director may select both Virginia and non-Virginia evaluators for original evaluations and/or re-evaluations.

138-9-1 Awards-The ratings of Trophy Class, First Class, and Second Class will be awarded within each level of evaluation, and determined by the evaluator's judgement of applications. Judgements of evaluators will be considered final. No maximum or minimum number of awards are allotted to any rating level.

138-9-2 All rankings and awards given will be announced at the Robotics Championship and a listing of all programs ranked shall be distributed to all member schools.

SECTION 139: ESPORTS.

139-1-1 Purpose-The program is intended to encourage schools to participate in esports as a part of their activities programs to stimulate interest and exploration in the areas of STEM and the commercial entertainment industry; and to assist the advisers and administration of their school in improving the quality of their student's experiences.

139-1-2 Program-The League program in the field of esports is delivered by the platform provider. The platform provider will register, schedule, track and manage all participating schools' online activity during the season. Any technical issues experienced by a school must be brought to the attention of the platform provider immediately to expedite an effective resolution.

139-2-1 Rules and Regulations-In all League sponsored esports competitions, both individual representatives and member schools are required to observe and comply with all League rules and regulations set forth in Section 26 through 33 of this Handbook, with the exception of those that make specific reference to athletics, as well as those rules that govern each specific contest as set forth in Section 139. All VHSL rules governing eligibility and sportsmanship shall apply. Violations of any of these rules render the offender liable to such disciplinary action as the appropriate district, regional or state committee may impose.

NOTE: VHSL competition is also subject to the playing rules of the platform provider. Violations of the playing rules, as set forth in materials published by the platform provider, are subject to penalties established by the platform provider.

139-3-1 Equipment-The platform provider will publish a "Minimum Required Equipment and Specifications" list to participating schools annually.

139-4-1 Schedules-Each school shall make its own tryout, practice schedule, and allow practice within the dates published on the current year's VHSL Activities Calendar. Access to available games will be granted by the platform provider according to published dates of availability.

139-4-2 Minimum Practice Requirement-There is no minimum practice requirement for esports.

139-4-3 Regular Season-The platform provider will group participating schools according to the prevailing practices approved by the Executive Committee for regular season competition.

139-4-4 Each school team, and each individual player shall be limited to eight matches per game-title per season and two invitational tournaments per season, exclusive of district, regional and state tournament matches.

139-4-5 Invitational tournaments shall be conducted as a single-day event. Teams may participate in an unlimited number of dual matches in the tournament. Tournament results will not factor into regular season standings.

139-5-1 Suspended/Interrupted Matches-Matches which are suspended or interrupted prior to completion due to technical issues not in the control of a competing school, shall be restarted immediately upon resolution of the technical issue, or at a later date unless both schools agree to accept the score at the time of interruption as final.

139-6-1 Regional and State Championships-following the regular season, the platform provider will provide for a state championship according to the prevailing practices approved by the Executive Committee for post season competition.

139-6-2 Post Season Eligibility-Enrolled teams must regularly attend and complete their matches throughout the regular season to be eligible for playoffs. Teams that forfeit three or more regular season matches will not be seeded into their league's playoff bracket. These teams may still compete through the rest of the regular season but will not be seeded into the playoffs bracket.

139-6-3 State Championships-Playoff bracket sizes are established based on predetermined breakpoints set by the platform provider (PlayVS). These breakpoints are set to provide a competitive experience while allowing more teams to participate based on total playoff-eligible teams. When the number of eligible teams meets or exceeds the designated "Team Breakpoint (X)," the bracket size may also change. The following table illustrates the breakpoints with the number of playoff-eligible teams on the right and the corresponding row indicates the size of the bracket on the left.

Bracket Breakpoints are as follows:

Bracket Size	Team Breakpoint (X)
Top 4	4
Top 8	12
Top 16	24
Top 32	48
Top 64	96

For example: A league with 43 playoff-eligible teams will have a bracket size of 16.
Playoff bracket sizes will be determined based on the number of playoff-eligible teams at the end of Regular Season Week 4.

139-6-4 Championship Game Titles-The League will offer a fall season with championships in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate & League of Legends, while offering a spring season with championships in Rocket League & Mario Cart.

NOTE: Teams and individuals permitted to play approved regional titles offered on the PlayVS platform outside of the titles offered as championships in the respective seasons

139-6-5 Team Restrictions-Each school may enter only one (1) team per game-title in the playoffs.

SECTION BREAK

The following pages include information on awards, agreement with professional baseball and competition with non-member non-public secondary schools. The following sections are included:

Section	140-145	Awards
	141	School Awards
	142	Individual Awards
	143	Academic Excellence Awards
	144	Special Recognition
	145	District and Regional Awards
Appendix A		Agreement with Professional Baseball
Appendix B		Requirements for competition with non-member non-public secondary schools

Awards

SECTION 140: RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT.

140-1-1 Purpose-League awards are intended as recognition of the achievements of both schools and individuals rather than as rewards for participation. It is hoped that this recognition will stimulate interest and participation in the League program, but the emphasis is upon the values in achievement rather than upon the values of the awards themselves.

140-2-1 Types of Awards-The League shall present the following types of awards:

(1) **School Awards**-For presentation to those schools whose teams or individual contestants win championships and for schools whose teams win second place in events in which second place is selected.

(2) **Individual Awards**-For presentation to individual contestants who win specified places in state competition and to members of teams in specified activities whose schools receive trophies for first or second place in state competition.

(3) **Academic Excellence Awards**-The League has established a VHSL Academic Excellence Awards program in order to recognize individual participants in Virginia High School League activities who excel in the classroom.

(4) **Special Recognition**-For recognition of outstanding service to the League by individuals and institutions.

SECTION 141: SCHOOL AWARDS.

141-1-1 State Competition:

(1) A gold trophy will be awarded to each school whose team wins first place in state competition and, where such runner-up and third place positions are selected, to each school whose team wins second place or third place in such competition.

(2) A gold trophy will be awarded to each school whose entry wins first place in state competition among Creative Writing Folders.

(3) A gold trophy will be presented to each school awarded first or second place at the State Theatre Festival.

(4) A mounted, engraved certificate will be awarded for Trophy Class magazines, newsmagazines, newspapers, online newspapers, yearbooks and broadcasts.

(5) Certificates for First, Second and Third Class magazines, newsmagazines, newspapers, online newspapers, yearbooks and broadcasts.

SECTION 142: INDIVIDUAL AWARDS.

142-1-1 Types of Individual Awards-The following types of awards will be given to individual contestants:

(1) Medals will be awarded to individual winners of specified places in the following state competitions: Cross Country, Debate, Golf, Gymnastics, Tennis, Track, Wrestling, Essay, Poetry, Short Story and Speech Activities.

(2) Medals will be awarded to members of teams whose schools receive trophies for first and second place in such state competitions as Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Cross Country, Debate, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Theatre Festival and Volleyball.

(3) Principals having special reasons for awarding more than the allowed number of medals to team members may request of the Executive Director additional medals. Schools will be asked to provide the number of medals needed and enclose a check, payable to the League, for the current price of the requested medals.

(4) Schools whose students receive such medals shall be responsible for whatever special engraving is desired.

SECTION 143: ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS.

143-1-1 Nomination and Selection-Students would be eligible for a VHSL Academic Excellence Award by meeting the following criteria:

(1) Students must comply with all VHSL eligibility standards during the period of the award (i.e., the sports or activities season).

(2) For athletic activities, including cheerleading, the student must be a varsity letter winner in a VHSL sponsored sport.

(3) For League programs of debate, drama, speech, creative writing and publications, candidates must be varsity letter winners or meet an equivalent degree of participation in their respective activity as determined by their adviser and principal.

(4) Students must achieve a minimum composite grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale based on results from a grading period as determined by the school principal.

143-1-2 Certificates of Recognition-Upon request of a member school principal, the League would make available VHSL Academic Excellence Award certificates suitable for presentation to students qualifying for this honor.

SECTION 144: SPECIAL RECOGNITION.

PM Section 134 SPECIAL RECOGNITION (10-94)-VHSL recognition will be given when criteria is met and not necessarily when the recipient retires. (1-96) – Recognition will be determined by a special selection committee.

144-1-1 Executive Committee Desk Piece-May be presented to any individual who has served on the VHSL Executive Committee.

144-1-2 VHSL Regional Award of Merit-Each region may nominate one administrator, including athletic/activity directors; one coach of any VHSL sport; and one contributor (officials, academic activity advisers or directors, media and others) for a total of three people who have positively impacted high school activity programs at the district, regional or state level that year. All regional nominees will receive VHSL recognition.

144-1-3 VHSL Lifetime Achievement Award-Individuals will be recognized for long-standing service of at least 15 years and exceptional dedication to the Virginia High School League or its programs as administrators (including athletic/activity directors), athletic coaches or contributors (officials, academic activity advisers or directors, media and others).

144-1-4 VHSL Torch of Honor-The League's highest honor recognizes service above and beyond the call of duty. In evaluating nominees, consideration will be given to outstanding service to VHSL at the regional and/or state level beyond that mandated by regular employment, service to other professional organizations, innovation in developing new programs or expansion of existing programs, and other evidence of exceptional service to high school activity programs over a period of at least five years.

144-1-5 Nomination and Selection-Nominations for the VHSL Regional Award of Merit will be forwarded to the Executive Committee by each region. Anyone may submit to the Executive Committee a nomination for a person to receive either the Lifetime Achievement Award or the Torch of Honor. Each nomination must be accompanied by a statement giving full details supporting the nominee's qualifications as relating to the criteria for recognition. The Recognition Committee will review all nominations and make recommendations to the Executive Committee for Lifetime Achievement and Torch of Honor. The Executive Committee will recognize all regional nominees for the Award of Merit and all approved recipients of Lifetime Achievement and Torch of Honor at the annual fall membership meeting. Outgoing members of the Executive Committee will be recognized at their final official Executive Committee meeting.

PM 144-1-6 Larry Johnson SMAC Award (9-03)-This award may be presented annually for significant contributions to the health and safety of VHSL participants.

PM 144-1-7 Wells Fargo-VHSL Stay In The Game Awards (7-98)-This award is presented annually to schools who receive no player or coach ejections for the current school year.

PM 144-1-8 Claudia Dodson VHSL SEI Award (12-04)-The Claudia Dodson VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award was revised to a self-assessment format.

PM 144-1-9 National Guard Cup Points-Winners of the National Guard Cup are determined by a point system based on performance in VHSL state competitions. Schools can earn points for outstanding participation in athletic competitions as well as the five academic activities involving team champions — scholastic bowl, creative writing, debate, theatre and speech. Points are awarded on the following basis: first place, 50; second place, 45; third place, 40; fourth place, 35; fifth place, 30; sixth place, 25; seventh place, 20; and eighth place, 15. Points (5th through 8th place) will be awarded to teams reaching regional finals, in lieu of state quarterfinals, in football and tennis (9-08). In film festival, schools placing both entries in the top eight places will earn points only on the highest scoring entry in that category (9-24). Scoring for school publications is based on the ranking earned in the League's evaluation service: Trophy Class, 35; First Class, 20; Second Class, 5. Schools entering more than one publication in a single category will earn points based on their highest evaluation (9-24).

SECTION 145: DISTRICT AND REGIONAL AWARDS.

145-1-1 Program of Awards-Each District and Regional Council shall adopt a program of awards for winners of district and regional competition. If trophies are awarded in such programs, they shall be in conformity with the League's program at the state level.

APPENDIX A

Agreement with Professional Baseball

The Virginia High School League, Inc., is a party to an agreement reached by the National Federation of State High School Associations and the Association of Professional Baseball Leagues of America to ensure a friendly working relationship between the two groups and to stimulate a healthy interest in high school baseball. The agreement sets forth, among other things, the rule governing the signing of high school boys to professional baseball contracts. That rule, applicable to major and minor baseball league, appears below:

Major-Minor League Rule 3 (h)

(h) High School Players

(1) No student of a high school shall be signed to a contract by a major or minor league club during the period the student is eligible for participation in high school athletics. In any instance where such eligibility has expired prior to the student's graduation from high school (a) because of the student's age, or (b) because he/she has completed the maximum number of semesters of attendance, he/she may thereafter be signed to a contract which does not obligate him/her to report for service prior to graduation of the class with which he/she originally entered high school, i.e., until eight semesters after his/her original entry into the ninth grade.

(2) A student who drops out of high school prior to expiration of his/her athletic eligibility and continues to remain out for at least one year may thereafter be signed to a contract for immediate service provided his/her withdrawal from high school was not suggested, procured or otherwise influenced by the club contracting with him/her, or by any official or employee of such club or of any of its affiliates.

(3) Nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting any major or minor league club, its officers, agents or employees from talking to any high school student at any time concerning a career in professional baseball and discussing the merits of his/her contracting, when eligible therefore, with any particular club.

(4) Tryouts to which students may be invited may be conducted during the school year, provided that (1) no student shall be permitted to participate in any such tryout unless the principal of his/her high school, if not employed by major or minor league club, shall have approved such participation in writing, and (2) provided further that any such tryout must be limited to not more than five high school students per school.

(5) Any contract made in violation of this rule shall be declared null and void and the offending club (and any club owned by or affiliated with such club) shall be prohibited from signing such player for a period of three years from date of declaration of voidance of such contract. In addition, such club shall be fined $500, by the commissioner in the case of a major league club, or by the president of the National Association in the case of minor league club, and the official, scout or employee of the offending club who participated in the violation shall be subject to such penalty as the commissioner or the president of the National Association, as the case may be, shall impose.

(6) This rule shall apply to all high school students in the 50 states of the United States of America and shall not apply to high school students attending high schools outside the said 50 states of the United States of America.

APPENDIX B

Upon being informed as to whether a Virginia non-member non-public secondary school (private, preparatory, parochial, etc.) agrees to abide by the special regulations governing non-public schools, League member schools may decide whether or not to compete with that non-member school.

To be eligible to represent the school in any athletic contest with a Virginia High School League, Inc., member school, a student of a non-public school shall meet the following requirements:

1. **Bona Fide Student Rule**-*The student shall be a regular bona fide student in good standing of the school which he/she represents. See Section 28-1-1.*

2. **Grade Rule**-*The student shall be enrolled in the last four years of high school. See Section 28-2-1 and 28-2-2.*

3. **Enrollment Rule**-*The student shall have been regularly enrolled in the non-member non-public school which he/she represents not later than the fifteenth school day of the semester. See Section 28-3-1.*

Exception: Any student enrolling in a non-member non-public school more than 15 days after the matriculation date of that school, either by normal enrollment or by transfer from any other school, shall be eligible for participation in contests with League member high schools only after a period of 90 days from the date of his/her enrollment in the non-public school.

4. **Age Rule**-*The student shall not have reached the age of 19 on or before the first day of August of the school year in which he/she wishes to compete. See Section 28-5-1.*

5. **Semester Rule**-*The student shall not have been enrolled in the last four years of high school for a period of more than eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the semester in which he/she was enrolled for the first time in the ninth grade. The eight consecutive semesters shall be counted continuously from that point, regardless of whether or not he/she remains continuously enrolled in school. See sections 28-7-1 and 28-7-2.*

6. **Amateur Rule**-*A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived therefrom. See Section 28-8-1.*

7. **Independent Team Rule**-*See Section 28-11-1.*

To be eligible to represent the school in any nonathletic activity with a Virginia High School League, Inc., member school, a student of a non-public school shall meet all of the above listed regulations except the Amateur Rule and the Independent Team Rule with the further provision that an 8th grader may participate in any nonathletic activity.

Non-public schools shall observe the following school regulations in all athletic contests and competitions with Virginia High School League, Inc., member schools:

1. **Headmaster's Responsibility**-*Final authority and ultimate responsibility in all matters pertaining to the athletic activities of the school shall be vested in the headmaster.*

2. **Officials Rule**-*Officials shall be mutually agreed upon by the faculty representatives of all schools concerned. See Section 27-6-1.*

3. **Eligibility Certificate**-At least 10 days before an athletic contest between a non-public school and a League member school the headmaster or principal of the non-public school shall send to the principal of the League member school a complete squad list to which is appended the signed statement of the headmaster that all those listed meet the eligibility requirements to which the non-public school has subscribed for such contests as set forth above.

4. **Proselytizing Rule**-No non-public school or group of individuals representing the non-public school shall subject a student from a member school to undue influence by encouraging that student to transfer from a member school to a non-public school for interscholastic activities. See Section 27-10-1.

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Policy Manual

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2026-27 VHSL ATHLETIC/ACTIVITY POLICY MANUAL

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PREFACE

This manual is designed to assist in the orientation of Executive Committee members and member school principals as well as providing pertinent information related to the general operation of the VHSL.

The policies as found in this policy manual are adopted by the Executive Committee of the Virginia High School League with due regard for the VHSL By-Laws and all policies prescribed in the VHSL HANDBOOK. All new policies and procedures or any change in established policies and procedures within the VHSL must be authorized by the Executive Committee for inclusion in the policy manual. No new policies and procedures, nor any changes in existing policies and procedures, may be effected by letter, memorandum, or telephone, except as authorized by the Executive Committee or Membership.

The Executive Director of the League is the policy link to the League's administrative staff, clerical staff, and the League's member schools. Acting within the guidelines of League and Executive Committee policy, the Executive Director makes internal policy.

The policies and procedures contained in this manual supersede all policies and procedures otherwise or previously issued. Any member school principal or member of the League staff who wishes to establish new policies and procedures, or make a change in existing policies and procedures will submit a proposal to the Executive Director in writing for reference to the Executive Committee or Membership.

Any action or communication based upon an interpretation of either VHSL HANDBOOK policy or this policy manual will be cleared with the Executive Director, and in some instances an assistant director, in advance.

Oral interpretations by the Executive Director and the assistant directors shall not be regarded as binding, but merely advisory, and shall not be considered official. If later committed to writing, however, such interpretations shall have the same force and effect as other written interpretations.

Written interpretations by the Executive Director, or assistant director in his/her area of responsibility, shall be official and binding on member schools unless and until they are challenged by written request for a hearing by the Executive Committee or an Appeals Committee, as authorized in Section 15-2-3 (4) and Section 33 of the VHSL Handbook.

The overall basis for interpretations and included policies rises from the philosophy and mission statement that follows.

PHILOSOPHY

The VHSL, composed of member schools in the state of Virginia, believes:

- That it is the function of the VHSL to attempt to provide programs which best fit the needs of eligible students.
- That competition is desirable in a democratic society and is best conducted under the spirit and letter of the rules provided to govern each activity.
- That the opportunity to participate should be available in individual and team events allowing for the unique differences in talents and abilities of students served.
- That good sportsmanship, fair play, honesty, and respect for others shall be evident in all participants at all levels of competition.
- That governance of all activities shall be through the democratic process with equal voice and vote for all member schools and equal right of appeal through due process.
- That activities shall be supervised, directed and officiated by individuals trained in their respective fields of service.
- That communities served shall be informed as to the function, operations, and management of this organization.
- That the scope of sponsored activities educate our youth to the need for trained minds and healthy bodies.

Furthermore, the VHSL believes in:

- providing educational opportunities for students beyond the classroom.
- ensuring fairness and equity through safe competitions.
- paving the way for personal growth.
- offering opportunities for students to develop teamwork and leadership skills.
- promoting sportsmanship, ethics and integrity.
- building better citizens through student activities.
- providing the means whereby all coaches in VHSL schools are trained in fundamental coaching competencies (9-02).

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Virginia High School League is an alliance of Virginia's public and approved non-boarding, non-public high schools that promotes education, leadership, sportsmanship, character and citizenship for students by establishing and maintaining high standards for school activities and competitions."

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(Items in parentheses represent the date of the Executive Committee meeting at which the policy was adopted.)

SECTION 200: CORPORATE SPONSORS.

200-4-1 Income Subsidization (5-83)-The staff is encouraged to seek subsidies for VHSL programs.

200-5-1 Team Uniform Logo (10-95)-Schools may obtain uniforms from corporate sponsors and may display logos on uniforms as long as they conform to National Federation rules.

200-5-1 Team Uniform Logo (9-05)-Approved the Jamestown 2007 Commemorative Patch for use by schools.

SECTION 210: LEGAL.

210-1-1 Freedom of Information Act (9-73)-The Attorney General's office ruled that for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, a VHSL member school could be treated as an employee and those portions of the Act permitting executive or closed meetings as they relate to employees could be exceptions applicable to the League.

210-2-1 Lobbying (9-81)-In response to a question as to whether elected representatives of the League or the Executive Director need to register as a lobbyist, the VHSL attorney has advised that:

> "Neither the Virginia High School League, its employees, elected officers or counsel need to be registered as a lobbyist pursuant to Section 30.28.01 et. seq. of the Code of Virginia. My rationale is that no employee, officer or counsel is employed or retained for compensation to lobby and none of these persons has any duties which include lobbying. Furthermore, none of these individuals receives compensation or substance specifically for lobby duty. None of these individuals will expend in excess of $100.00 for lobby purposes as defined by the Code."

210-2-3 Non-discrimination Policy (12-01)-An alliance of member public high schools, the Virginia High School League serves a diverse population and respects that diversity in all League activities. The Virginia High School League encourages equity awareness and supports compliance with Title IX among its member schools.

SECTION 220: REGIONAL EVENTS.

220-1-1 Awards Procurement (1-81)-Regions may secure their own or procure their awards from the VHSL state supplier.

220-2-2 Broadcast/Telecast Fees-Any fees for regional broadcasts or telecast of any event will be set by the appropriate regional council.

220-2-3 Crowd Control (5-72)-For regional events, the appropriate regional council has the same responsibility for crowd control as a school hosting a game during the regular season.

220-4-1 Expense Limitations-The following expenses may not exceed the state limitations unless the excess is paid from the region's 65% share of the net income.

(1) Facility Rental-Field or court facility rental may not exceed the regular season game rental for high school facilities. Use of municipal facilities must be authorized by the Executive Director.

(2) Personnel Fees-Tournament personnel fees may not exceed the customary and normal fees of a regular season contest.

(3) Other Costs-Costs for such items as lights, field maintenance and clean-up may not exceed the customary costs of a regular season contest.

(4) Film/Scouting Costs-All expenses for films and/or scouting must be paid from the region's 65% share of the net income.

(5) Team Travel Reimbursement-See VHSL *Handbook* 55-5-1 "VHSL State Team Travel Reimbursement Chart." Regional team travel reimbursement may not exceed the state schedule, unless the excess is paid from the region's 65% share of the net income.

(6) Hospitality Costs (5-88)-Hospitality food and hostess costs may not exceed $100 per session for the sports of basketball and wrestling and $75 per session for gymnastics and volleyball unless the excess is paid from the region's 65% share of the net income. Hospitality costs for all other sports must be paid from the region's 65% share of the net income.

220-5-1 Financial Reports-Any tournament charging an admission fee must submit a tournament report (even if a deficit) to the League office.

220-5-2 Filing Deadline (12-03)-Each regional financial report, with appropriate check if one is due VHSL, must be submitted to the VHSL office within three calendar weeks after the event has ended; a three-week grace period may be permitted by the Executive Director upon request. A $100 fine may be imposed on the region that has not submitted its reports and tournament proceeds within the grace period.

220-5-3 Team Travel Shares from Region (2-78)-Those regions paying money to teams advancing to the state level must take those funds from the region's 65% and not from the region's total event expenses.

220-6-1 Regional Postponement Policy-In case of extreme weather conditions which imperil travelers attempting to reach the regional event site, the regional director has permission to postpone the regional event, and therefore the state event entry form deadline, one day at a time, excluding Sundays, until the day preceding the state event. If the regional event is delayed beyond the adopted regional deadline, the regional director is required to advise the Executive Director of the postponement and required to call in, deliver or fax the regional results to the state event director as soon as the regional event is completed. In addition, the regional director is required to mail, email, deliver or fax the results to the VHSL office.

In the event that the regional event director cannot meet the "day preceding the state event" deadline, he/she shall call the Executive Director to request a delay in the state event so that the regional qualifiers will be eligible for the state event. If at all possible the Executive Director and the state event director through consultation with the Group Board Chairman and VHSL Chairman shall reschedule the state event.

220-7-1 Tournament Entry Certification-Principals are required to certify entries for region level activities, but athletic directors or coaches may certify entries from the region level to the state level.

220-8-1 State Event Responsibility (5-93)-Regions failing to identify coordinators for regional activities are responsible for obtaining all materials from VHSL office in person.

220-9-1 Videotaping (3-02)-Filming or videotaping of games/contests for scouting purposes is limited to the schools that are participating in the event. Schools not competing in the event may not film or tape the event.

SECTION 300: STATE EVENTS.

300-1-1 Authority Designation (3-78)-Each group board will establish its own date and site for each individual state championship that is not set by the Executive Committee; the Executive Committee has the authority to set dates and sites for multiple group championships, to set sites and dates in emergency situations, to set sites for state soccer and wrestling championships and beginning 9-94 has authority to set pairings. If the situation involves only one board, the board officers have authority to set the site and date.

300-2-1 Cheerleaders (5-93)-Cheerleaders shall cheer from an area designated by the director.

300-3-1 Pairings (9-94)-The Executive Committee has the authority to set playoff pairings for all sports. For those playoffs where teams from the same region might face each other in the semifinals and are scheduled to play at one school's home field, the regional champion will host the game.

300-4-1 Videotape Sales For Football Games (5-92)-Commission to VHSL per video sold – $5.00. Company must pay non-refundable $500 telecast fee which is then deducted from the VHSL commission on total sales. If company uses video as a delayed telecast and sells videos, then company must pay $500 telecast fee, plus $5.00 video commission.

APPENDIX 1

EIGHTH GRADE INSURANCE/ELIGIBILITY INTERPRETATIONS

STAFF INTERPRETATIONS

1. Q: Our eighth grade is housed at a separate building, in the middle school; but our school division has determined that the more talented eighth grade athletes may "play up" with ninth graders on the high school's "freshman" football team. Is this legal?

ANSWER: Yes. Those designated individuals may represent a VHSL school, must be certified on a VHSL MEL, and are covered by the League's catastrophic insurance for that sport.

(Note: The school must count those eighth graders when computing insurance premiums.)

2. Q: What if John Smith, an eighth grader in the above situation, plays "freshman" football for the high school, but plays on the middle school basketball team. What is his status?

ANSWER: He plays by VHSL rules in football and is covered by catastrophic insurance in that sport. He plays by local (middle) school rules in basketball and is <u>not</u> covered by VHSL insurance in basketball; however, the school division may purchase optional insurance for its middle school athletes.

3. Q: May the "freshman" football team above play games against (a) a high school sub-varsity team with students above grade nine, (b) a middle school team with all eighth graders, and (c) a middle school team with seventh and eighth graders"

ANSWER: Yes, in situations (a) and (b) unless local rules prohibit such competition. No, in situation (c) because no student <u>below</u> the eighth grade may participate in any VHSL contest.

4. Q: After the "freshman" team above finishes its regulation game, may players who did not see action be allowed to participate in a "fifth" quarter?

ANSWER: No. Contests may not be extended for such purposes. (See section 54-3-2 above.)

NOTES