



New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association

CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

Name

The organization shall be known as the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association.

ARTICLE II

Purposes

- Section 1. To develop, maintain, and foster athletic standards of excellence among the Catholic Secondary school of New York State.
- Section 2. To promote and cultivate the ideal of sportsmanship, good citizenship, and moral integrity by means of athletic participation and competition.
- Section 3. To equalize athletic opportunities by standardizing rules of eligibility for Individuals, by classifying for competitive purposes the institutions which are Members of the Association, and by promoting uniform standards in the arrangement and control of sectional tournaments and athletic programs.
- Section 4. To foster sound athletic programs as an effective and contributive part of the educational program of Catholic secondary schools and as an outgrowth and supplement to formal physical education programs.
- Section 5. To represent the member schools of the Association with the State Education Department and other athletic educational agencies in the determination of polices and programs affecting interscholastic athletics in secondary schools of this state.

ARTICLE III

Membership

- Section 1. All Catholic high schools in New York shall be eligible for membership, provided that they agree to meet the objectives of the Association and its regulations, and that they have the approval of the respective Superintendent of Schools for those dioceses in which they are located.
- Section 2. Non-Catholic high schools in New York State shall be eligible for membership, provided that they have agreed to meet the objectives of the Association and its regulations and have the approval of the respective Superintendent of Schools for those dioceses in which they are located, and have been accepted into a diocesan Catholic league.

ARTICLE IV

Finances

Section 1. Each member school shall be assessed only as provided in the Bylaws.

Section 2. Administration of the finances of the Association shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary under the general supervision of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V

Administration

Section 1. Affiliation with Superintendents' Council

The governing body of the New York State Catholic High School Athletic Association shall be the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents, of which the Association is an affiliated organization. As an affiliated organization, the Association's Constitution and Bylaws must be approved by the Council; the Association may be dissolved by three-fourths vote of the Council's entire membership; and the Association shall present to the Council an annual report of their activities. This report shall be in writing and may at the request of the President of the Council, be required to be presented by an officer of the Association.

Section 2. Executive Committee

- a. General administration of the Association shall be the responsibility of its Executive Committee.
- b. Membership on the Committee shall be composed of the following representatives from each of the dioceses of New York State: the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, or his representative, a representative of the secondary school principals of the diocese, a representative of the boys' athletic association of the diocese, or of the athletic directors and coaches of the diocese if no formal diocesan organization exists, a representative of the girls' athletic association of the diocese, or of the athletic directors and coaches of the diocese if no formal diocesan organization exists.
- c. The selection of representatives to the Executive Committee is left to the Superintendent of Schools for each diocese. Each Superintendent is free To designate a representative who fulfills part or all of the above qualifications; therefore, any diocese may be represented by no less than one, and no more than four members. Irrespective of the number of representatives, each diocese shall have four votes.
- d. There shall be no specified term of office for Executive Committee members. However, after the second meeting of each school year, the Executive Secretary of the Association shall obtain from each Superintendent of Schools confirmation of or changes in the diocesan representation.

Section 3.

Officers

- a. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer whose respective duties are described in the Bylaws.
- b. The officers shall be chosen by the Executive Committee at its annual spring meeting in odd-numbered years. Newly elected officers shall assume their responsibilities with the close of that meeting.
- c. The term of office shall be two years, renewable for a second term of two years.
- d. Procedures for the election of officers shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall meet twice each school year, in the fall and again in the spring, generally in November and May.

Section 2. No meeting of the entire membership of the Association shall take place at any time unless for an extraordinary reason, approved by at least half of the member schools of the Association, and approved by the Council of Catholic School Superintendents.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President of the Association.

Section 4. A quorum at all Executive Committee meetings shall consist of representation of one-half of the dioceses; in the event of an odd number of dioceses within the province, the quorum would be half the dioceses plus one.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution of the Association may be amended by two-thirds vote of the member school voting.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at any fall meeting of the Executive Committee. If approved by the Executive Committee, the vote of the member schools shall then be sought prior to the spring meeting of the Executive Committee. The amendment to the Constitution, if approved, would become effective following the annual spring meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Constitutional amendments must be approved by the Council of Catholic Superintendents.

Section 4. Amendments to the Constitution may be submitted by any member school. Such

a proposed amendment must be received in writing on or before October 15 of each school year for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Association at the fall meeting.

Section 5. Any proposed amendment, which is disapproved by the Executive Committee, shall be reconsidered as an amendment and shall be submitted to the Association's membership if at least 20 member schools endorse the proposal in writing to the Executive Secretary on or before April 15 of each school year.

Section 6. All voting on proposed amendments must be by written ballots, signed by the principal of the member school, and submitted prior to the deadline date; the minutes of the annual spring meeting will record the full and exact vote of the members of the Association.

BYLAW I

Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President of the Association shall:

- a. Preside at all regular meetings of the Executive Committee.
- b. Convene, when necessary, special meetings of the Executive Committee and preside there at.
- c. Call and preside at meetings of the entire Association when established in accordance with the requirements of the Constitutions of the Association.
- d. Appoint chairman and members of all committees set up by the Executive Committee; the President shall be an ex officio member of all such committees.
- e. Serve as the Association's representative with other agencies and organizations unless he specifically delegates that responsibility to another member of the Executive Committee.
- f. Have authority to interpret and apply the regulations of this Association in particular instances to member schools unless the seriousness of the matter requires a special meeting of the Executive Committee.
- g. Direct and work with the Executive Secretary in carrying on the business of the Association.

Section 2. The Vice-President of the Association shall:

- a. In the absence of the president of the Association exercise the powers of the President.
- b. Assume the office of the President when the position becomes vacant or when the President becomes incapacitated.
- c. Fulfill those responsibilities assigned to him by the President of the Association.

Duties of the Secretary

- Section 3. The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows:
- a. Supervision and administration of the Association's offices, employees, records, equipment and materials.
 - b. Preparatory and follow-up procedures for all meetings of the Association including all necessary minutes and other such records.

Duties of the Treasurer

- Section 4. Association budget and submission of an annual accounting of receipts and expenditures.
- a. Preparation and administration of the Annual Association budget and submission of an annual accounting of receipts and expenditures.
 - b. General responsibility for the functional administrative requirements of the Association.

BYLAW II

Duties of the Executive Committee of the Association

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President and shall conduct such business as may be useful or necessary for furthering the interests of the Association.

Section 2. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, establish other committees, to which it may delegate specific functions. These committees may be formed from its own members, from the personnel of member schools, or from both, provided that no more than one member be appointed from any one school.

BYLAW III

Annual Dues

Section 1. Member schools shall pay annual dues in the amount fixed by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Council of Catholic School Superintendents.

Section 2. The annual dues become payable at the beginning of the school year and should be remitted to the Treasurer not later than November 1.

Section 3. The assessment and collection of the annual dues may be temporarily suspended for any given year when the financial accounts of the Association are sufficient to maintain operation and when the Executive Committee so decides at its annual spring meeting with the approval of the Council of Catholic School Superintendents.

BYLAW IV

Athletic Policies and Regulations

Section 1. Minimum Standards

The Regulations of the Commissioner of Education of the State of New York shall be the basic minimum standards for athletics for all member schools.

Member schools must abide by the minimum standards of the NYSCHSAA and also abide by the rules of its own Section and/or diocese.

Section 2. Appeals

All protests should be made in writing to the appropriate local official of the organization exercising jurisdiction.

Section 3. Eligibility

- a. Eligibility regulations of the Commissioner of Education of the State of New York shall be the required minimum enforced by the Association.
- b. Member schools should comply with the eligibility regulations of the State Association, and the acceptance of membership should be constructed as an agreement to that effect.
- c. Infractions of the eligibility regulations shall be judged and penalties recommended by the Executive Committee or applied as within the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee.
- d. Eligibility rules stated here within shall apply to all varsity, junior varsity, sophomore and freshman teams involved in interscholastic competition.
- e. A pupil shall be eligible for interscholastic competition up until his/her 19th birthdays. If he/she attains the age of 19 on or after July 1st, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports.
- f. A student in a four-year high school is eligible for eight consecutive semesters of interscholastic athletic competition after entry into the ninth grade and prior to graduation.
- g. A student who transfers from one high school to another is eligible two weeks after his entrance, provided he has enrolled during the first fifteen days of the semester and provided that such a transfer has been made within the first fifteen days of the sports season as specified by the NYSCHSAA Sports Standards, September 1st will be used for Fall Sports. Any waiver of this regulation deemed necessary because of extenuating circumstances must be recommended by the diocesan league and approved by the officers of the state Association. (See Commissioner Regulations – updated 11/96)

h. The principal of the school is held responsible for the observance of the eligibility rules contained in this article.

i. 5th Year of Athletic Eligibility for Accident/Illness: the change increased the requirement of supporting documentation by the chief school officer to include an explanation on how the accident/illness resulted in the athlete needing additional semester(s) to meet graduation requirements. This was included at the request of the NYSPHSAA to eliminate the intentional retention of athletes so they could participate on a team.

j. Foreign Students (International Students): we will follow the guidelines put forth in the PHSAA handbook.

Section 4.

Representation

a. A contestant or athletic team shall not represent a school except in conformance with all rules and regulations. It shall be the duty of trustees and boards of education to require that athletic activities be limited to competition between secondary school students.

To be eligible for sectional, intersectional or state competition, a team must have competed in six (6) school scheduled contests which occurred on six (6) different dates during the season. Forfeits do count towards a student meeting the representation rule.

Team Sports: For the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball an individual is eligible for the team if he/she has been an eligible participant on a team in that sport in that school for a minimum of six (6) scheduled contests during the regular season. For football and competitive Cheerleading (Oct. 2021), a student must be an eligible participant for a minimum of three (3) contests/competitions.

Team/Individual and Individual Sports: For the sports of archery, badminton, bowling, cross country, fencing, golf, gymnastics, rifle, skiing, swimming, tennis, outdoor track, winter track and wrestling an individual must also have represented their school in six (6) scheduled contests (Girls Wrestling three (3) for two-year pilot – Oct. 2022) during the season to be eligible. These required contests must occur on six (6) different dates and must be conducted prior to the conclusion of the team's regular schedule. See "NOTE" below.

Section Athletic Councils may request in writing approval of the State Executive Committee to adjust the number of school scheduled contests required on an annual basis.

The request is to be submitted prior to the governing board meeting. School districts may submit a written request to the Section for adjustment of contests for individual participant based on medical documentation that confirms the individual was not able to participate in the required number of contests. In extenuating circumstances where the student does not have a medical reason for a waiver of the representation rule, the NYSPHSAA Executive Director, in consultation with the Section Executive Director and

NYSPHSAA President, shall have the ability to grant a waiver of the representation rule. Waiver requests must be made in writing by the Section's Executive Director (Approved Oct. 12, 2017).

NOTE: For the sports of golf and girls' gymnastics, a waiver of the Representation Standard may be granted by the NYSPHSAA Executive Director when a student has qualified for participation in the current school year's NYSPHSAA Championship event and has subsequently transferred to a NYSPHSAA member school. The athlete must meet all other eligibility standards, including transfer, to receive the waiver.

NOTE: Teams organized for one gender may only practice and compete against teams of that same gender. Furthermore, once an individual competes on a team for one gender during the regular season, he/she may not compete for or against a team organized for the other gender during that regular season.

NOTE: For individual, individual/ team sports, when a school district does not have a team designated for each singular gender, the Section Executive Director may grant a waiver of the Representation Standard for Sectional Competition when a student has met the qualification for participation in the current school year's NYSPHSAA Championship event. The waiver request must be submitted to the Section Executive Director before the start of Sectional Competition. The athlete must meet all eligibility standards to receive the waiver.

NOTE: For individual, individual/ team sports, a girl may participate during the regular season as member of the boys team via mixed competition and also compete in tournaments/matches organized specifically for girls, as long as she does not exceed the maximum number of contests during the regular season. (Feb. 2019)

b. All games, meets, and tournaments must be conducted by an appropriate secondary school authority.

c. Participation by a student in more than one sport in the same time division shall be determined by the Section Athletic Council.

d. Games and practice between students and adults (alumni or faculty) are not approved.

e. To avoid unfair advantage a student who elects to participate in an interschool sport may not represent a school in that sport in a subsequent season in that school year. Waived For Unified Sports for the 2022-2023 school year. (Oct. 2022)

Section 5.

Post Schedule Programs

a. This article shall regulate the following:

1. All post schedule programs within a diocese shall be approved by the local association of the diocese.

2. Inter-diocesan programs must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Association.
3. The diocesan league playoffs and the NYS Federation Tournament are approved post schedule games, meets or tournaments.

Section 6.

Prohibitions

- a. Interscholastic boxing among member schools is prohibited.
- b. No team, or individual student, may represent its school in any post-season games, meets, or tournaments
- c. No school squad or member of a school team shall participate in a non-approved "All-Star" contest, before, during, or after the regular season.

Section 7.

Limitation on Games and Practices

- a. Out of season practices are forbidden. However, practices during vacations are permitted where the vacation falls within the legitimate limits of the sports season.
- b. Diocesan tournaments may be entered by member schools provided that tournament has the approval of the Association.

Section 8.

Penalties

- a. Probation. The cause for probation shall be the willful violation of the Constitution or Bylaws of this Association.

During probation a school may play its regularly scheduled games but shall not be eligible for any sectional awards in this sport.

- b. Suspension. A school may be suspended or put on probation for the following:
 1. Non-payment of dues
 2. Playing a suspended school
 3. Out of season practice
- c. Expulsion. A school may be expelled if it refuses to abide by the decisions of the Executive Committee.
- d. Forfeit of games. A school may be required to forfeit games:
 1. For playing ineligible players
 2. For other violations of the Constitutions and Bylaws.

BYLAW V

Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meetings of the Executive Committee provided that the proposed amendment is submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary one month before the scheduled meeting and is distributed to Executive Committee members no

later than two weeks prior to the meeting, provided that the amendment is approved by the Superintendents' Council.

Amended and Approved 5/19/23