

**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 schools 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 instructions 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 policies and programs affecting interscholastic athletics in secondary schools of this state.

Article III – MEMEBERSHIP:

Section 1. All Catholic high schools in New York State 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 boys' athletic association of the diocese, or of the athletic directors and coaches of the diocese if no formal diocesan organization exists, and 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, and 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 and a Vice-President 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.

Section 4. Executive Secretary

The Executive Committee shall appoint an Executive Secretary whose duties are described in the Bylaws.

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 schools 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.

Section 3. Constitutional amendments must be approved by the Council of Catholic School 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 its 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 ballot, 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 by members of the Association.

BYLAWS 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 Constitution of the Association.
- d. Appoint chairperson 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/she specifically delegates that responsibility to another member of the Executive Committee.
- f. 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 power of the President.
- b. Assume the office of the President when that position becomes vacant or when the President becomes incapacitated.
- c. Fulfill those responsibilities assigned him/her by the President 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.

BYLAWS III – Duties of the Executive Secretary

Section 1. The Duties of the Executive 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.

c. Preparation and administration of the annual Association budget and submission of an annual accounting of receipts and expenditures.

d. General responsibility for the functional administrative requirements of the Association.

Section 2. The Executive Secretary shall not be a voting member of the Executive Committee, but he/she shall represent the Association only as its chief administrative officer. He/she shall submit all matters requiring policy determination to the President of the Association and to the Executive Committee.

BYLAW IV - 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 Executive Secretary 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.

BYLAWS V – 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 officials 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 construed 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 herewith shall apply to all varsity, junior varsity, sophomore and freshman teams involved in interscholastic competition.

e. A pupil shall be eligible for interscholastic competition in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 until his/her 19th birthday. If the age of 19 is attained on or after July 1st, the student may continue to participate during that school year in all sports.

f. A student shall be eligible for inter-high school athletic competition during eight consecutive semesters after entry in the ninth grade and prior to graduation unless sufficient evidence is presented to the league authorities to show that the pupil's failure to enter competition during one or more semesters was caused by illness, accident or similar circumstances beyond the control of the student. A pupil enters competition in a given year when the pupil is a member of the team in the sport involved, and that team has completed at least one contest.

Section 4. 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 play-offs, State Intersectionals, and Federation Tournaments are approved post schedule games, meets or tournaments.

Section 5. 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 6. 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 that sport's season.
- b. Diocesan tournaments may be entered by member schools provided that tournament has the approval of the Association.

Section 7. Penalties

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

During probation a school may play its regular 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 practices**
- 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 VI - Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting 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 two-thirds of the total vote of the executive Committee, and provided that the Bylaws change is approved by the Superintendents' Council.

Amended and Approved 5/8/80

Amended and Approved 5/1/86