

2009 - 2010
Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.
Handbook



MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Mississippi High School Activities Association is to serve its member schools by providing leadership and coordination of interscholastic activities which will enhance the educational experiences of secondary students and reduce risks of their participation. The MHSAA will promote participation and sportsmanship to develop good citizens through interscholastic activities which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals.

Part 1 – Constitution

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of the Association is the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated.

ARTICLE II – ORGANIZATION

The State Association has been incorporated under the Laws of the State of Mississippi as a voluntary nonprofit organization, and it has the authority to acquire, purchase, lease, accept by donation or otherwise, property – real, personal and mixed, to control and manage the same, with members of the State Executive Committee being Ex-Officio trustees for said property.

This Association shall consist of the eligible schools of Mississippi which hold membership in district units. The district units function through their executive committees, and the State Association functions through the State Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to promote the general welfare of the secondary schools in their relations with each other. This is done through:

- A. Planning, directing, and controlling contests, games and other inter-scholastic activities.
- B. Defining and fixing responsibility.
- C. Elevating the standards of sportsmanship by seeking to strengthen the moral fiber of all concerned.
- D. Developing a higher standard of scholarship and encouraging pride in scholastic achievement.
- E. Encouraging the formation and promotion of noncompetitive activities, which contribute to the molding of moral and spiritual values in character development as part of a well-rounded extracurricular program.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. Individual Members

Secondary schools that do not practice or have a policy of racial discrimination and which are accredited by the State Department of Education of Mississippi or the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools are eligible for membership in the MHSAA. If a school loses certification by the accrediting body of the State Department of Education or the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools, it may not participate in any post season play but can participate in regular season games and tournaments (NOTE: The school will be classified as an independent and games will not count in division play). Southern Association accreditation applies only to those schools that are not under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Education's accreditation system. Membership by an individual school in Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., includes membership in the appropriate district of the State Association, but in no way releases the school from its obligation to pay a district membership fee when such a fee is assessed by the vote of the member schools of the district. The principal or his designee will be the voting member for an individual school.

The principals of those schools, which wish to maintain membership in the Association for the current year shall complete the annual membership form and return to the State Office no later than August 1. By completing and returning the annual membership form, the principal binds himself and the members of his faculty to familiarize themselves with the Constitution and regulations of the Association; and to instruct the student body and the public in them, especially those students who are candidates for interscholastic activities; to keep on file detailed scholastic, athletic and attendance records of all students; to forward promptly to the Executive Director all eligibility lists, reports, and records required; and to enforce the provisions of this constitution within his school. All information called for on the annual membership form shall be furnished.

The district of an Agricultural High School is the county or counties taxed to support it.

The district of a private or parochial school will be a boundary of a twenty (20) mile radius from the actual location of the school. The district can only contain territory in Mississippi.

When an A.H.S. or a junior college with an A.H.S. is located in the territory of a consolidated school, the separate district may hold a joint membership in the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., provided an application shall be approved by a resolution of the governing boards the eligibility of contestants in the combined schools. Only pupils who reside in the taxing district of the consolidated or separate district shall be eligible for interschool competition in this combined unit except as provided for under Article 1, Section B, of the By-laws of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated.

SECTION B. Classification of Member Schools

For the purpose of electing officers, assessment of dues, and competitive purposes, the member schools shall be divided into classes 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A.

No school may be a member of two districts at the same time. Change from one district to another can only be made by a school having consent for such change from the executive committees of both districts concerned, and the change becomes effective only after both district committees have notified the Executive Director of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. in writing.

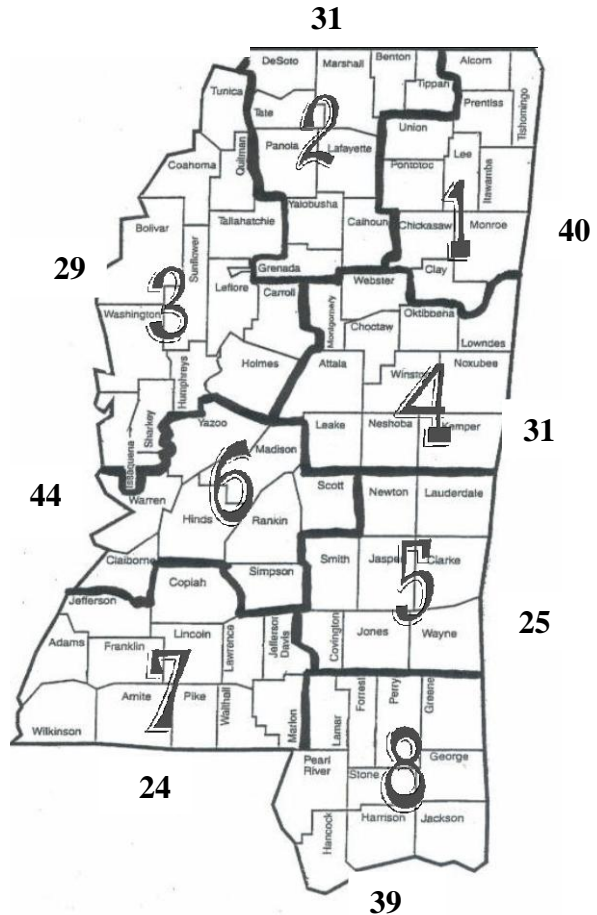
These districts are to provide local representation in the State Association and to facilitate local competition leading to various statewide contests.

SECTION C. Conferences

Any member school may hold membership in a conference organized within the state to administer competition and promote better relationships among its members. Such conferences may be organized without regard for district lines but must be approved by the Executive Director and the Executive Committee of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated.

DISTRICTS

There shall be eight districts. The general outline of those districts is shown by the attached map. There shall be one and only one office of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.; and it shall be located in Clinton, Mississippi. The venue for any legal action brought against the Association shall be the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi.



263 High Schools
309 Junior High Schools

ARTICLE V – Officers

SECTION A. How Chosen and Terms of Office

1. State Council

The State Council of this Association shall consist of thirty-three (33) high school members (11 blacks and 22 whites), composed of the President and thirty-two (32) Councilmen. The President shall be elected by the State Council for a four-year term and may not succeed himself or herself. The terms of office for high school Councilmen shall be for a four year period but staggered so that only eight will be retired each year with the following exception:

Should the election of the President cause an unbalancing of the 11 to 22 racial ratio of the Council, the district from which the President comes shall make the proper adjustment in the racial make-up of that district’s representatives, in order to maintain the 11 to 22 ratio of the State Council. The adjustment will be made with one of the three regular district representative and not the alternating representative.

State Council and Executive Committee members must attend two-thirds of the scheduled meetings in a year or be removed unless providentially hindered.

One of the four high school district representatives shall be designated as alternating representative (white to black or black to white at the end of term).

Each District will elect a junior high representative to the State Council as a voting member for a four-year term.

An at Large Member representing the area of fine-arts (band/choral/speech/debate) will be appointed by the MHSAA Executive Committee for a four year term.

The President may come from any district in the state, but his selection must be alternated between North Mississippi (Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4) and South Mississippi (Districts 5, 6, 7, and 8).

A Vice President of the Association shall be elected from the Executive Committee by the Legislative Council. The Vice President must be from the same region (North/South) as the President. The term of the Vice President shall expire with his term as an Executive Committeeman or the term of the President.

2. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of this Association shall consist of twelve (12) members and two (2) at large and the president of the Association, all of whom shall be elected by the State Council.

The eight white committee members, one from each district, and two of the four black committee members, shall be non-rotating. Districts 3 and 6 shall have two non-rotating blacks. One of the black committee members will rotate from the north districts 1, 2, and 4 and the other black committee member will rotate from the south districts 8, 7, and 5. Only three committee members shall be retired each year. (This allows all Executive Committee members to be elected as at-large delegates.)

The MHSAA Executive Committee will be increased to fourteen (14) members by adding two female members.

- a. The members will be elected as at-large members for a four-year term.
- b. One member will represent districts 1 – 4 and one member will represent districts 5 – 8.
- c. One member will be black and other white.
- d. The first south member will be represented by a black female, and the race of the two members will be alternated after the initial election.

3. Executive Director, Deputy Director and Associate Director

The Executive Committee shall elect an Executive Director, who will recommend all other personnel and fix their salaries and duties upon the recommendation of the Executive Director. The Executive Committee shall prescribe the duties of the Executive Director, and the duties of the Deputy Director and the Associate Director, and all other personnel shall be assigned and designated by the Executive Director.

4. Advisory Committee

There shall be two Advisory Committees, each consisting of six members, and they shall be so distributed as to have two members from North Mississippi, two from South Mississippi and two from Central Mississippi. The chairman of each committee shall be an administrator appointed by the Executive Committee of this Association for a four-year term. A member of an Advisory Committee may serve a maximum of four years. The members of each committee, other than the chairman, shall be elected as follows:

- a. Band – the remaining five members of this committee shall be band directors representing bands of different classifications, chosen by the Band Division of the Mississippi Bandmasters Association. There shall be four white members and two black members.
- b. Music (Vocal and Piano) – the remaining five members shall be composed of three public school music teachers and two piano teachers chosen by the Mississippi Music Educators Association. There shall be four white members and two black members.
- c. Advisory Committees will be consulted in both athletic and activity areas, whenever necessary.

5. District Officers

Each district shall have a committee composed of a president, a vice-president, a secretary-treasurer, and five committeemen. Each member shall be entitled to one vote on all matters being considered by the committee.

The president shall serve for a term of one year. The vice-president shall automatically be elevated to the presidency at the end of the first year. One committeeman from each classification shall be elected for three-year terms, and the secretary-treasurer for a term of five years. There shall be five white members and three black members on this committee.

6. Qualifications

The President and each member of the State Council, Executive Committee, Advisory Committee, and District Committees must be a full-time certified administrator, teacher, or coach of any one of the member schools and remain so throughout his or her term of office. Executive Committee members must be full-time administrators. All district and state elections must be held by secret ballot.

Should the President or a member of the State Council, Executive Committee, Advisory Committee or District Committees cease to hold any such position with a member school during his or her term of office, he or she shall thereupon become ineligible to hold such position and a vacancy shall automatically occur. District Secretaries that are presently elected (2000) may continue to serve until they are not re-elected.

SECTION B. Duties and Powers

1. The State Councilmen shall have the following duties and powers:
 - a. Amend the constitution; (subject to approval by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.).
 - b. Amend the by-laws or make new ones; (subject to approval by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.).
 - c. Make appointments as specified in the constitution.
 - d. Represent their respective districts in council meetings and make reports to their constituency on action taken. Individual councilmen have no authority except in council meetings.
2. The State High School Activities Association Executive Committee shall have the following duties and powers:
 - a. Employ a full-time Executive Director on a contract basis.
 - b. Approve or disapprove all changes in the constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations of the Association made by the State Council.
 - c. Interpret rules and regulations when called upon to do so by the Executive Director.
 - d. Investigate on its own initiative and apply penalties to member schools for violations of the rules when for any reason the Executive Director has not taken action.
 - e. Approve or disapprove policies set up by the Executive Director.
 - f. Serve as an Appeal Board.
 - g. Transact all executive and administrative duties not delegated to the Executive Director.
 - h. Have final authority over all actions of the Executive Director.
 - i. Suspend district officers, after a hearing, for failure to perform their duties.
 - j. Authorize checks to be signed in case of an emergency.
 - k. Provide adequate bond for the Executive Director.
 - l. Provide for an annual audit of the books.
 - m. Modify the application of athletic game rules and codes when the common welfare of the activities program may demand such modifications.
 - n. Approve or disapprove a temporary waiver of an eligibility rule by the Executive Director.
3. The President of the Association shall have the following duties and powers:
 - a. Call and preside over meetings of the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee and State Council.
 - b. Keep a careful check on state finances and cause a financial statement to be made semi-annually to the State Council.
 - c. Assist the Executive Director in the general conduct of the business of the Association when called upon to do so.
4. The Vice President of the Association shall have the following duties:
 - a. Preside over meetings of the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee and State Council in the absence of the President.
 - b. Fill the unexpired term of the President should he/she cease to hold that position until a new election can be held.
5. The Executive Director shall have the following duties and powers:
 - a. Keep accurate minutes of the meetings of the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee and the State Council.
 - b. Keep accurate records of all state contests and eligibility status of all students.
 - c. Furnish necessary forms and information to member schools.
 - d. Receive and pay out money in accordance with policy set up by the State High school Activities Association Executive Committee.
 - e. Render semi-annually a financial statement of receipts and expenditures to the State Council and State High School Activities Association Executive Committee; send an annual report to all member schools.
 - f. Do any work as directed by the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee.
 - g. Construe and interpret the rules of the Association.
 - h. Rule on all questions of eligibility which may be referred to him.
 - i. Penalize member schools and assess fines for failure to comply with regulations.
 - j. Investigate upon his own initiative cases where irregular conduct seems to have occurred.
 - k. Be responsible for the arrangement and control of all state contests of any nature.
 - l. Serve as the Executive Officer of the Association in the execution of policies set up by the State High School Activities Association Executive Committee.
 - m. Meet with the Advisory Committees, when possible.
 - n. Set up and administer an office.
 - o. Investigate any cases of irregular conduct reported to him by member schools or district committees.

- p. Request district committees to make investigations of irregular conduct in their districts and report irregularities to him. All requests to the Executive Director for rulings and all opinions rendered by him must be in writing. Oral opinions shall not be binding on the Executive Director of the Association.
 - q. Approve a temporary waiver of all eligibility rules with the exception of the age limit rule for a student who in his opinion is faced with circumstances that are unforeseen, unavoidable or unusual until the next Executive Committee meeting.
6. The Advisory Committees shall have the following duties and powers:
- a. Recommend rules and regulations for the government of such contests, festivals, and other activities as come under their respective jurisdictions.
 - b. Make plans in cooperation with the State Executive Director for the holding of all contests, festivals, and other activities as come under the jurisdictions of the respective committees.
7. The District Committees shall have the following duties and powers:
- a. In conjunction with the Executive Director, arrange dates and control all district contests, tournaments, and festivals within their respective districts.
 - b. Investigate on its own initiative or on request of the Executive Director any cases of irregular conduct and make a report to the Executive Director.
 - c. Assist the Executive Director on his request in securing information relating to eligibility cases.
 - d. Aid the Executive Director in conducting hearings when schools or individuals are charged with a violation of the rules and regulations of the Association.
 - e. Each district shall certify the condition of their athletic facilities as deemed necessary. All facilities shall provide a safe environment for players and fans. Non-certified facilities shall not be used for interschool competition.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

There shall be two kinds of meetings during the year: (1) joint meetings of the State Council (Legislative Council) with the Executive Committee for legislative purposes, and (2) special meetings of the Executive Committee for executive business.

There shall be three regular joint meetings: (1) early in November, (2) February, (3) and in April.

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be held at any time upon call of the president or a majority of the Executive Committee. Special meetings of the State Council or special joint meetings of the State Council and the Executive Committee may be called by a majority of the Executive Committee. Five (5) days notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be given. A majority of the membership of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for a special meeting of that body, a majority of the membership of the State Council shall constitute a quorum for a special meeting of that body, and a majority of the membership of each the Executive Committee and the State Council shall constitute a quorum for a joint special meeting of said two bodies.

ARTICLE VII – LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Full legislative authority shall be vested in the legislative body. Any legislative act shall require a majority vote of the State Council membership concurred in by a majority vote of the Executive Committee for passage. If the Executive Committee fails to approve by a majority vote any proposed alterations in the rules, amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws, or additions thereto, then the State Council may pass such proposals over the veto of the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of the Council membership. Any state and/or federal court ruling supersedes any rule or regulation in the Handbook upon approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII – DUES

Dues shall be assessed annually by the State Executive Committee to pay a part of the operating cost of the Association. Membership dues in the amount of 25¢ per pupil shall be paid as follows:

- A. Schools organized as four grade high schools (9-12) will pay membership dues on all high school pupils enrolled, including grade 9.
- B. Schools organized as three grade high schools (10-12) will pay membership dues on all high school pupils enrolled. Schools so organized which use one or more ninth grade pupils in any interscholastic activity must pay membership dues on all pupils enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11, 12.
- C. Schools organized as two-grade high schools (11 – 12) will pay membership dues on all high school pupils enrolled. Schools so organized which use one or more tenth grade pupils in any interscholastic activity must pay membership dues on all pupils enrolled in grades 10, 11, 12.
- D. All middle schools or junior highs will pay membership dues based upon total enrollment.

200 pupils or less -	\$40.00
201 to 500 pupils -	\$52.50
501 or more -	\$65.00

Dues shall be paid to the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., by August 1 of each year; otherwise a penalty of one year's additional dues must be paid by the school. Annual dues shall be based on the enrollment reported to the accrediting commission for the current year.

ARTICLE IX – EXPENSES

Expenses for the conduct of all Association activities on a state level shall be paid from the state treasury of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, except the expenses of Councilmen attending the three regular, annual joint meetings of the Council with the Mississippi High School Activities Association Executive Committee, which expense shall be paid by the districts. The expense of Councilmen to any special meetings shall be paid from the treasury of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.

ARTICLE X – RESPONSIBILITY

The superintendent, principal, coach, or other representative of the school in charge shall be the responsible officers of the school. They shall be responsible for the conduct of those connected with their school, both at home and on trips, as representatives of the school and community. They shall be responsible for courteous treatment of visitors, both by those connected with their school and by outsiders, during the game or contest. The school will be held responsible for any acts of violence instigated by the school officials, students, or partisan fans. The Executive Committee and the Executive Director of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. will recognize no plea of extenuation which suggests that those officers are not responsible. A security plan must be submitted to the MHSAA office before the first athletic event of each year and must be followed at all events.

The school administration has a responsibility to educate student athletes, coaches, and other appropriate persons on state association legislation that could affect them. Further, the member should monitor its compliance with state association legislation. Note: See Hazing/Harassment Policy, page 33.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

SECTION A

This Constitution and By-Laws and any rule or regulation may be amended at any joint meeting by a majority vote of Council members concurred in by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee fails to approve by a majority vote, then the State Council may pass legislation over a veto of the Executive Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council membership.

A proposed change in the Constitution, By-Laws or any rule and regulation must be submitted to the November, February, or May meetings. If acted on favorably, it must lie on the table until the next regular meeting for final approval. Items receiving final approval will become effective the following July 1.

SECTION B

A proposed amendment to the Constitution, By-Laws, or any rule or regulation must be submitted to the Executive Director in advance of the joint meeting at which they are to be considered. The Executive Director shall submit them to State Council members and Executive Committee members in advance of the meeting.

In order for an item to be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Legislative Council and Executive Committee at the regular joint meeting, it must have first been approved by majority vote of a district or by order of the Legislative Council or the Executive Committee in session. This includes Coaches Association, Bandmasters Association, or any other special interest group.

Part II – By-Laws

ARTICLE I – CONTESTS

SECTION A – General Rules and Regulations

No member school may compete with any non-member in any activity governed by the MHSAA, without prior approval of the Executive Director. Association member schools shall not participate with or against schools outside of Mississippi unless the out-of-state schools are members, in good standing, of their home state association recognized by the National Federation.

1. Division and State Contests

- a. All contests for the division shall be the same as for the state. However, a division may add to the recognized state contests, if the district informs the schools ahead of time that the winners will not have an opportunity to compete on a state basis. A school may play as an independent in a sport for no more than two consecutive years. If a school desires to play as an independent in the sport for a longer period of time, the school must play as an independent in all sports.
- b. In the event a school enters a division activity and later withdraws from division play leading to a state championship or festival for any reason other than a providential hindrance, the school may be placed on probation for the remainder of the school year and fined \$250.00.
- c. Division contests are similar to and a part of the state program and are subject to the same regulations as the state contests.
- d. No division shall reduce the number of recognized state contests.
- e. Schools may allow their eligible students to take part in festivals or special events sponsored by other agencies. If such an event involves four or more schools, it must be approved by the Executive Director. If the special events or festivals involve activities sponsored by the MHSAA, they must not have any element of a contest. This shall not be interpreted to interfere with American Legion Junior Baseball and other Americanism programs or summer community activity programs.

2. Students Who are Eligible for State Contests

- a. Winners of first and second places in division individual contests and winners of first and second place division team contests are eligible to participate in state contests or tournaments. Teams that are placed in regions for competition will advance the top four teams.
- b. Winners of first, second, third, and fourth places in Division Track Meets, Region Meets, and North/South Meets are eligible to participate in the State Meet.
- c. The first and second place team winners with at least a qualifying score of 375 in the Division Golf Tournament shall be certified to play in the State Golf Tournament. The first and second place individual winners from each division are also eligible to participate in the State Tournament. Team winners that place first, second, third, and fourth place with at least a qualifying score of 365 in the Regions 6A and 5A Golf Tournaments shall be certified to play in the State 6A and 5A Golf Tournament.
- d. Alternates may be submitted in both literary and athletic events, provided they are certified by the division officials. This means that alternates must be certified in the order that they place in division contests.
- e. In team events, a school after qualifying for an event in a division meet or tournament, may substitute a team member between meets or tournaments leading to a state championship, but no school will be permitted to substitute a complete team between meets or tournaments. Any team member, before being substituted for, must be disabled for further participation because of illness or accident.

3. Number of Contests and Contestants

- a. Each school is entitled to one representative in individual contests except platform contests and individual track and field events, and one team in group contests in division and state meets or tournaments. A basketball team shall be composed of a maximum of 15 team members in participation leading to State Championship. The same team that represents a school in division meets or tournaments must continue to represent the school in the state playoffs. No school shall be permitted to use a "B" or second team against opponents in the same classification or in division and state playoffs.
- b. An athlete may enter as many as four individual events during a track and field meet.
- c. A platform contestant may enter two platform events in each flight.
- d. A school may participate in two games during the school week if one game is a tournament.

4. Time for Holding Division and State Contests

- a. All division meets or tournaments shall be held at least one week prior to state meets or tournaments. All conference championships shall be determined prior to the North/South playoff.
- b. The full names of all division winners shall be sent to the Executive Director and to the appropriate North, South or State Contest managers immediately following the division meet or tournament. In track, the schools qualifying for the North/South or State meet in one or more events shall on the day following the division, North or South track meet send to the manager of the North/South or State meet the following information:
 1. The name of each event in which the school placed.
 2. The qualifying position of each team or individual.
 3. The name of each team member or individual.
 4. The qualifying school in the division track meets shall send the manager of the North or South track meet specified fees for each team member and for each individual who qualifies for the meet.
- c. The State Basketball finals shall be held not later than March 15.
- d. The State Track Meet shall not be held earlier than the last Friday in April.

5. Rules for Drawing

In state tournaments teams must be entered as first and second, but on equal footing. In all contests where a team draws a "bye" in the first series, that team must play one of the winners of the first series in a second contest. Drawings should be made so as not to have the two teams from any one district in the same bracket.

6. Judges and Game Officials

Judges in all literary and music contests shall be competent, disinterested persons selected for the district by the district committee and for the State by the State Chairman of the debate, platform, piano, and choral divisions. Adjudicators for the State Band Festival shall be selected by the Executive Director.

Game officials for the Division, North/South, and State basketball tournaments shall be selected by the Executive Director, or his designated representative.

Game sites for North basketball tournaments shall be selected by the district secretaries of districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 and the Executive Committee members from north Mississippi. Game sites for South basketball tournaments shall be selected by the district secretaries of districts 5, 6, 7, and 8 and the Executive Committee members from south Mississippi. Game sites for all state tournaments for boys and girls (6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A) are selected by the state Executive Committee. The top two teams from each classification (boys and girls) shall advance from the North and South tournaments to the State tournaments. All game officials shall be neutral officials, including clock operators. Under no circumstances shall relatives of players serve as officials.

7. Expenses

The expenses for contestants in an interschool contest is a matter to be arranged by mutual agreement. Where there is not an agreement, it is understood the visitors will pay their own expenses.

Expenses to divisions or state contests shall be paid by contestants or individual schools.

Expenses of judges and referees for interschool contests shall be paid by the home schools, for divisions or state contests by the district unit or state association.

SECTION B. General Eligibility Rules

1. To be eligible to participate in interschool activities, a contestant must:

- a. Be a bona fide student, having enrolled not later than the 15th day of any semester of participation, carry the required number of subjects for graduation by their local district and deport himself satisfactorily.
- b. Any pupil who becomes 19 years of age prior to August 1 shall be ineligible for interschool competition. A FINE OF \$1000 WILL BE ASSESSED ANY SCHOOL THAT PLAYS A STUDENT WHO IS TOO OLD.
- c. Not be a graduate of a four-year high school.
- d. Not have enrolled in a college or junior college or participated in athletics above the high school level, and no eligible high school student shall be permitted to participate on a college level in any activity. However, a student who has successfully completed his or her junior year and is academically talented may take college courses as allowed by the Mississippi Department of Education, none of which would render the student more proficient in any sponsored activity of the MHSAA. The only restriction to be observed by pupils who participate in summer college academic programs is that they must not take any course that would ordinarily render them more proficient in a sponsored high school activity during their senior year. An illustration of this restriction is that a pupil should not take a summer college course in debating or in public speaking if he plans to participate in these activities during his senior year in high school.
- e. Upon the completion of grade eight, choose the high school he/she wishes to attend in a city or district where there are two or more high schools or schools of secondary grade. When a student has chosen a high school and enrolled in and attended that school for one day or longer, the school of his choice shall become his home school. In a junior high school situation, the choice of grade nine in a given junior high school means the choice of the senior high school, which is designated by the appropriate school board as the senior high school for the graduates of that particular junior high school. Any pupil who enters grade 9 in a member public junior high school or grade 10 or above in a member public high school and then transfers to a member private or parochial high school shall be ineligible for a period of one year. The same is true where a pupil enters grade 9 in a member parochial or private junior high school or grade 10 or above in a member parochial or private high school and then transfers to a member public high school. Upon transfer from the first member high school chosen to the second member school, he will be ineligible for competition in both athletic and literary contests or meets until he has been in the second school for one year from the date he enrolls in the second school.

1. **COUNTY SCHOOL UNITS:** How General Eligibility Rule 1(e) Applies: Since many of the counties of the state are legally constituted as County Units or County-wide School District, and since some counties do not have specific districts with definite boundaries, but use school attendance centers as the plan of organization, the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. will consider attendance areas as school districts for the purpose of determining residence eligibility. When a pupil has enrolled in any county high school attendance center, by choice or otherwise, that school becomes the home school for the pupil. After enrolling in a county high school, a pupil cannot then enroll in a second county high school and be considered eligible until he has spent one year in the second school or the family has established a bona fide residence in the second school attendance area. In a countywide school district, a pupil cannot change schools and be eligible in the second school the first year unless the family moves. A change in school bus routes will not affect this regulation.
2. **LINE SCHOOLS:** In line school situations where the school attendance area includes parts of two or more counties, pupils shall be eligible in that school regardless of which county the family lives in.
3. **TWO-COUNTY FREE PUPIL EXCHANGE SITUATIONS:** This section has reference to this type of situation: Counties A and B, by agreement or without agreement, permit a school bus to come out of County A into County B and transport pupils who live in County B to a school in County A and vice versa. In such situations the pupils shall be eligible in the county where they live, and they may establish their eligibility in the neighboring county under the provisions of General Eligibility Rule K, 1.
4. **TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM NON-MEMBER MISSISSIPPI PRIVATE SCHOOLS:** Pupils of member schools who attended non-member Mississippi private schools during the preceding school session may return to their home school without loss of residence eligibility.

5. PUPIL GROUP ASSIGNMENT OR TRANSFER TO OUT-OF COUNTY OR OUT-OF-DISTRICT

SCHOOLS: This has reference to a situation where County A has an agreement with County B by which all pupils in a given area or section of County A are transferred to a school in County B with transportation furnished and tuition paid by County A. In such a situation the pupils in the group transfer shall be considered eligible in County B.

NOTE: Individual transfers do not carry eligibility.

- f. In the case of a transfer student, the school shall secure a transcript of the high school work completed by the student and a transfer form signed by the principal of the school from whence he comes. The transfer form for out-of-state transfers shall give the date the student entered the ninth grade and whether he passed his work during the preceding year. If any school should refuse or delay unnecessarily in sending the transcript or the transfer form, when requested by the receiving school to do so, the Executive Director may, upon the presentation of satisfactory proof, authorize the school to use the student in athletic contests prior to the receipt of the transcript and the transfer form. A transfer student is one whose parents or guardian has moved from one school district to another and established a bona fide residence therein for some other purpose than conferring athletic or interscholastic eligibility on the student. Any transfer student must be in good standing from the school he/she is leaving in order to receive eligibility at his/her new school. This includes MHSAA member schools, as well as non-member schools and students transferring from out of state. Any student who transfers during a sport season, even after making a bona fide move, must be approved for participation in the same sport season.
- g. Foreign Student Eligibility - a bona fide foreign exchange student may be immediately eligible the first year in residence in the school district in which the host family is a bona fide resident and be limited to one year of eligibility provided the student is a participant in an established foreign exchange program accepted for listing by the Council of Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET), and there is no evidence of athletic recruitment resulting in the student's attendance at the school either by the school or any other outside entities. The foreign exchange student shall meet all other eligibility requirements of the MHSAA Handbook. Any student that has established eligibility at a Mississippi school and participates in a Foreign Exchange Program sponsored by a CSIET approved program will be eligible for participation immediately upon his/her return to the same Mississippi school. The student shall meet all other requirements for eligibility as listed in the MHSAA Handbook.
- h. Eligibility Reporting – The report submitted to the State Office becomes a permanent record. Care should be utilized to have the eligibility complete and correct as an error on the original filing can cause difficulty one to three years later. The school should report each student only once during a school year. Eligibility is by semesters and not by sports. At the beginning of each school year, student eligibility should be updated 15 days prior to the first game or contest. Schools which are late in filing eligibility will be fined \$50.00. Players participating in athletics or activities may be added to or changed after the beginning of the season, provided a pupil is not allowed to participate in a game or contest until properly reported. The list of players participating in athletics or activities may be added to or changed after the beginning of the season, provided a pupil is not allowed to participate in a game or contest until properly reported. Each school shall keep a file copy of the eligibility sheets.
- i. A student shall not participate in interschool contests for more than four consecutive years after the date of entering into the ninth grade regardless of when he began to participate. Entering into the ninth grade is construed to mean that a student has completed most or all of the eighth grade and is carrying at least three ninth grade subjects.
- j. If a family established a bona fide residence in a school area for the purpose of making a pupil eligible for athletics, the family must establish a bona fide residence at least 60 days prior to the opening of school.
- k. A pupil must attend school in the school district in which his parents are actual bona fide residents. A parent can have no more than one bona fide residence at any given time. A bona fide residence is one where the family actually lives. This means the specific dwelling in which the family cooks, eats, and sleeps on a regular basis and claims as its sole or primary place of residence. This rule does not prevent a parent from commuting to work and it does not prevent a father from traveling out of state when his work requires him to do so, provided he returns to the home periodically and considers the home as his legal, permanent residence. The family mail must also be received where the family lives. Neither marriage, legal guardianship, nor change of schools for subject matter purpose affect this rule. *Exceptions to Rule 1 may be made by the Executive Director in the following cases:*
 - 1. Where a student has spent one school year in a school other than his home school (bona fide residence of parents) without participating in inter-school activities and must have been released by the home school. Eligibility under this exception can be established only during the year immediately preceding participation. This includes students from broken homes, orphans, or students who do not live with their parents for any reason. If a pupil establishes his eligibility under this exception and later enrolls in his home school, he forfeits his eligibility elsewhere. Students who live in established church or other state recognized orphanages shall be eligible immediately when moved by orphanage officials to another school district.
 - 2. Where a student is in his fourth year of high school and the family moves following the opening of school, after the family has lived in the school district for one year (12 months) or longer immediately preceding the move, the student may be considered eligible in the school district from which the family moved for the balance of the school session. A ninth, tenth, or eleventh grade student, under the same conditions, may be considered eligible for the balance of the semester in which the family moved.
 - 3. Where a student has spent three consecutive years in a school and completed the tenth grade and the family moves, the student may be considered eligible in the school district the family moved from if the student lives with the parent or the person who has legal custody prior to the move. If a pupil establishes his eligibility under this exception and later enrolls in (his home school) he forfeits his eligibility elsewhere.
 - 4. A pupil whose parents reside outside the United States or who resides in an area of any state where there is no accredited high school will be considered eligible where his temporary guardian lives. However, the pupil cannot transfer from this school unless the temporary guardian changes residence. A pupil who transfers from one temporary guardian to another will be ineligible for one year. Temporary guardianship papers issued by a probate judge are not valid for eligibility.
 - 5. Where the parents of a pupil are legally separated or divorced by court order which also grants physical custody of the pupil to one of the parents, the pupil shall be eligible where that parent lives. If the pupil should thereafter transfer from the parent thus

granted physical custody by the court to the other parent living in a different school area, regardless of whether or not such transfer is the result of a court order changing custody to the other parent, the pupil must remain out of competition for one year before becoming eligible.

6. Where the parents of a pupil are legally separated or divorced by court order which also grants them joint physical custody, the pupil shall be eligible in the school area in which the parent who has been awarded his physical custody for at least a majority of the school year lives, or if no such period of physical custody is awarded to either parent, then he/she is eligible in the school area where the parent with whom the pupil first elects to live after the entry of such court order. If without court order the pupil should thereafter transfer from that parent to the other parent who lives in a different school area, the pupil must remain out of competition for one year before becoming eligible; however, the granting of any type of legal custody or change of legal custody shall not be effective under the Residence and School Transfer Rule until a period of forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of awarding of custody has been proved by a judge.
 7. If the parents have separated through no legal proceeding and physical custody has not been granted by a court to either parent, the pupil may choose the parent with whom he wishes to live, and he may be considered eligible where that parent lives. If a pupil under the above conditions transfers from one parent to the other and the parents live in different school areas, the pupil must remain out of competition for one year before becoming eligible.
 8. If the parents are living and the pupil transfers from living with them to a guardian living in another school area, the pupil must remain out of competition for one year before becoming eligible.
 9. If both parents are dead, the pupil will be considered eligible in the school area where the guardian or adoptive parent or parents with whom he first lives after the death of both of his parents. In the event there is a subsequent guardianship or adoption and the new guardian or adoptive parent or parents lives in a different school area, the pupil must remain out of competition for one year before becoming eligible.
 10. Those children whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are instructional personnel or certified employees of a school district may at such employee's discretion enroll or attend the school or schools of their parent's or legal guardian's employment regardless of the residence of the child. If a child transfers back to his home school, he must lay out a year unless his parents or legal guardian are no longer employed by the school system the child attended. Exception: Eligibility in any sport will not be granted to a student at another school once he/she has started the season in any sport at the student's home school until the parents have made a bona fide move or the season at the home school has been completed. The start of the season is considered to be when practice for that sport or activity starts.
1. In school districts where there are no accredited high schools the following exceptions may be made:

Students should be eligible in schools to which transportation is furnished and tuition paid by the county.

 1. If this is not done, students should be eligible in schools most convenient from the standpoint of distance if allowed by the local districts.
 2. When such students have participated in interschool activities at a school, they are tied to that school the same as if it were their own school.
 3. An exception to General Eligibility Rule 1(k) may be made by the Executive Director on behalf of a private boarding school pupil under the following conditions:
 - a. The student must be a bona fide boarding pupil and the pupil must live outside the County Unit, the Separate School District, or the Consolidated School District where the school is located.
 - b. Approval must be given by the Head of the last school attended by the pupil.
 - c. The Executive Director must approve.
 - d. The Head of the private school and its head coach must furnish a sworn statement that no inducement of any kind was offered in order to get the pupil to attend the private school, and that insofar as they know or believe, the pupil's primary purpose in attending the school is for some purpose other than participating in athletics.
 - e. Boarding school students coming into the United States must sit out one year before becoming eligible to participate. International students coming to the United States primarily for academic purposes would not be affected by the rule. (International students entering after the ninth grade will be allowed to play junior varsity the first year and thereafter varsity unless that student is a senior – then the Foreign Exchange rule would apply; whereby, the student is eligible for one year only.) NOTE: The MHSAA office will always need to look at each individual case if there is a question of recruiting for athletic purposes, as it does in all of its member schools.
- m. If school district boundary lines change pursuant to the applicable laws of the State of Mississippi and annex territory from School District A into School District B, students who are currently enrolled in grades nine – twelve on the effective date of said annexation, and whose parents are bona fide residents of the area within the boundaries of the area annexed in School District B, shall be permitted to choose from either School District A or School District B, the high school he/she wishes to attend. When a student has chosen a high school and enrolled in and attended that school for one (1) day or longer, the school of his choice shall become his home school. If said student then changes his home school, eligibility must be established according to Special Eligibility Rule k. 1. A student who is ineligible for any reason, in another state, shall be ineligible in Mississippi, unless the family has actually moved into Mississippi and has established a bona fide residence in the state.
 - n. **Academic rules for students participating in activities:**

To be eligible for athletics and activities, students must pass the number of courses required by their local district in order to stay on graduation track. The units will be averaged as a whole, either numerically or by GPA, and must be 2.0 or better each semester in order to maintain eligibility.

A student athlete may become eligible for the second semester only once during his/her high school career if he/she fails the year end average the previous year, by passing the required number of units with a 2.0. This will be done in order to keep the student on track for graduation.

NOTE: Detailed information on eligibility can be found on the MHSAA website, www.misshsaa.com, home page under "Eligibility".

Special education students will be academically eligible if they are making satisfactory progress according to the committees reviewing their Individual Education Plans (IEP).

Out of School One or More Semesters: If a pupil who is eligible for a given semester drops out of school for one or more semesters, he/she is then ineligible until he/she passes the required number of courses with an overall average of 2.0 during a semester. A pupil who is eligible for a given semester cannot drop out of school during the semester or remain out of school for one or more semesters and then be eligible for the next semester he attends.

SEVENTH, EIGHTH AND ENTERING NINTH GRADE PARTICIPATION: Pupils in the seventh grade, eighth grade, and entering the ninth grade participating in high school extra-curricular activities must have a 2.0 overall average (computed numerically or by GPA) for the four core courses (English, math, science and social studies) from the preceding semester. The year-end average for the spring semester will be used to compute averages for the fall semester. Students must be on track to be promoted to be eligible.

If a student meets promotional requirements at the end of the school year but is retained in the same grade, the student is ineligible for one (1) year. This is commonly referred to as redshirting. If the student participates after being declared ineligible, the school will be placed on athletic probation by the MHSAA. Also, the school could lose accreditation by the State Department of Education.

SUMMER SCHOOL CREDITS: An accredited summer school shall be considered as an extension of the second semester of the school session, and credits earned in such a school may be considered in determining the scholastic eligibility of students. The completion of a full unit, major subject, during a summer school shall be classed as passing one major subject for one unit of credit and not as passing two major subjects for one half unit each. Accredited correspondence courses may be accepted for establishing athletic eligibility provided the course has been completed and recorded by the opening of school.

b. Exceptions to Rule (1) may be made by the Executive Director in the following cases:

1. Students that have been tested, screened, and placed in a TMR or EMR Special Education program.
 2. Students that have been tested, screened, and placed in accordance with their IEP in a Special Education Program approved by the State Department of Education will be ruled eligible with the following requirements:
 - a. Make satisfactory progress in their course work.
 - b. Maintain attendance according to district policy.
 - c. Be assigned a date of entering the ninth grade corresponding to other students of that age.
 - d. Be subject to all other rules and regulations of the MHSAA.
- o. A curfew hour of 12:00 midnight is hereby set for all students who remain overnight in Jackson and participate in interscholastic activities.
- p. Undue Hardship Cases.

AUTHORITY: The Executive Committee shall have authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule except the age limit upon an individual student when in its opinion the rule works an undue hardship upon that student.

- a. Serious injury or prolonged illness supported by a doctor's records, or other conditions which are beyond the control of the student and his/her parent/guardian, that cause the student to miss school for a prolonged period of time may be considered valid reasons for requesting an undue hardship case.
- b. It is understood that ordinary cases of ineligibility shall not be considered as coming under the hardship category. Inability to participate due to illness, injury, or other medical causes shall not be considered a hardship. The fact that a student fails to pass the required number of courses, withdraws from school, is retained, or repeats his/her school work is not sufficient grounds for a favorable decision on an undue hardship case.
- c. The appropriate time for hardship application is when the hardship is discovered, not after the student has completed four consecutive years.

PROCEDURE: The Executive Committee shall meet several times a year to consider requests to have the rules set aside for the benefit of individual students and shall consider such requests at the meetings held for that purpose.

- a. The Executive Director shall rule on cases of eligibility prior to submitting the undue hardship case to the Executive Committee.
- b. Each application must be made in writing by the school principal, with the approval of the superintendent prior to the meeting and should contain all of the facts pertaining to the case, including sufficient data to make it possible to reach a decision without further investigation. .
- c. A personal appearance of the principal and/or superintendent before the Executive Committee may be requested.
- d. Each school will be given 15 minutes to present any verbal information concerning their case. The principal will designate who will speak and how many, but cannot exceed the time limit.
- e. The decision of the Executive Committee to set aside the effects of the rule in each individual case shall be by majority vote.
- f. The Executive Director shall notify the school in writing of the decision.

Section C. General Eligibility Rules, Junior High/Middle Schools

1. To be eligible to participate in interschool Junior High/Middle activities, a contestant must:
 - a. Be a bona fide student having enrolled not later than the fifteenth day of any semester of participation, carry four basic courses* and deport himself satisfactorily.
 - b. A pupil must attend school in the school district of which his parents are actual bona fide residents.
 - c. A student must pass their grade level by achieving at least an average of 2.0 in four basic courses* the previous semester (computed numerically or by GPA). The year-end average for the spring semester will be used to compute averages for the fall semester.
 - d. To be eligible for participation as a seventh grader a student must be promoted with an average of 2.0 from sixth to seventh grade and for participation as an eighth grader a student must be promoted from seventh to eighth grade with a 2.0 average.
 - e. A pupil who is not eligible at the beginning of the school year may become eligible the second semester only once during the student's junior high school career by passing four basic courses with an overall average of 2.0.
 - f. The instructional program of the district is based on an instructional management plan/system which defines core objectives, standards of mastery, and criteria for the academic promotion/progression of students from one grade level to the next. The criteria prohibit the retention of students for extracurricular purposes.
 - g. Have on file with the Executive Director at least 15 days prior to the first game or contest the eligibility list giving all information on the form required by the Director.
 - h. Age: Seventh grader must not have reached 14 years of age prior to August 1.
Eighth grader must not have reached 15 years of age prior to August 1.
Ninth grader must not have reached 16 years of age prior to August 1.
 - i. **Birth Certificates Required.** Seventh, eighth, and ninth graders shall not be eligible to participate until a certified copy of the student's birth certificate, issued by the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which he was born, has been presented to the Principal or his designee of the school. Date of birth and birth certificate number shall be listed on eligibility list (form 1) along with other information the first time a pupil's name is submitted to the state office.
 - j. Students must have been examined by a physician and have been declared physically fit. Nurse practitioners may give physicals to athletes provided they are doing so in compliance with state law and are operating under proper approved protocols. A physician or nurse practitioner must sign the certificate.
 - k. A player shall not play in more than four quarters per week in football.
 - l. Players cannot be transferred back to junior high/middle school team once they play on the high school varsity or "B" team.

* *Basic courses - Any subject that meets the equivalent of at least 250 minutes per week or meets the State Department requirement.*

Note: Any junior high student that participates on a high school team refer to item x. on page 17.

Note: Refer to page 35 – **New Sportsmanship Requirements**

Section D. Athletic Competition Rules

Rules Governing Athletic Contests

- a. **Reclassification**
 1. On the even years when schools are classified, the Executive Director will assign schools in all classifications to divisions or regions in the sports in which the school participates for the purpose of determining championship play in all team sports.
 2. Each District Division winner and runner-up in each classification will advance to the State Region (North-South). The first four teams for classes that are placed in regions will advance to post season play.
 3. A rotating bracket of division will be used for the North and South competition.
 4. All classifications and divisions will play a round robin schedule to determine division champions in football and baseball. In basketball a member school must play a round robin schedule to qualify for the division playoff. A school that is assigned to division between the first and second years of a classification period shall follow the round-robin or double round-robin format that the other schools in that division have agreed upon until the next classification.
 5. A tie breaker method will be developed by the Executive Director and approved by the Executive Committee.
 6. When reclassification of schools occurs and schools are notified, each school will have twenty (20) school days in which to notify the MHSAA as to the sports the school will compete in for the division championship for the next two school years.
- b. **Sanction for Out-of-State Games.** All athletic contests held between Mississippi high schools and schools from bordering states must be sanctioned by each of the interested State Associations if more than 300 miles (one way) travel is involved. Any interstate tournament or meet in which three or more schools participate must be approved by each of the interested State Associations. Applications for securing State and National Approval may be secured from the State Office. If an interstate event is sponsored by an individual or an organization other than a member school, National Federation sanction is required even when all schools are from states which border the host state. All events involving member schools which do not border the host state and all international events must be sanctioned by the National Federation. Such applications must be filed with the National Federation at least 30 days prior to the date of the event to be sanctioned. "Sanction will be withheld from any games, meets, or tournaments which is in the nature of a contest to determine a sectional or national high school champion or qualification therefor." Schools may participate in only one out- of- state tournament in each sport.
- c. **Summer Competition Rules and Regulations.** The following rules and regulations govern participation by students of member schools in athletic activities following the close of their school's interscholastic sports season:

1. The persons or organizations desiring to host or sponsor a league following the close of one season and prior to the opening of the next season shall get approval for holding such a league, at least five days prior to the first game, from the Executive Director.
 2. The Executive Director must be notified in writing at least five days in advance if eligible students of member schools are to participate in basketball tournaments outside the state. Such notice will give date, time, and location of tournament.
 3. Participants may compete under the school name.
 4. Restrictions on summer activities can be found in the MHSAA Sports Information Manual.
- d. **Summer Camp Regulations:** A student may not attend a summer camp unless the camp complies with the following regulations:
1. Shall not violate any rule or regulation of the Mississippi High School Activities Association.
 2. Team camps are allowed with approval from the MHSAA office. Camp students may use school uniforms if approved by the school.
 3. Camp fee (tuition) shall be paid by the athlete or his parents without concession.
 4. An individual athlete who attends a football camp shall not participate in any activity with pads.
 5. An individual athlete shall not attend a camp or camps in a particular sport for a total of more than two weeks.
 6. No money shall be received and no award of more than \$500.00 shall be received.
 7. Football camps shall not be attended after the designated "dead time" date – Exception: With special permission from the MHSAA.
- e. No school shall be permitted to use a coach unless he/she is a full-time certified employee of the school system.

EXCEPTIONS:

Student teachers may be used as assistant coaches.

A school may employ a person who retired as a certified teacher from the Mississippi Public Employees Retirement System to coach. The job description and compensation of this position will be determined by the local school system. For a retired teacher to be hired as a head coach, the local school system must document to the MHSAA that a thorough search has been made to hire a full time certified employee. *NOTE: Compensation for retired teachers must conform to the rules of the Mississippi Public Employees Retirement System. Presently a retired teacher may be employed for 120 days and paid any salary determined by the local school system or hired on a yearly basis for 25% of the salary he drew at the time of retirement.* An off-site coach (para-professional) can be the head coach in tennis, golf, soccer, volleyball, cross-country, powerlifting, archery, bowling, and swimming. The school using an off-site coach is responsible for submitting the name(s) to the MHSAA upon employment.

Steps in preparing the para-professional for their coaching position: Acquire permission from the MHSAA to use the individual. The principal or AD must submit in writing to the Executive Director the name of the individual and the sport in which he/she will be assisting. The para-professional must take the Fundamental of Coaching and the American Red Cross Safety course by going On-line to www.nfhslearn.com. The Fundamentals of Coaching course is \$85.00 and the Red Cross Safety course is \$45.00. Payment of these courses is made to the National Federation of State High School Associations. No money is sent to the MHSAA. A test on each of the above courses must be taken and passed. After completion of the test, the certificate of completion can be printed directly from the website. A copy of the certificate must be sent to the MHSAA. This certificate will be put in the school file. Para-professional coaches must take and complete CPR training. In lieu of the American Red Cross Safety course, the para-professional may choose to take the NCSS Prepare Safety course at a cost of \$60.00. The Prepare Safety course is a hands-on course. For more information on the NCSS Prepare Safety course, you may visit www.SportsSafety.org.

All coaches must have successfully completed a first aid course prior to the second year of employment. *NOTE: College first aid course satisfies this requirement.* In addition all coaches must become CPR certified by the beginning of the 2007 – 2008 school year. It is also recommended that all school systems have AED's (heart fibrillator).

f. **Athletic Contracts**

The MHSAA Office and Executive Committee recommend that all schools have a contract in all sports. If no written contract is available, the schedule submitted to the MHSAA will serve as a basic contract. The school that is responsible for canceling a contest will pay the other school \$100.00 if cancelled prior to 24 hours before the contest or \$200.00 if cancelled less than 24 hours before the contest. Games scheduled between two member schools in good standing may be cancelled by one of the following methods:

1. By mutual consent of the two schools
2. By authority of the State Executive Committee
3. By the payment of the cancellation sum set up in the contract
4. If a school has been suspended from the MHSAA, all of its existing contracts become null and void.
5. A school failing to play a sport, after declaring intent to do so on the form sent in before the school year starts, will pay a fine to the school receiving the cancellation. The amount will be determined on an individual basis per game, per year, for district and regular season games. Unforeseen circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis.

- g. All track and field contests shall be governed by the National Federation Track and Field Rules except an athlete may enter three individual events and any number of team events; cross country by the Rules of the National Federation; tennis by the Rules of USTA; football by the National Federation Football Rules; basketball (boys and girls) by the National Federation Basketball Rules; baseball by the National Federation Baseball Rules except if a team is leading by 10 runs or more and at least 5 full innings have been played. The United States Golf Association Rules shall govern play in all golf tournaments. The chairman of each tournament will determine whether summer or winter rules will apply, depending on the weather.

- h. The Executive Committee has developed the following tie breaker for all sports:
Step 1: Head to head competition in the designated division games
Step 2: How the tied teams did against the highest ranked or seeded teams in the designated division games.

Example:

	RECORDS
Kentucky 9 – 3	Kentucky 9 - 3
Arkansas 9 – 3	Arkansas 9 - 3
	MS State 8 - 4
	Florida 7 - 5
	Alabama 6 - 6

The tie would be broken by how Kentucky and Arkansas came out against MS State, then Florida, and then Alabama, and so on down the ladder.

NOTE: For volleyball only – The number of games won/lost in a match before going to Step 3.

Step 3: Points differential allowed in ONLY the designated division games involving the tied teams.

MAXIMUM POINTS

Baseball 10	Example: Kentucky – 85		Kentucky	Arkansas
Soccer 3	Arkansas – 65		+12	-12
Others 12			<u>- 4</u>	<u>+4</u>
			8	-8

Arkansas - 94

Kentucky - 90

Kentucky would win the tie breaker

NOTE: Forfeitures will receive the same maximum points as used to determine a tie breaker – example: Football – 12 points.

Step 4: Point differential allowed in the division games involving the highest ranked or seeded teams.

Step 5: Fewest points allowed in all division games. (No Maximum points)

Step 6: The two schools flip a coin.

NOTE: When more than two teams are tied and a team or teams is eliminated, from the tie breaker and two teams remain tied, the tie breaker will revert back to step 1.

- i. A registration fee shall be charged for district, region, and state meets listed in the MHSAA Sports Information Manual.
- j. **Ejection for Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Any student ejected for fighting or “flagrant” unsportsmanlike conduct (Example, but not limited to cursing an official, fan, etc.; spitting, obscene gestures) shall be ineligible for a minimum of the equivalent of next football game (4 quarters plus the fraction of a quarter that the player was ejected) or next track meet or the equivalent of two contests plus the fraction of the period that the participant was ejected in any other sport (8 quarters – in basketball; 14 innings – softball and baseball; next 4 halves in soccer). Ejected players must also complete the Star Sportsmanship remedial program – refer to page 34 of the Handbook. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates. It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, the school could be fined or forfeit the contest. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and post season play. The participant shall be ineligible for all levels of competition until the suspension has been served at the same level as the ejection occurred. **NOTE:** A terminated regulation baseball game counts as 7 innings.

COACH EJECTION

A coach will be in violation of the standards for good sportsmanship established by the MHSAA by:

1. Making degrading/critical remarks about officials during or after a contest, either on the field of play, from the bench or through any public news media.
2. Arguing with officials or going through motions indicating dislike/disdain for a decision.
3. Detaining the official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official.
4. Being ejected from any contest.
5. The school will be assessed a minimum fine of \$300.00 in the event the coach is ejected. The school must notify the MHSAA of the ejection by the next working day. If a coach is ejected a second time, a \$600.00 fee will be assessed and a recommendation to the school district for suspension. The school will be fined \$500.00 for failure to report a coach’s ejection and an official who does not report an ejection will be suspended.
6. There will be no appeal by coaches concerning judgment calls. Rule violations may be appealed.
7. An ejected coach must complete the Star Sportsmanship remedial course – refer to page 35 of the Handbook.

FIGHTING

A school will be fined \$500.00 for:

1. Team leaving bench and coming on to playing area will be automatically ineligible for playoffs or removed from playoffs.
2. Team involved in fight before or after contest (from time it arrives until it departs).

Handling a Fracas: Should a fracas begin, only the head coaches will go on the playing field or court to stop the fracas. All assistant coaches are to keep the substitutes off the playing area. The officials are instructed to stop a fracas from starting but not to

be involved once it gets underway. All cameramen must be instructed to keep the camera running and film the entire fracas. This is vital to our investigation of the responsible parties.

OFFICIAL – COACH CONFERENCE

When an official recognizes that players are not in control which could result in a disqualifying foul being assessed, the referees will call an official timeout and request both coaches to instruct their players on good sportsmanship. If a player becomes visibly upset to the degree of not being in control, the referee will send the player to the sideline to receive sportsmanship instruction for at least one play. All the above sportsmanship rules are subject to appeal.

REMOVAL OF A TEAM

Any school whose coach removes a team from the playing floor or field in protest of officials' decisions or for any other reason shall be subject to automatic probation and fined. In addition thereto, any school whose coach refuses to leave the playing area after expulsion, resulting in the forfeiture of the contest, shall likewise be subject to automatic probation. The removal of a team in protest or the refusal of a coach to leave the playing area as directed is considered to be a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct. If an emergency arises which makes it advisable to discontinue a contest, it should be done by mutual consent. When the misconduct of a coach warrants being banished from the court or playing field during a game, a responsible adult school official, (Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, Assistant Coach, or other full-time certified employee) must be available to direct and supervise the team for the remainder of the game. If no responsible school official is available, the game shall be forfeited.

ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT

If a coach allows illegal equipment to be used during a game, the school will be subject to a fine and/or placement on probation.

- k. **Third Party Videos.** If a school, school representative, or third party videos an athletic contest for scouting purposes without permission of both participating schools, the school using the video will be cited by the MHSAA as being in violation of unethical and flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct. Fines or penalties may be issued by MHSAA.

A pupil must not have been given any special inducement of any kind to attend a school to play on an athletic team.

SPECIAL INDUCEMENT IS INTERPRETED TO MEAN:

1. Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable consideration.
 2. Offer or acceptance of room, board or clothing.
 3. Offer or acceptance of pay for work in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.
 4. Free transportation by any school connected person.
 5. Offer or acceptance of a home with any school connected person.
 6. Offer or acceptance of school privileges not given to other pupils.
 7. Free or reduced rent for parents.
 8. Payment of the moving expenses of the parents.
 9. Offer or acceptance of employment for the parents in order to entice the family to move to a certain community. It makes no difference who makes the offer. The school is guilty because it plans to use the pupil to build a stronger team. If proof is established that a school has secured an athlete under any of the conditions set forth above, the school is subject to penalty and the pupil is automatically ineligible for any further athletic competition in any member school of the association.
 10. A student that plays for a coach or team made up of students from a school (school B) other than his/her home school during the non-sports season may not be eligible for school B unless a hardship is granted by the MHSAA or the student has been in school B for one calendar year from the date of enrollment.
- l. **BIRTH CERTIFICATES REQUIRED:** No pupil shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics until a certified copy of his birth certificate, issued by the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which he was born has been presented and checked by the principal or his designee of the school. A reasonable facsimile will be accepted from areas that do not issue birth certificates. The date of birth, birth certificate number and social security number shall be listed on the Eligibility Form the first time a pupil's name is submitted to the state office. The following fines will apply for any violation for this rule: \$1000.00 and probation for playing a student who is too old or a fifth year student (2) \$250.00 for a non-certified birth certificate. When requested by MHSAA, a certified copy must be presented within 24 hours. The ineligible player shall be dropped from the team and the sport or activity shall be placed on probation for a period not to exceed two (2) seasons. When requested by the MHSAA, a certified copy of a pupil's birth certificate must be presented within five (5) school days.
- m. A student who participates in an all-star football, all-star basketball, or all-star baseball game shall be ineligible in all sports for a period of twelve months from the time he participated in such a game.
- n. A student shall not represent two schools in the same sport during a season unless there is a change of residence by the family from one school district to another district.
- o. No student shall complete a season in any sport and then transfer to a member school and represent the second school in the sport during the same year.
Exception: If a student-athlete participates in a sport in a school recognized by the National Federation or by any private school association, they will not be allowed to participate again in a new season during the same school year, in the same sport. (If there is justification where a student has made a bona fide move and participated in the fall, the school administration can appeal to the MHSAA).
- p. During the school's sports seasons an independent team can be made up of no more than 50% of the number that make up the starting number of players for that sport from any one school. The penalty for this violation is the loss of eligibility of all participants from the school that participated on the team. School personnel cannot coach an independent team during the school year. NOTE: Only 4 players per school may participate on a baseball or fast pitch softball team, 2 basketball players, 5 soccer or slow pitch players, etc. Exception: five starters in soccer must be identified by the coach. Independent teams may participate in summer league post season play through August.

- q. Any school that is found to be using an ineligible player in interschool competition shall have all games won while the ineligible player was participating forfeited to its opponents. The ineligible player shall be dropped from the team and the sport or activity placed on probation for a period not to exceed two seasons. The same actions may be taken if the ineligible player is permitted to participate in interschool competition in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against the student's school and/or this Association and the restraining order or injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reserved or it is finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination.
- r. If a member school shall permit participation by a player whom the Association has declared to be ineligible and litigation has been instituted to seek the Association ruling set aside, the school shall be penalized for playing an ineligible player if the courts rule that the player was ineligible.
- s. No other head apparel shall be worn other than what the sport or sport/activity requires. This includes anything worn over or under head apparel, such as kerchief scarves, nylon, etc. Exception: head apparel approved by the MHSAA for medical or cosmetic, and religious reasons may be worn.
- t. If negligence or failure of the principal or school officials to adequately check records and the coach has played an ineligible player or players and the player(s) would otherwise be eligible, that player(s) will be dropped from the team and the school will be fined \$100 for each player. When cleared by the Executive Director, the player may be reinstated and the team may take part in the play-off, if it so qualifies. Should this occur a second time during the same school year, the school will automatically be fined \$500 or that sport placed on probation for a period not to exceed twelve months. When schools report themselves, the fine may be reduced to \$50 and \$250, respectively.
- u. In order for a State Championship to be held in any event that does not have 50 percent of schools participating in that event, it must be approved by the Legislative Council and the State Executive Committee before a championship is initiated.
- v. Before taking part in interscholastic activities, a pupil must present a physician's certificate showing that he is physically fit for athletic competition. Nurse practitioners may give physicals to athletes provided they are doing so in compliance with state law and are operating under proper approved protocols. The certificate must be signed by a physician or licensed nurse practitioner.
- w. **AMATEUR RULE:** A student must be an amateur in order to be eligible to represent his high school.

Definition: An amateur student-athlete is one who engages in athletics for the physical, mental, social, and educational benefits he derives therefrom, and to whom athletics is an avocation. **For a student athlete to lose his amateur standing, he must commit one of the following acts:**

1. Enter competition for a money guarantee (This includes gift certificates)
2. Enter competition for a share of the gate receipts
3. Accept a purse of money
4. Enter competition for prizes or merchandise of more than \$500.00 in retail value
5. Sell or pawn a prize
6. Teach or coach an athletic sport for money (An amateur high school athlete may referee or coach a YMCA or Boys Club team and accept necessary expenses.)
7. Accept payment of excessive expense allowances. (It shall be permissible for an eligible athlete to accept only actual and necessary expenses on athletic trips.)
8. Sign a contract to play professional athletics for a money consideration or not play on a professional team in any sport; receive directly or indirectly a salary or any form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization.
9. Play with or against professional teams or against an individual professional
10. Compete under a false name

A student athlete may:

1. Play summer baseball as an amateur on any team not under the jurisdiction of professional baseball, provided he does not receive pay for participation.
 2. Accept meals, travel and lodging expense
 3. Give Red Cross swimming and life saving instruction and receive pay for the service
 4. Serve as life guard at swimming pools and receive reasonable pay
 5. Accept the usual athletic jackets, letters, medals, ribbons, and trophies from the school and the MHSAA as well as trophies given by outside parties with the approval of the school
 6. Participate in bowling activities under the same conditions that govern other outside or summer athletic participation.
- x. **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS PLAYING ON HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS:** If seventh, eighth, and ninth grade pupils are permitted to play on a high school team, they must meet the same eligibility rules as high school pupils. If these pupils are allowed to play on a high school team in any sport, they shall not be allowed to participate on a junior high or grade school team in the same sport at the same time or at a later date.
 - y. The MHSAA Executive Committee and Legislative Council strongly recommend that any student participating in extra-curricular activities who is indicted for a felony not be allowed to participate during the time of indictment and/or conviction.
 - z. Schools are required to purchase lightning detectors for athletic events that require participants to be outside. The detectors would provide warnings at different mileage levels to help reduce the event of someone being struck by lightning.

Rules Governing Football

- a. The football season shall extend from Monday, August 3, 2009, for classes 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A, through the first full weekend in December. The Classic date will be August 21, 2009 and the regular season playing date will be August 28, 2009 for all classes. During the first five (5) days of August football practice, players shall not wear football pads of any kind, football togs, or football jerseys. Helmets, face guards, mouth pieces, and shoes may be worn. Shoulder pads may be worn on the fourth and fifth days of beginning fall practice. No other pads would be added. In addition to the regular football season, a school may permit three weeks of spring football training with one spring jamboree or one

- spring football game between member schools. The three weeks of spring training must be held the last three weeks of January or three weeks prior to final exams at the end of the year. During the first 3 days of spring training, players shall not wear football pads of any kind. Jerseys, helmets, face guards, mouth pieces, and shoes may be worn. Teams are allowed to wear full pads ten out of the last twelve days of spring training. Each school must select its own time for such training and notify the Executive Director two weeks prior to the beginning of spring training. An eleventh Football Classic Game will be allowed by the MHSAA and will be split financially with the participating schools receiving 85 percent of the proceeds and the MHSAA 15 percent. Moneys received by the MHSAA will be used for maintenance and upkeep costs. (This includes maintenance and materials for the building, computers updated, attorney fees, etc.) These games will count on the regular season record, but will not be used as a tiebreaker or count on a division record. There may be a controlled scrimmage (Jamboree) allowed with another opponent after the first two weeks of practice with a limit of two quarters.
- b. No member school shall be permitted to play more than ten (10) regularly scheduled games and one (1) classic game in any one school year.
 - c. Each football team shall practice a minimum of twenty (20) days before the first game with the exception of a Classic as stated in item a, above. It is permissible to count the day of the game as a day of practice. Football practice is interpreted to mean practice under the supervision of any faculty member. The Association will not allow any variation in applying this regulation. A football player shall not play in more than six quarters per week unless there is a postponed game to be played. A football week is defined as beginning on the day of "A" or varsity football game and is continuing for six days following the date of the "A" game. Sunday is counted as one of the six days.
 - d. No member school shall participate in any football game under any sponsorship other than that of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. This means that a member school must serve as the official sponsor for all special games. The MHSAA reserves all broadcast rights for playoff games, championship games and special games.
 - e. A fence or some other restraining barricade shall be provided on both sides of all high school football fields. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be the forfeiture of the game.
 - f. No football player shall be permitted to engage in spring football practice at any school other than the one in which he is enrolled. In case of a definite consolidation program that will result in the closing of a school, the Executive Director may give approval for players in the school or schools about to be discontinued to participate in spring football at the school where they will be enrolled the following year.
 - g. The principal of each host school must notify the Executive Director when and where all conference playoff games will be played and when and where a football jamboree or a spring football game between member schools will be played.
 - h. After deducting fees for officials, the Association shall receive 30 percent of the gate receipts from all football games leading to the state championships and 15 percent of all special games not on the regular schedule. This includes spring jamborees and spring games. The host school will be responsible for collecting and remitting the Association's share of the proceeds. If the amount due the Association is not remitted within 10 school days from the date the game(s) were played, the amount due the association will be doubled.
 - i. The use of mouth and tooth protectors shall be mandatory.
 - j. Ten Yard Line Overtime Procedure - If at the end of the fourth quarter the teams have identical scores, and provided the coaches have informed the game officials prior to the game that they desire to resolve a tie, it will be resolved by the 10 yard line overtime procedure.
 - k. There shall be six state championships, one for "1A" schools; one for "2A" schools; one for "3A" schools; one for "4A" schools; one for "5A" schools; and one for "6A" schools.
 - l. Championship in the divisions shall be determined as follows:
 1. Division/Regional Championship shall be decided by a round robin schedule.
 2. No division games may end in a tie. (10-yard overtime procedure must be used).
 3. The Executive Committee has developed the following tie breaker:
In case of identical division records, the following method will be used to determine that division champion: Refer to Tie Breaker Rule under SECTION D. Athletic Competition Rules.
 4. Each district secretary will certify to the State Office the names of the division/regional champions by classification that will enter the State playoff by the tenth weekend of regular scheduled play.
 5. No region team playing football will be required to meet another region team in the Playoffs until the third round.
 - m. The first round of playoff that all classes participate in:
 1. The first round of playoff will be completed by the eleventh scheduled weekend.
 2. The No. 1 team in each division will be the home team.
 3. The State Office will assign an Official's Association to provide officials for the first round and each additional round of the state playoff.
 4. After deducting fees for officials, the Association will receive 30 percent of the gross gate receipts of which 15 percent will be distributed to the districts. The remaining 70 percent will be divided with the home team receiving 60 percent and visitors 40 percent of remaining proceeds.
 - n. The North/South and State Playoff:
 1. The home school shall be decided by alternating between the higher/lower number of opponents' division.
 2. During each round through the North/South Championship, the team that has played the fewer number of home games will be designated the home team.
 3. The officials will be assigned by the State Office.
 4. The Executive Committee shall work out plans each year for division of the receipts of the North, South, and State Playoff games.
 5. State Championship games will be held by the first weekend in December.
 6. The Executive Director and his staff will select the site for the State Championship games.

Rules Governing Basketball

- a. The first basketball game for non-football playing schools shall not be played before November 9, 2009 with the exception of a Classic Game on November 7, 2009. The Classic Game may not be played until the weekend before the regular season begins. Non-football playing schools may play 22 regular season games and tournaments. No more than 30 games may be played.
- b. Football playing schools may play a maximum of 18 regular season basketball games plus tournaments, exclusive of regional and state sponsored tournaments and classic games. No more than 26 total games may be played. Football playing schools will not begin basketball season until the regular football season is complete.
- c. All basketball teams shall be limited to playing one game Monday – Friday.
Exception: 1. A school may play two basketball games during the school week during the month of November.
2. A school may participate in two games during the school week if one game is a tournament.
- d. There shall be no preseason basketball scrimmage with other schools unless approved by the MHSAA. Any school participating in a non-approved preseason basketball scrimmage with any in-state or out-of-state team shall be suspended.
Exception: A basketball Jamboree may be played one week before the basketball season begins. A team cannot play an opponent more than two quarters and cannot play more than four regulation quarters.
- e. Invitation, conference, county, bi-county, and tri-county tournaments shall count as total games actually played. The principal of each host school must notify the Executive Director when and where all conference, county, bi-county and tri-county tournaments will be played.
- f. Two Classic games may be played with the approval of the Executive Director. Classic games may be played the last Saturday of pre-season and the following Monday.
- g. The basketball season closes on the date of the state tournaments.
- h. A basketball player shall be limited to six quarters of play per session or evening. Overtime shall be considered as extension of the fourth quarter.
- i. A school may play in three (3) basketball tournaments of any kind exclusive of Division and State tournaments or Classic as long as the school does not go over the total number of games.
- j. In tournaments, no team shall be permitted to play more than two games in one day and there must be at least four hours of rest between games.
- k. Basketball playoffs for championships shall be arranged in six series one for “1A” schools, (boys and girls); one for “2A” schools, (boys and girls); one for “3A” schools, (boys and girls); one for “4A” schools, (boys and girls); one for “5A” schools, (boys and girls), one for “6A” schools, (boys and girls). Winners of individual state championship games will be required to participate in the overall Grand Slam Tournament.
- l. Distribution of funds shall be determined as follows:
 1. The State Association shall receive 10 percent of the gross gate receipts less fees for referees in all basketball tournaments, including invitationals. If the amount due the Association is not remitted within 10 school days from the date the tournament(s) are played, the amount due the Association shall be doubled. When a basketball tournament ends on or after the last day before the Christmas holidays, the 10 percent receipts due to MHSAA will be postmarked no later than the fifth day of school after the Christmas holidays. If the 10 percent is not postmarked on or before the fifth day of school after the Christmas holidays, then the amount due MHSAA will be doubled.
 2. The State Association shall receive 30 percent less fees for referees in all basketball divisional tournaments. Of the 30 percent, 15 percent will be sent to the district by the Association.
- m. The host school shall get approval for holding an invitational tournament at least five days prior to the tournament, from the Executive Director. The penalty for the violation of any of the above regulations shall be a fine of \$50.00 for the first violation and suspension for repeat violations.
- n. An invitational tournament is defined as any series of games (tournament approved) in which more than two teams of the same sex participate. A series, or round robin, shall be considered an invitational tournament.
- o. The Executive Committee shall work out plans each year for the division of receipts of the North/South and State Tournaments.
- p. No school shall be permitted to enter the varsity team and then enter a second or “B” team in another regular conference, division, or state tournament on the same dates. The team entered must be first or varsity team. The above is interpreted to mean:
 1. No school shall be permitted to enter any team other than its varsity team in any regular district or state basketball playoff.
 2. No school shall be allowed to enter a state and a district basketball playoff at the same time.
- q. A round robin schedule will be played during regular season for seeding purposes. The Division Championship will be determined by a division tournament. Refer to Tie Breaker Rules under Section D, Athletic Competition Rule.
- r. No school shall remove the nets from goals of the host school or from goals in any other places where Mississippi High School Activities Association games and/or tournaments are played. A violation of this rule will lead to a severe penalty against the guilty school.
- s. Allow the home team to have up to a 15 member pep band or jazz band to play at time-outs, halftime, and between games (whenever clock is stopped or play is stopped) at any regular season home basketball games. This is optional to the home team.
- t. If a school or schools are placed in different divisions three successive classifications periods, they will have the first opportunity to host a division tournament provided the school they are replacing has not had a more recent opportunity to host.

- u. The head coach may be off the bench in front of his or her seat within the confines of the designated coach's box (National Federation Rule) to give instructions to his or her players and/or substitutes.
- v. Basketball will be allowed a five (5) day tryout period during the month of May. The basketball tryout period may not conflict with a spring sport.

Rules Governing Baseball

- a. There shall be a state championship for each of the six classifications.
- b. Championships in all divisions shall be determined as follows:
 1. Baseball practice may begin February 8, 2010. The first playing date shall not be before March 1, with the exception of approved Classic games that may be played the weekend prior to March 1. These games count on the team's record but not on the tiebreaker.
 2. Division championship shall be decided by a round robin schedule.
 3. The Executive Committee has developed the following tiebreaker: In case of identical division record, the following method will be used to determine the division champion: refer to Tie Breaker rule under Section D, Athletic Competition Rule.
 4. Each baseball division will be allowed to advance two teams to the first round playoffs. As soon as the division champions in baseball are declared, the Executive Director will then set up the North and South playoffs, giving the specific dates, times, and places playoffs are to be held. The school winning the division championship in each classification shall notify the Executive Director immediately so there will be no delay in setting up the North and South playoffs.
- c. One (1) game may be played during the school week (school week defined as the start of the school day on Monday through the end of the school day on Friday), with the exception of spring break. A school may participate in two games during the school week if one game is a tournament. A total of five (5) games may be played during the calendar week (calendar week defined as Monday through Sunday). A double header counts as two games played and every tournament game played counts as a game played. Before play begins, the base paths and pitching distance must be regulation. If this cannot be accomplished, the home team shall forfeit. The umpire shall be responsible for checking the distances. If during a tournament, one of the above mentioned infractions occurs, the field will be made ready or not used.
- d. If a division game is called before completion of the number of innings and conditions as specified in rule 4-2-3 of the National Federation Baseball Rule Book, such game is considered a suspended game and shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time at the same site. If a regulation division tie game (5 full innings or more) is suspended, the game will be continued from the point of interruption at the site of the next division game scheduled between the opponents, otherwise the game will return to the original site of the suspended game (last game of the series).
RAIN-OUTS – All cancelled or suspended games that are played less than five (5) full innings as stated above must be made up by the Thursday following the game in question. Division games take preference over any other rescheduled game. If a date cannot be agreed upon, the host principal must request the MHSAA to set a date. If the host site is not playable during the first game of the division series and the opponent's field is playable, the game sites should be reversed.
- e. A limit of 18 games plus tournaments and no more than 26 games shall be played during the regular season. Two Classic games may be played with the approval of the Executive Director. Classic games must be played the same day, same site, and prior to the regular season. A Jamboree may be played one week before the Classic games with the approval of the Executive Director. The Jamboree will consist of two-four innings contest and a pitcher will be limited to pitching two innings during the eight inning Jamboree.
- f. Seven innings shall constitute a game, but when the score is tied at the end of the seventh, additional innings shall be played to break the tie.
- g. No home official or officials who are related to a player are to be used in any game of the North Mississippi, South Mississippi or State playoff games.
- h. The principal of each host school must notify the Executive Director when and where all tournament, conference, or division playoff games will be played. After deducting a fee for umpires, the State Association shall receive 30% of the gross gate receipts for all games leading to North/South and State Championships. The host school is responsible for collecting and remitting to MHSAA. If the amount due the Association is not remitted within ten days from the date the game(s) are played, the amount due the Association shall be 40 percent of the gross instead of percent.
- i. Trophies shall be furnished by the MHSAA to the North and South baseball champions and to the first and second place winners in the State finals of all classifications.
- j. A pitcher shall not pitch more than 17 innings per week.
- k. Junior varsity games will be limited to 1½ hours or 5 innings.

Rules Governing Track and Field Events

- a. Track meets shall be held on a state level for all classifications (6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A). On a division level, the district officers shall certify places in the division meets in their proper classifications. Winners in all classes, must be certified to the managers of the North and South meets. There shall be a boys champion and a girls champion in each of the five classifications, but there shall be no overall champion. The starting date shall be March 1. Division, North/South, and State track meets should be scored according to the National Federation Track and Field Rule Book.
- b. The National Federation Track and Field Rules shall be used to govern track and field events. Regardless of how many events in which a competitor has been entered, he/she may only participate in four, total events (4-2-2). These four events include field events and all running events including relays.
- c. Schools may enter two contestants in individual track and field events in Division, North/South and State meets.

Number of Events:

<i>Boys' Contests</i>	<i>Girls' Contests</i>
3200 meter run	3200 meter run
400 meter relay (4 boys)	100 meter dash
100 meter dash	200 meter dash
200 meter dash	400 meter dash
400 meter dash	800 meter run
800 meter run	400 meter relay (4 girls)
1600 meter run	800 meter relay (4 girls)
110 meter high hurdles (39 in.)	1600 meter run
300 meter intermediate hurdles (36 in.)	1600 meter relay (4 girls)
1600 meter relay (4 boys)	100 meter high hurdles (33in.)
800 meter relay (4 boys)	300 meter low hurdles
Running High Jump	Running Long Jump
Running Long Jump	Running High Jump
Pole Vault	Shot Put
Shot Put	Discus Throw
Discus Throw	Triple Jump
Triple Jump	

Order of Events:

<i>Track Events</i>	<i>Field Events</i>
3200 meter run (girls)	Pole Vault (boys)
3200 meter run (boys)	Shot Put (boys)
100 meter high hurdles (girls)	Running High Jump (boys)
110 meter high hurdles (boys)	Running High Jump (girls)
100 meter dash (girls)	Discus Throw (boys)
100 meter dash (boys)	Discus Throw (girls)
800 meter relay (girls)	Triple Jump (boys)
800 meter relay (boys)	Triple Jump (girls)
1600 meter run (girls)	Running Long Jump (boys)
1600 meter run (boys)	Running Long Jump (girls)
400 meter relay (girls)	Shot Put (girls)
400 meter relay (boys)	
400 meter dash (girls)	
400 meter dash (boys)	
300 meter low hurdles (girls)	
300 meter intermediate hurdles (boys)	No variation shall be allowed from this order of events.
800 meter run (girls)	
800 meter run (boys)	
200 meter dash (girls)	
200 meter dash (boys)	
1600 meter relay (girls)	
1600 meter relay (boys)	

- d. The schools that qualify to enter the North and South track meets must forward to the North and South track meet managers the names of the students, the event in which they qualify, and their division qualifying position, on the day following the division meets. ***This is a requirement.***
- e. The track season closes on the date of the state track meet and there will be no overall track meet.
- f. Four contestants (boys and girls) from the North and four from the South will qualify for the State Track Meet.
- g. Schools who qualify 4 or more contestants in the North, South, and State Track Meets shall send a coach other than the track coach to assist in holding these track meets.
- h. The maximum number of track meets will be thirteen.

Rules Governing Cross Country

- a. The length of the course shall be 5,000 meters or 3.11 miles for boys and 4000 meters for girls. The National Federation Rules for Cross Country will be used as the official rules.
- b. Allow schools to enter 10 runners (seven plus three alternates). All 10 runners will be issued competitor numbers and any seven may run in the state meet. Changes to a school's original entries may be made through Wednesday of the week of the state meet. There will be no changes on the day of the meet. No entry fee will be charged for alternates.
- c. The first three finishers in each class will receive medallions. A champion will be declared in each classification, and each champion will receive a trophy and second place trophies will be presented in each class. Separate winners (boys and girls) will be declared in the State Cross Country Meet.
- d. There will be no qualifying on a division level, and each team will go directly to the State Meet. The Meet Director will determine whether the classifications will run separately or all run together.
- e. There will be no state records because courses will differ, but there will be course records.
- f. The starting time of the Cross Country State Meet shall be set by the meet director.
- g. A team may have a maximum of seven (7) or a minimum of five (5) runners. All seven runners count in the place that they finish, but only the first five will count in the team's score. Low score wins. If there is a tie, the sixth place finishers will be added to break the tie.
- h. The maximum number of cross country meets run will be eleven.

Rules Governing Tennis

- a. A *team* state champion will be declared in each of the six classifications. Round robin schedule shall determine the division winner and runner-up.
- b. Tennis tournaments and contests shall determine Division and State *individual* champions in boys' singles, #1 boys' doubles, #2 boys' doubles, #1 girls' singles, #2 girls' doubles, and mixed doubles.
- c. No contestant shall be permitted to enter both singles and doubles in girls or boys tennis.
- d. All first and second place winners in Division *Team* Tennis shall be certified to play in the State Tennis Tournament series. All first place individuals in the Division Individual Tennis Tournament shall be certified to play in the State Tennis Tournament. The division individual runner-up in girls and boys doubles will qualify as the #2 doubles team in the state tournament.
- e. The maximum number of tennis matches played will be eighteen.
- f. A school may participate in two tennis matches per school week (Monday – Friday).

Rules Governing Golf

- a. Boy's golf shall be divided into six classifications: 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A. Girl's golf shall be divided into three classes. The first match shall not be before March 1.
- b. Golf tournaments shall determine team champions.
- c. The Division and State tournaments shall be medal play. The Division tournament shall consist of at least 18 holes, and the State tournament shall consist of 36 holes. If rain interrupts play and the tournament cannot continue, scores shall be taken through the last complete nine finished. (9-18-27-36)
- d. No tournament golfer may have a caddy or ride in a golf cart. Pull carts are allowed.
- e. A coach or a member of the same team shall not accompany a player or teammate, or walk ahead of him, during the tournament match. The head golf coach may coach a member of his team during the time the golfers go from tee to green during a competitive round.
- f. It is recommended that no member of the same team shall play in the same threesome or foursome.
- g. A boy's team consists of five players and the top four scores are used to determine team standing. If a school does not have four players, they can only compete for individual honors. A girl's team consists of three players and the top two scores are used to determine team standing. If a school does not have two players, the player can only compete for individual honors. Girls may not participate in both boys and girls post season tournaments.
- h. In case there is a tie for a team championship, there shall be a playoff and the team with the best score after playing the number of holes necessary to break the tie shall advance to the next higher tournament or receive the trophy. Ties for individual awards shall be resolved by playing the number of holes until a tie is broken.
- i. The Division tournament shall be held no later than the last week in April, and the State tournament will be held the first full week in May.
- j. The participating schools will be responsible to pay such green fees as assessed by the host course for the Division and State tournaments.
- k. The first three finishers in each class will receive medallions. A team champion will be declared in each classification, and each champion will receive a trophy.
- l. The maximum number of golf matches and or tournaments will be eighteen. The maximum number of matches played per school week (Monday – Friday) will be two.
- m. Golf teams shall have the option of selecting a team by holding try-outs on three consecutive weekdays after school before the third week in October. This is related to team selection only. It does not include organized practice after the team is selected. Organized practice will remain as it is.

Rules Governing Volleyball

- a. The maximum number of matches played will be 36. The maximum number of games played per school week (Monday – Friday) will be two. The MHSAA recommends all tournaments be held on Saturday.
- b. National Federation rules will be used.
- c. Three state championships will be held for volleyball.
- d. Any interschool practice or scrimmage will count as a game played.
- e. The principal of each host school must notify the Executive Director when and where all tournament, conference, or division games will be played. After deducting fees for officials, the Association shall receive 15 percent of the gross gate receipts from all special games not on the regular schedule. The host school will be responsible for collecting and remitting the Association's share of the proceeds. If the amount due the Association is not remitted within ten school days from the date the game(s) were played, the amount due the Association shall be doubled.
- f. The length of the match as prescribed in the Volleyball Rule Book.

Rules Governing Softball (Fast pitch and Slow pitch)

- a. National Federation rules will be used. Rules for slow pitch or fast pitch softball will be followed.
- b. There shall be a state championship in each of the six classifications.
- c. Two dates may be used to play games during the school week (Monday through the end of the school day on Friday). A member school may enter a maximum of three softball tournaments exclusive of State Tournaments. Games not played on schedule because of weather must be made up the following week. Two Classics game may be played with the approval of Executive Director. Classic games must be played on the same day, same site, and prior to the regular season. A Jamboree may be played one week before the Classic games with the approval of the Executive Director. The Jamboree will consist of two-four innings contest and a pitcher will be limited to pitching two innings during the eight inning Jamboree.
- d. Before play begins, the base paths and pitching distance must be regulation. If this cannot be accomplished, the home team shall forfeit. The umpire shall be responsible for checking the distances. If during a tournament, one of the above mentioned infractions occurs, the field will be made ready or not used.
- e. Championship in the division shall be determined by a round robin schedule. Each slow pitch softball division will advance the top two teams to the first round of playoffs. Refer to Tie Breaker Rule under SECTION D. Athletic Competition Rules.
- f. Each district secretary will certify to the State Office the names of the division champion and runner-up that will enter the state playoff.
- g. The state championship series shall be a best two out of three with North/South champions.
- h. Fast pitch softball will be played in the spring. The following rules will apply:
 1. Participants will meet eligibility requirements as set forth by MHSAA.
 2. Two games may be played during the school week (Monday through the end of the school day on Friday). A softball tournament still counts as actual games played. Schools may play a maximum of 18 games plus tournaments, exclusive of division and state tournaments. No more than 26 total games may be played.
 3. There will be six state championships, 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A. The top two teams from the division will advance to post-season play.
- i. The principal of each host school must notify the Executive Director when and where all tournaments, or division games will be played. After deducting fees for two umpires, the State Association shall receive 10 percent of the gross gate receipts for all such games. The host school is responsible for collecting and remitting to MHSAA. If the amount due the Association is not remitted within ten school days from the date the games(s) are played, the amount due the Association shall be 20 percent instead of 10 percent.

Rules Governing Boys and Girls Soccer

- a. National Federation Rules will be used.
- b. Two Classic games may be played the Saturday prior to the regular season with approval from the MHSAA. Classic games must be played the same day, same site. A Jamboree may be played one week prior to the Classic with approval from the MHSAA.
- c. The maximum number of games played per school week will be one. A school may participate in two games during the school week if one game is a tournament. The maximum number of soccer games will be 21, including games played in tournaments. Games not played on schedule because of the weather may be made up as the weather permits. The season may begin after the regular football season is over. No division game may be played until after the first weekend in December. If both school administrations agree and with a written request to the MHSAA office, approval for division soccer matches may be played prior to the first weekend in December, if the school(s) is not participating in the football playoffs.
- d. Soccer shall be divided into four classes, 6A, 5A, 4A and 1A/2A/3A. A state championship will be held in each class.
- e. Championship in the divisions shall be determined as follows:
 1. Each team shall play each opponent once unless all teams agree to play twice.

2. No division game can end in a tie. The final score of an overtime game shall be recorded as 1-0 for the purpose of the tie breaker.
 3. Refer to Tie Breaker Rule under SECTION D. Athletic Competition Rule.
 4. Each district secretary will certify to the state office the names of the division champion and runner-up that will enter the state playoff.
- f. The State championship series will be single elimination.
 - g. The Division championship must be completed by the last weekend in January. Due to some schools using the same coach for girls and boys soccer, girls may play Monday, boys may play Tuesday, during the first round only. A request may be made to the MHSAA office if the same teams to on to the second round.
 - h. The State championship must be completed by the first weekend in February.
 - i. Any interschool practice or scrimmage will count as a game played.
 - j. The principal of each host school must notify the Executive Director when and where all tournament, conference or division games will be played. After deducting fees for officials, the Association shall receive 15% of the gross gate receipts from all special games not on the regular schedule. The host school will be responsible for collecting and remitting the Association's share of the proceeds. If the amount due the Association is not remitted within 10 school days from the date the game(s) were played the amount due the Association will be doubled.

Rules Governing Wrestling

- a. National Federation rules will be used.
- b. When 50 percent or more of the member schools enter into competition, a plan will be devised to determine a state championship.
- c. The principals of each host school must notify the Executive Director when and where all tournaments will be played. After deducting fees for officials the Association shall receive 15 percent of the gross gate receipts from all special games not on the regular schedule. The host school shall be responsible for collecting and remitting the Association's share of the proceeds. If the amount due the Association is not remitted within 10 school days from the date the tournament was held, the amount due the Association will be doubled.
- d. The maximum number of wrestling matches will be twelve.

Rules Governing Swimming

- a. National Federation Rules will be used. The date of the state meet will be the fourth Saturday in October. A participant may enter two individual events and two relays. Medallions will be given to the first, second, and third place finishers. A team trophy will be awarded to the winner and runner-up.
- b. The season shall begin on August 3, 2009. A school may enter one meet per week.
- c. There shall be two state championships – one for girls and one for boys.

<i>Order of Swimming Events</i>		
<i>Girls</i>		<i>Boys</i>
1	200 Yard Medley Relay	2
3	200 Yard Freestyle	4
5	200 Yard Individual Medley	6
7	50 Yard Freestyle	8
9	100 Yard Butterfly	10
11	100 Yard Freestyle	12
13	500 Yard Freestyle	14
15	200 Yard Freestyle Relay	16
17	100 Yard Backstroke	18
19	100 Yard Breaststroke	20
21	400 Yard Freestyle Relay	22

Limit of Events: Each team shall be permitted a maximum of 4 entries in individual events and 1 team in a relay event. An individual competitor shall be permitted to enter a maximum of 2 individual events and 2 relay events. Swimming is an MHSAA sanctioned sport.

Rules Governing Powerlifting

- a. The maximum number of meets per week will be one.
- b. America Drug Free Powerlifting Association rules will be used, excluding the drug testing policy.
- c. There shall be six boys state championships: 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A and three girls state championships: 1A/2A/3A, 4A, and 5A/6A.
- d. The first match cannot be held before November 9.
- e. Region championships will be held in February. The top two lifters in each weight class will advance to the North or South Championship to be held in March. The top four lifters in each weight class at the North and South championship will advance to State championship to be held on the third weekend in April.
- f. Each team is allowed a maximum of 12 competitors spread throughout the range of the 12 bodyweight categories. There must not be more than two competitors from any one team in any particular bodyweight category.

Rules Governing Bowling

- a. The maximum number of matches per week will be one.
- b. The United States Bowling Congress High School Rules will be used, with some modifications in scoring when needed.
- c. There shall be two boys and two girls state championships. Class I and Class II.
- d. The first match cannot be held before November 9.
- e. Regional matches must be completed by March 6.
- f. The State Championship must be completed by the last Saturday in March.

Rules Governing Archery

- a. Competition rules from the National Archery in the Schools Program will be used.
- b. Archery is a sanctioned sport, but not a sanctioned state championship.
- c. The maximum number of matches per week will be one.
- d. Practice begins on February 8.
- e. The first match will not be before March 1.
- f. Coaches must complete an eight hour clinic and pass a test to be certified through the Mississippi Archery in the Schools Program. The Foundation for MS Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks will provide certification classes.
- g. Schools will utilize standardized equipment required by the National Archery in the Schools Program.

Rules Governing Cheerleading

See MHSAA Cheerleading Manual, which is considered to be a part of the MHSAA Handbook.

Rules Governing Drill/Dance Squads

See MHSAA Cheerleading Manual.

Rules Governing Speech and Debate

See MHSAA Speech and Debate Manual, which is considered to be a part of the MHSAA Handbook.

Rules Governing Choral Music

See MHSAA Choral Music Manual, which is considered to be a part of the MHSAA Handbook.

Rules Governing Band

See MHSAA Band Manual, which is considered to be a part of the MHSAA Handbook.

ARTICLE II – CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS

Rules for Classification

The classification of schools shall be based on the enrollment in grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve on even years and reported on the October monthly report filed with the State Department of Education Finance and Statistic Division. Where two or more schools are consolidated, the classification of the new school is determined by adding the even year's enrollments of the combined schools.

Schools for only one sex shall have their actual enrollment doubled for the purpose of athletic classification, but the school shall pay membership dues on its actual enrollment only. Schools not having ninth and tenth grades, shall be calculated by using 4/3 and 4/2 formula for the purpose of athletic classification, but the school shall pay membership dues on its actual enrollment only.

There will be six classes of schools. Class 6A shall consist of the first 32 schools with the highest enrollment. Class 5A shall consist of the next 32 schools. Classes 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A, shall consist of the remaining schools divided by 4. Odd number schools will be placed in Class 1A. In assigning schools to classification and two or more schools have the same enrollment for the last place of a class, these schools will be placed in the higher classification for the two-year period.

ARTICLE III – Penalties and Appeals

SECTION A. Protests

1. Reference – All protests or complaints growing out of interschool competition, such as those having to do with alleged violations of the rules and regulations of the State Association, should be filed with the Executive Director and the appropriate District Secretary within five days following the violation or following the time when the violation has or reasonably should have come to the attention of persons authorized to file a protest, whichever shall occur later, and at least five days prior to (provided there are five days remaining) the beginning of a district or state tournament, meet or playoff. Protests of eligibility during or following a tournament, meet or playoff shall in no way interfere with the continued participation of the accused school in the tournament, meet or playoff, but a championship shall be cancelled and the school suspended for ninety days to one year if an investigation proves that the school used an ineligible player during the tournament, meet or playoff. The decision of game officials are final and no protests based on the decision of the game officials will be allowed.
2. Procedure - All protests must be in writing and must give specific, detailed information relative to the charge. Who may file a protest? All official protests must be filed by a school principal, superintendent, and school official, or game official having sufficient information to substantiate his protest.

SECTION B. Penalties

1. Penalties for violations or for an attempt showing an intent to violate these rules shall be imposed by the following:
 - a. The Executive Director on recommendation of district committees;
 - b. By the Executive Director on his own initiative;
 - c. By the Executive Committee on its own initiative when the Executive Director has failed, refused or declined to act.
2. No penalty shall be imposed upon any school by the Executive Director, or by the Executive Committee, nor shall any appeal be considered by the Executive Committee, without notice to the offending school to appear before the Executive Director or the Executive Committee, as the case may be, and show cause why a penalty should not be imposed or why the ruling of the Executive Director should not be affirmed. Any school appearing in response to such notice shall be given a full hearing, and no penalty shall be imposed, or ruling of the Executive Director affirmed, except upon substantial evidence that a violation or attempt showing an intent to violate the rules of the Association has occurred.
3. The nature of the penalty imposed upon a school shall be determined by the Executive Director or by the Executive Committee. The penalty may be a reprimand, forfeiture of games played, probation of the schools, or any other reasonable penalty. However, the maximum penalty for the violation of any rule of the Association shall be a suspension of one year from the date that the penalty is imposed. The penalty may be assessed only against the particular sport or activity in which the violation or attempt showing an intent to violate occurred, and if so assessed, shall be for a period not to exceed two (2) seasons. All penalties will take effect immediately after being assessed by the Executive Director or by the Executive Committee when acting on its own initiative.
4. Cost of Investigation. Any member school which after investigation is adjudged guilty of violation of the regulations of this Association shall pay all costs of the Association, incident to the investigation, including but not limited to cost of investigation, attorney fees, and all other related costs and fees, such costs and fees to be in addition to penalties assessed.
5. Probation. Any school which is placed on probation will not be allowed to participate in bowl games, conference playoffs, tournaments, or meets, invitational tournaments or meets, city and/or county playoffs, tournaments, or meets and any playoffs, tournaments or meets leading to a state championship during the period of probation. This does not prohibit a school from playing regular scheduled games.
6. Suspension. Any school which is suspended will not be allowed to participate in any type of interscholastic activity during the period of suspension.
7. Allotted Games. If a school plays more than the allotted games, they shall be fined and banned from post season play.
8. Due notice of the infliction of a penalty shall be sent to all district and state officers, to all member schools of the Mississippi High
9. Member schools having contests with a member school known by them to be under a penalty of suspension, while such suspension is effective, shall be liable to a similar or any lesser penalty.
10. A final ruling of the Executive Director or of the Executive Committee shall be accepted in good faith by the school thereby affected, and refusal to do so or to treat the ruling with contempt shall be grounds for the infliction of the maximum penalty herein provided for.

SECTION C. Appeal

In case a penalty is imposed, the school affected thereby shall have a right of appeal to the Executive Committee of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., whose ruling in regard to such penalty shall be final. All costs of any appeals, including but not limited to the Association's costs of convening hearings, attorney's fees and all other related costs and fees will be paid by the appealing school if the Executive Committee upholds the decision of the Executive Director. Failure to pay all such costs and fees shall result in suspension or denial of membership in the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., until all costs and fees are paid. Any appeal taken hereunder shall be instituted by the school appealing within 5 days following the ruling of the Executive Director by written notice to the President of the Executive Committee that an appeal is desired. In the event no such notice of appeal is given within said time, the ruling of the Executive Director shall thereupon be final. Any member school which initiates or supports legal action to seek damages against the Association, or to appeal, overturn, modify, enjoin, stay or otherwise challenge or revise a final ruling of the Executive Director or of the Executive Committee, and subsequently unsuccessful in seeking such remedy, shall pay all costs, attorney's fees and all other related costs and fees incurred by the Association in defending and in prosecuting counterclaims related to such actions. Further, should the Association be required to initiate legal action to collect any costs or fees incurred as a result of investigations or appeals, the member school shall pay the Association costs and attorney's fees and other related costs and fees of collection actions.

ARTICLE IV – Point System and Awards

SECTION A. Athletic Contests

1. Individual contests: Medallions will be given to first place, second place, and third place winners.
2. Team contests: Small trophies will be given in team contests and medallions to individual participants.
3. Track and Field State: Trophies shall be awarded the first and second place teams, boys and girls, in 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A classifications. Suitable medallions shall be awarded first place, second place and third place individuals winners.
4. Basketball: Trophies shall be awarded the champions in the 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A classifications in the North and South Tournaments. Trophies shall be awarded first and second place winners in the state tournaments.
5. Baseball: Large trophy to baseball playoff winner; and small trophy to second place team. Trophies are to be awarded to North and South champions.
6. Cross Country: Medallions shall be awarded to the first three finishers in each classification. Trophies shall be awarded the champions in each classification.
7. Golf: Medallions shall be awarded to the first three finishers in each classification. Trophies shall be awarded the champions in each classification.

ARTICLE V – Rules Governing MHSAA, Inc. Athletic Officials

1. Any person eighteen years of age or over and a high school graduate of good character who is interested in athletics may apply for registration as a Mississippi High school Activities Association official. His or her application shall include references and payment of registration fee for one season.
2. When an official reaches the age of 65 he/she will be evaluated each year by the local association as to his officiating capability.
3. Officials eighteen years of age or over, of good character who are registering for the first time must be recommended by a school administrator, principal, or the secretary or assistant secretary of a local officials' group. If accepted, the applicant will be sent a membership card, a rules book, the MHSAA emblem, and any other supplementary material deemed advisable and feasible by the Executive Director and the Supervisor of Officials.
4. The deadline for receiving applications or registration cards for registration in football is August 1. The deadline for basketball is October 1. The deadline for baseball is January 1. These deadlines apply to officials who have previously registered as well as to officials registering for the first time.
5. The annual registration fee for each sport is \$23.00 without insurance and \$33.00 with insurance. These fees apply to football referees, umpires, head linesmen, field judges and clock operator, basketball referees and umpires, baseball umpires, etc. Registration fees will not be refunded.
6. Officials may be permitted to register after the deadline. Late registrants will be automatically placed on probation for one year and will be assessed a late registration of \$2.50. This is in addition to the regular registration fee for the sport in which the official is being registered.
7. Football, basketball, and baseball officials will be required to join local officials' associations which shall provide officials for schools in their respective areas. An official may hold membership in more than one local association and if no local association exists, may register directly with the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.
8. Membership may be renewed by payment of the annual registration fee, with a satisfactory record for the previous year.
9. All officials will be required to attend the state sponsored rules interpretation clinics annually in each sport in which they officiate in order to be eligible to officiate.
10. All officials will be required to take and pass a rules examination annually in each sport in which they officiate.
11. An official who fails to report for a game that he has accepted unless he has been released by the school authorities or he is unable to report due to accident or illness shall be subject to penalty by the MHSAA. On the second offense, he shall be placed on probation or be suspended.
12. An official may cancel a game because of illness or death in the family without penalty, and such cancellation shall not reflect upon the official.
13. No registered athletic official shall become a member of a particular Conference Officials Association.

14. All athletic officials shall observe the rules of the game and of the MHSAA. And all officials shall refrain from cursing and the use of abusive language during games. Any official who tries to call a game while he is under the influence of liquor shall be subject to a heavy penalty even suspension.
15. All athletic officials shall be subject to penalty for any conduct unbecoming to a respectable official or citizen.
16. All athletic officials shall wear the standard official's uniform for each sport.
17. In games involving two districts, the host school shall notify the visiting school as to the officials assigned to the game at least one week prior to the game. The visiting school shall have the right to request one change in officials if they so desire.
18. Individuals who are coaching in a particular high school sport shall not register as an official in that sport.
19. Game officials shall file promptly a report with the State Office if there is any unusual incident involving unsportsmanlike conduct by players, coaches, school officials, cheerleaders, or fans.
20. The assignment and fees of game officials shall not be based on race.
21. Regulations and Procedures for local officials associations:
 - a. Constitution and By-laws – Each local officials association shall submit a copy of its constitution and by-laws to be approved and filed by the MHSAA.
 - b. Secretary and Assistant Secretary – Each of the officials' districts and each local officials' group shall elect a secretary and an assistant secretary, one of whom shall be white and the other black, and the secretary and assistant secretary shall work together in making game assignments. The secretary and assistant secretary must be approved by the MHSAA and meet the following criteria:
 1. Be a certified official for five consecutive years.
 2. Be a member of the local association for five consecutive years.
 3. Be accessible to schools and officials.
 4. Attend MHSAA training sessions and meetings.
 5. Possess organizational skills.
 - c. Supervisory Duties of the Secretary
 1. He must coordinate the training program of the local association along with his supervisory responsibilities.
 2. After each ball game observed, he will confer with the officials and make suggestions for improving the work of each official.
 3. On the first and fifteenth of each month, the secretary shall mail a copy of all completed "Observation Sheets" to the Mississippi High School Activities Association supervisor of officials.
 - d. Joint Committee on Relations – It is recommended that each local association have a joint committee on relations. This committee shall be composed of three officials and three school principals. The secretary and the assistant secretary of the officials association and the secretary of the school district being served by the local association shall be members of this committee by virtue of the offices they hold.

The secretary of the officials' group shall appoint one other official to serve on the joint committee, along with the secretary and the assistant secretary. The secretary of the schools being served shall appoint two school principals to serve with the secretary as members on this committee. This committee shall study problems that involve the assignment of officials, the training program, fees, and other mutual problems of interest, thereby working toward a better understanding of mutual problems.

Proposals shall be submitted in writing to the joint committee on relations. This committee shall study such proposals and shall make recommendations to both the schools being served and to the local association in regard to the action that should be taken in submitting the proposal to the state office.
 - e. Proposals Submitted to the State Office – All proposals that involve a change in the amount of the fees paid officials or other recommendations regarding local officials associations shall be submitted to the Executive Director, MHSAA, not less than sixty days in advance of the joint meeting at which they are to be considered. The Executive Director shall submit the proposals to state council members and Executive Committee members no later than thirty days in advance of the meetings in November, February and May.

Proposals shall be submitted on the following schedule:

 1. Football and basketball proposals on or before October 1
 2. Track and baseball proposals on or before March 1
 - f. Assignment Procedures: Notification of Assignments – The secretary or the assistant secretary of the local officials association shall notify in writing the coach of each school and the officials assigned at least one week in advance of the date of the athletic contest. Assignment of non-registered officials – No official shall be assigned to work a game that is not registered with MHSAA.

Should a non-registered official be assigned by error, the association shall be subject to a penalty of \$10.00 for each non-registered official so assigned.

Should an emergency arise which would require assignment of a non-registered official, approval must be secured in advance from the Executive Director of the MHSAA or his designed representative in this case no penalty will be assessed.
 - g. School's preference list – The official's district secretaries shall assign officials on the basis of a school's preference by position or by teams of officials. However, the secretary and assistant secretary in assigning officials may take into consideration travel and other pertinent factors so long as the school's "scratch" privileges are not violated.
 1. Officials from school districts of competing teams should not be assigned unless the competing teams mutually agree. An exception may be made in the case of the clock operator. (If officials are on competing teams' preferential list, it would be assumed that it is mutually agreeable).
 2. Each registered football and basketball official shall be required to work at least two "A" or "AA" game each season.
 3. When a member school has accepted an official and the school cancels the participation of the official at a later date, the game fee shall be paid to the official just as if he worked the game. The secretary shall take into consideration a possible alternate assignment for the officials; however, if no other assignment is available because of the time element or scheduling problem, he shall notify the school involved and the state office.
 - h. Training Program for Officials – Each local association shall maintain a training program for both experienced and experienced officials. The program for experienced officials shall consist of at least five local meetings during the season of

the sport concerned, at which time regularly planned programs and activities shall be followed. The program for inexperienced officials, in addition to the meeting held for experienced officials, shall include at least two special meetings for instructions in mechanics and other matters dealing with officiating. Also, there shall be a definite plan followed by the association in assigning inexperienced officials to games in having the work of such officials observed by the local secretary or experienced officials who will confer with the men they observe and offer suggestions for improving their work. Each official will be required to attend three of the five local meetings. Failure to comply will result in probation for one year and failure to comply the following year shall result in suspension of the violator.

- i. Solicitation – No official shall solicit any coach, principal, or other school officials for the privilege of working athletic contests, nor shall a local association solicit the privilege of serving any school that is already being served by a recognized officials’ association.
- j. Suspension or probation of a member – In case a member of a local association is suspended or placed on probation, the secretary of that association shall immediately notify the MHSAA, giving the reasons for the suspension or probation and the period covered by the suspension or probation.
- k. Member schools of the MHSAA:
 - 1. Member schools of the MHSAA shall use only those officials who hold an official registration card for the current athletic season. All schools playing football must use a minimum of five (5) football officials in addition to the clock operator. All schools shall use a minimum, of two basketball officials, two baseball officials and two softball officials. In case of an emergency one official may work the game.
 - 2. A member school may secure special permission to use out-of-state registered officials for good and sufficient reason.
 - 3. Member schools shall make reports relative to the misconduct of game officials, as well as such other reports as may be requested by the MHSAA.
 - 4. Member schools shall contribute to the support of the officials training and supervision program according to the following schedule of fees which must be paid not later than August 1:

1A Schools -	\$45.00
2A Schools -	\$50.00
3A Schools -	\$60.00
4A Schools -	\$65.00
5A Schools -	\$70.00
6A Schools -	\$70.00

- 5. The Executive Committee shall employ an assistant to the Executive Director, and this assistant shall be primarily responsible for the enrollment, training, and supervision of registered athletic officials.
 - 6. The member schools of the MHSAA shall be expected to observe such common courtesies in connection with athletic officials as they observe in working with other employees of the school.
 - 7. Member schools shall be responsible for the treatment accorded the officials by coaches, players, pupils, and the public. Schools may be penalized for the abuse of officials by anyone connected with or supporting the school.
 - 8. Member schools shall pay officials no later than five days after a game.
- l. Football, Basketball, and Baseball Fees and the Assignment of Officials: For the purpose of assigning football, basketball, and baseball officials, the state shall be divided into districts. The districts shall be called District 1 (Northeast), District 2 (Northwest), District 3 (Delta), District 4 (East Central), District 5 (East Mississippi and Laurel), District 6 (Middle Mississippi), District 7 (Southwest), and District 8 (Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast). Member schools shall use officials provided by corresponding officials’ districts unless other arrangements have been approved by the Executive Director or his designated representative.
 - m. Any school that pays more or less than the schedule of fees will be fined \$100.00 and placed on probation for one year.
 - n. Any official who accepts more than the schedule of fees will be fined \$25.00 and placed on probation for one year.
 - o. A rating for high school officials will be based on the Mississippi High School Officials Rating System. The system is based on a 100 point maximum and divided into four sections.

Section I – Closed book exam:

90 – 100.....	20 points
85 – 89	16 points
80 – 84	12 points
75 – 79	8 points
70 – 75	4 points
Less than 70	0 points

Section II – Mechanics:

Evaluation	0 – 20 points
Meetings: State	3 points
Local	1 point (7 meetings)
Varsity games worked (football)	2.5 points per game
Varsity games worked (basketball)	1 point per game
(25 points maximum)	

Section III – Experience: 5 points per year up to a maximum of 25 points. Must work minimum of 6 games (junior high through varsity)

Section IV – Classifications –

Certified 85 total points and 30 varsity football games. (Basketball 50 varsity games)

Approved – Minimum of 65 points, and passing score on test (70 or above)

Recognized – below 65 points

- p. Only certified officials are eligible to officiate in tournaments or games leading to a state championship or in any post season games.
- q. At least one official of approved rating or higher shall be assigned to all football or basketball games.
- r. Any official with five or more years experience who has failed the written test on the last two consecutive years in which he has registered shall be suspended for one year. Reinstatement is contingent on passing the written examination.

2009 - 2010 MHSAA RULES INTERPRETATION CLINICS

Slow Pitch Softball – 6:00 p.m.

July 21 Summit/ Southwest CC
July 22 Tupelo/Tupelo High School
July 23 Starkville/Armstrong Middle School
July 27 Hattiesburg/Payne Center
July 28 Meridian/Ross Collins
July 29 Laurel/Cameron Center
August 3 Senatobia/7:00 Northwest CC
August 4 Cleveland/Caylor Hall, DSU
August 11 Clinton/MHSAA Office
August 12 Gulfport/Harrison Central High School

Football – 6:30 p.m.

August 4 McComb/McComb Sports Park
Tupelo/Tupelo High School
August 5 Gulfport/Harrison Central High School
Starkville/Armstrong Middle School
August 6 Cleveland/Caylor Hall, DSU
Laurel/Laurel High School
August 10 Batesville/TVAEA Building
Meridian/Ross Collins VoTech
August 11 Hattiesburg/Payne Center
Clinton/Clinton High School

September 2 Football Exam

Basketball – 6:30 p.m.

October 6 Summit/Southwest CC
Tupelo/Tupelo High School
October 7 Gulfport/Harrison Central High School
Louisville/Louisville High School
October 13 Cleveland/Caylor Hall, DSU
Laurel/Laurel High School
October 14 Meridian/Ross Collins VoTech
Senatobia/Senatobia High School
October 15 Clinton/Clinton High School
Hattiesburg/Payne Center

Soccer – 6:00 p.m.

October 5 Laurel/TBA
October 8 Summit/TBA
October 12 Gulfport/HS
October 13 Meridian/Ross Collins
October 20 Greenville/ Guidance & Counseling Bldg.
October 21 Starkville/Armstrong Middle School
October 22 Tupelo/Tupelo High School
October 26 Senatobia/Senatobia High School
October 27 Hattiesburg/Payne Center
October 28 Clinton/MHSAA Office

December 9 Basketball Exam

Baseball-7:00/Fast Pitch Softball-5:30 p.m.

January 7 Tupelo/Tupelo High School
January 11 Summit/Southwest CC
January 13 Cleveland/Caylor Hall, DSU
January 14 Hattiesburg/Payne Center
January 25 Senatobia/Senatobia High School
January 27 Starkville/Armstrong Middle School
January 28 Laurel/Cameron Center
February 1 Gulfport/Harrison Central High School
February 3 Meridian/Ross Collins
February 4 Clinton/MHSAA Office

Volleyball

District 1 – August 5 – 5:15
District 2 – August 6 – 6:45
District 3 – July 30 – 3:15
District 4 – August 4 – 5:15
District 5 – July 28 – 6:15
District 6 – July 29 – 6:15
District 7 – July 27 – 5:15
District 8 – August 10 – 6:15

Powerlifting – 6:00 p.m.

December 9 -Oak Grove High School
10 Madison Central High School
16 Aberdeen High School
17 Grenada High School

2009 - 2010 MHSAA Official Fees

It is strongly recommended that the timer and scorer in all sports be competent adults.

The following is a list of all scheduled rules clinics for all sports. Each official must attend a clinic in the sport for which he is registered. A school will be fined \$50.00 if the head coach does not attend a state rules meeting in the sport in which he coaches.

Football – Varsity

Certified - \$85.00
Approved - \$75.00
Recognized - \$70.00
Clock Operator - \$55.00
JV & 9th Grade \$55.00
Post Season - \$85.00 (plus mileage for 2 vehicles)
Alternate official - \$70.00

Middle School

1 Game - \$35.00
2 Games - \$50.00
Each additional game \$15.00

Length of game for students below 9th grade – 8 minutes

JV and 9th grade may play 10 minute quarters

Cancellation policy: If the officials have departed for the game, compensations for a cancelled ballgame beyond the control of game management will be \$35.00 plus crew mileage. Clock operator will be \$20.00.

Basketball – Varsity & Junior Varsity

2 Officials – 2 Games

Certified - \$85.00
Approved - \$75.00
Recognized - \$70.00
Single game fee - \$55.00
JV (one game) \$40.00
JV (multiple games) \$35.00
Length of quarters for students below 9th grade – 6 minutes

Middle School

1 Game - \$35.00
2 Games - \$45.00
Each additional game \$15.00

9th grade (per game) \$35.00

9th grade (multiple games) \$25.00 per game

3 Officials – 2 Games

Certified - \$75.00
Approved - \$75.00
Recognized - \$70.00
Each additional game fee - \$37.50
Single game session - \$50.00
Post Season (plus mileage) - \$50.00

Baseball – Varsity

Plate - \$65.00
Bases - \$60.00
Post Season (plus mileage)
\$65.00
\$60.00

Junior Varsity & Jr. High

Plate - \$35.00
Bases - \$35.00

5 innings or 1 ½ hours. If time limit occurs after inning has started, the inning is to be completed.

Cancellation policy: If the officials have departed for the game, compensations for a cancelled ball game beyond the control of game management will be \$20.00 plus crew mileage. Suspended Game Policy: If a game is suspended, the officials will receive full compensation. \$20.00 for completion of a suspended game that is less than 3 innings when combined with another contest.

<u>Volleyball</u>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Two Matches</i>	<i>Three Matches</i>	<i>Post Season</i>	<i>Middle Schools</i>
1 st Referee 3 of 5	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$90.00	\$55.00 plus mileage	
2 nd Referee 3 of 5	\$45.00	\$75.00	\$90.00		
1 st Referee 2 of 3	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$85.00	\$50.00 plus mileage	\$30.00
2 nd Referee 2 of 3	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$85.00		\$25.00
Linesmen	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$40.00		

Slow Pitch Softball - Varsity

Single Game - \$50.00

Double Header - \$60.00

Additional game - \$30.00

Post Season will be the same (plus mileage)

Cancellation policy: If the officials have departed for the game, compensations for a cancelled ballgame beyond the control of game management will be \$20.00 plus crew mileage. Suspended Game Policy: If a game is suspended, the officials will receive full compensation. \$20.00 for completion of a suspended game that is less than 3 innings when combined with another contest.

Fast Pitch Softball – Varsity JV

Plate - \$55.00

Bases - \$50.00

Junior High

Plate - \$30.00

Bases - \$30.00

Post Season will be the same (plus mileage)

Cancellation policy: If the officials have departed for the game, compensations for a cancelled ballgame beyond the control of game management will be \$20.00 plus crew mileage. Suspended Game Policy: If a game is suspended, the officials will receive full compensation. \$20.00 for completion of a suspended game that is less than 3 innings when combined with another contest.

Soccer - Varsity

Diagonal (3 officials)

Referee - \$60.00

Linesman - \$50.00

Dual (2 officials)

Referee - \$60.00

Linesman - \$60.00

Post Season (plus mileage)

Referee - \$60.00

Linesman - \$50.00

JV & Middle Schools

Referee - \$35.00

Linesman - \$35.00

**Policy Statement Adopted by the MHSAA
Executive Committee on National High School Athletic Championships**

The Consortium of Educational Leaders supports the participation of students in interscholastic athletics within their own local conferences and at the state level where authorized. The Consortium considers this involvement in athletics and in other student activities as beneficial to the growth and development of secondary school students. It constitutes an important dimension of the total educational experience.

The Consortium, however, opposes vigorously the establishment of any national athletic championship program for students enrolled in secondary schools. This position is held for these reasons:

1. National championships would provide an overemphasis upon athletics at this age level. Inter-district and state championships afford to athletes a high level of competition while not interfering with the sound concept of providing a well rounded academic, athletic, and cultural experience for students.
2. National championships would require that students miss a significant amount of class time to train for and participate in the scheduled games. Many of the students are not sufficiently proficient in school to afford to miss additional days for national contests. Some in fact, could benefit from supplemental work in reading, writing, or mathematics to carry them beyond their active athletic years.
3. High School students are at an impressionable age and often are unable to handle adequately the publicity attendant to state-level competition. This problem would be compounded by national championships and would only further distort their perspective and their basic values.
4. An over-involvement with athletics interferes with the operation of schools for the majority of students. It is unfortunate, but true, that when athletics become too important, then classes are cancelled for rallies, special arrangements have to be made for athletes missing their work, a "privileged class" develops in the student body, and the basic values of the school become masked by the momentary glamour of it all.
5. It is quite possible that commercial programs will develop to exploit athletes selected for any national athletic championship program. The Consortium has no objection to the selection of students for recognition by commercial interests, but it would object strongly to an actual sponsorship of national high school athletic contests by commercial firms.

Athletics are an important part of the lives of many students and adults. It is important, however, that a proper perspective be maintained so that promotional endeavors do not harm the many benefits which accrue to persons who participate in athletic activities.

MHSAA Hazing/Harassment Policy

The MHSAA is committed to encouraging and promoting good sportsmanship/citizenship in all levels of activities and interscholastic competition. We feel a responsibility in promoting a positive atmosphere during every event within the activities association. Some groups and organizations have taken it upon themselves to "initiate" newcomers and sometimes these celebrations can become abusive. Each individual plays an important role in making every event as safe as possible.

Hazing can be defined as any act or ceremony which can create the risk of harm to a student as a form of initiation into a particular club or activity. Hazing includes activities that involve the risk of physical harm, whipping, branding, ingesting vile substances, sleep deprivation, over-exposure to heat or cold, restraint, nudity or kidnapping, i.e.

Hazing or harassment by any name is wrong. Anyone who witnesses or hears about a form of harassment should report it. Allegations of harassment may be the result of words, physical contact, email, or other unwelcome verbal or non-verbal communication.

It is the responsibility of school administration including the athletic staff, sponsors, and teachers to report any form of hazing/harassment and to deal with the problem on the local level. The state association office should only be contacted if an incident takes place during an MHSAA activity. Taking control in schools by establishing an anti-hazing policy that is explained and enforced is recommended. Students need a way to safely report incidents of hazing to the school guidance counselor and/or other administrative personnel.

Star Sportsmanship Requirement

During the 2008-2009 school year, every school that was a member of the Mississippi High School Activities Association was required to go through the Star Sportsmanship program. Below is the requirement that was passed by the MHSAA Executive Committee.

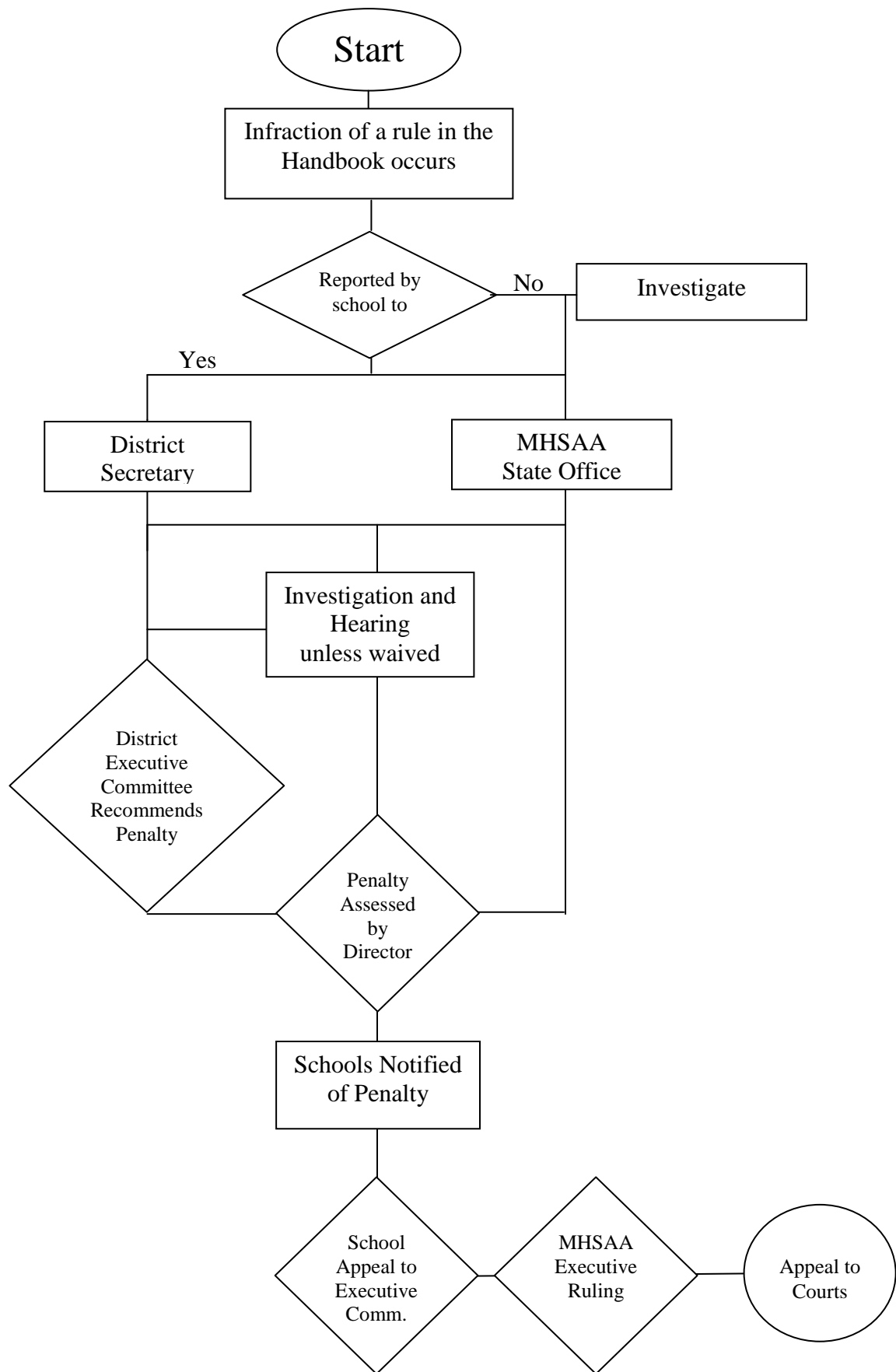
- Coaches, student-athletes, cheerleaders, and dance participants in middle school and high school sports will be required to complete the Star Sportsmanship online program which is endorsed by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi Association of Coaches, and the Mississippi High School Activities Association
- It will be the responsibility of the head coach of each sport to insure that his or her team's student-athletes and assistant coaches complete the Star Sportsmanship program.
 - *Junior high and middle school coaches and students must complete the Star Program before their sports season ends.
 - *High school coaches and students must complete the Star Program before post-season play begins in their sport.
- Star Sportsmanship rosters of high school teams participating in the playoffs will be checked along with the required playoff eligibility rosters turned in by participating schools. STAR SPORTSMANSHIP schools will be notified prior to the first playoff contest of coaches and players who have not completed the program.
 - *The high school head coach will not be allowed to participate in post-season play until all players and assistant coaches have completed the Star Sportsmanship program.
 - * Middle schools will be randomly checked to insure completion of the Star program. A \$500 fine will be assessed middle school teams not completing the program.
- **Any coach or player who is ejected must complete the Star Sportsmanship program (if it has not already been completed) plus the remedial module Take 2 before the ejected coach or player can once again participate.**

Who must complete the STAR Sportsmanship program during the 2009-2010 school year?

- **Any coach or player who has not already gone through the training must complete it. (All new coaches must complete the training.)**
- **Any cheer or dance coach or participant who has not already gone through the training must complete it.**
- **Band, choral, and speech and debate participants must complete the training.**
- **Coaches are encouraged to use the parent module at their team meetings.**

Middle school students who have gone through the middle school version do NOT need to go through the high school version if they are moving to the high school. Their STAR Sportsmanship certification is still effective.

The Executive Board is using a proactive approach to a serious problem—poor sportsmanship. During the 2008-2009 school year we saw a 43 percent reduction in ejections. To access the program, simply go to the MHSAA website—www.misshsaa.com. Double-click on "[STAR Sportsmanship School Finder](#)" to get your school's code. The training may be done at home, at school, at the library, or on any computer. If you have any problems, call Learning Through Sports at 866-552-9192.



DUE PROCESS
Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.

Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., (as previously constituted) and its Predecessor Associations

The Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association was the logical result of the desire of geographical regional groups to have some basis for intergroup contests. The schoolmasters' clubs (now know as regional units) have been in existence for nearly 40 years. They were perhaps originally planned as social and professional associations for school men, with oratorical contests the principal student interest.

Each of the older clubs not only did a worthwhile work in promoting a friendly and professional spirit among schoolmasters and in quickening the interest through contests of high school boys and girls in school life, but each has made valuable contributions to the State Association. In this manner of development from group to State Association – the Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association was perhaps unique among similar state organizations.

Beginning in 1919 at annual meetings of the Mississippi Education Association, attempts were made to coordinate these clubs into a state association. The clubs were jealous of their authority and each was proud of its own peculiar development and traditions, and not until 1922 were all groups found willing to make individual sacrifices in order that a state association might come into existence. The State Association was formed in 1922. It directed and controlled the interschool relations during the school year 1922 – 23, and in the spring of 1923 a literary and field meet was held in Jackson and it was very successful.

The membership of the original State Committee to whom much credit is due was as follows:

J. S. Vandiver, Chairman	L. B. Reid
C. E. Harris, Secretary	N. C. Moncrief
	W. B. Kenna

The organization as originally set up continued to function until 1939. The feeling that there was need for a change in the organization so as to give more continuity of thought in the legislative procedure, the Association began to assert itself in 1938. The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Education Association passed a resolution in 1938 calling upon the Executive Committee to revise its organization so as to give more stability to the legislative branch of the Association. In response to this resolution, a committee was authorized to draft a formal Constitution and By-Laws for the government and direction of the Association; the same to be submitted to the Mississippi Education Association for final approval. This was a joint committee composed of one representative from each of the ten regions elected by the school men of the respective regions, and the State Committee. The following committee was elected:

W. B. Kenna, General Chairman

Regional Representatives

Delta-Supt. F. C. Barnes, Drew
Big Black – Supt. J. B. Edwards, Ackerman
East Central – Supt. J. L. McCaskill, Meridian
Gulf Coast – Supt. G. W. Ditto, Biloxi
Middle Mississippi – Not represented
North Central – Supt. C. C. Holloman, Batesville
North East – Supt. B. D. McCallister, West Point
North West – Supt. J. F. Russum, Hernando
South East – Supt. Herbert Ferrell, Taylorsville
South West – Supt. D. C. Leach, Monticello

State Committee

Supt. E. S. Bowlus – Brookhaven
Supt. R. S. Weems – Morton
Coach E. W. Young – Ellisville
Supt. W. B. Kenna - Lexington

This committee met in February, 1939, and drafted a proposed constitution, which was submitted to and adopted by the Mississippi Education Association in its regular meeting in March of the same year. The constitution was put into effect immediately after its adoption.

The Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association did a worthwhile and constructive work in its efforts to elevate the standards of sportsmanship, to develop a higher standard of scholarship, and to encourage pride in scholastic achievement. Much credit for these accomplishments is due to men who have given unselfishly of their time and effort in behalf of the program. Members of the state committees, state councils, regional committees and all other special committees, superintendents, principals, coaches, teachers, and students have shown a wonderful spirit of cooperation and good will. This has contributed much to the success of the Association.

However, the expansion of the program of the State Association, and the development of parallel programs by other groups brought about many conflicts and much overlapping. The work had grown to such proportions that it was impossible for "part time men" to do the work necessary for the administration of the program. It seemed to be the consensus of opinion that a reorganization of the Association was necessary so as to coordinate and integrate all interschool activities in such a way that the whole program could be administered through one office. It was also the definite conviction of all concerned that a full time office with at least two full time workers would be necessary to successfully administer the new program.

Studies were made by various committees and recommendations formulated. All agreed that reorganization was necessary and that a full time office should be set up. The principal question was whether or not the new Association should be a subsidiary and a part of the Mississippi Education Association or an independent organization. After exhaustive studies had been made of prevailing practices in other states and of conditions in our state, it was finally agreed that it would be better to set up an independent association. It was pointed out that absolute harmony would always exist between the two associations, since those interested in one would also be interested in the other.

A Constitution Committee headed by C. S. McGivaren was appointed. This committee spent much time on the project and finally drafted a constitution that was acceptable to all groups. This constitution was submitted to the various district meetings in the fall of 1948 and was overwhelmingly approved by representatives of member schools. It was also approved by the Delegate Assembly of the Mississippi Education Association in the spring of 1949. On May 7, 1949, the Legislative Body of the Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association held its last meeting. At this meeting the new organization with its Constitution was finally approved and the "Old Organization" ordered liquidated as of July 1, 1949. Thus the Mississippi High School Literary and Athletic Association ceased to exist and the Mississippi High School Association came into being as its successor. On June 29, 1949, the governing body of the new Association approved the Constitution and By-Laws and set up the machinery for the new organization, which started July 1.

The State Council had at a previous meeting elected the following as the first State Committee of the new Association:

C. L. Milling – Ruleville
L. W. Tanner- Moss Point
W. P. Daniel – New Albany
W. B. Dribben – Benoit
S. M. Crain – Clinton

The State Executive Committee elected W. B. Kenna, Lexington, as the Director of Activities of the Mississippi High School Association. This completed the reorganization plans and all committees were finally discharged.

On January 6, 1950, Article I of the Constitution of the Mississippi High School Association was amended to read as follows: The name of the organization is the Mississippi High School Activities Association. This organization was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi on December 19, 1956.

MAGNOLIA STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

In the mid 1950's high school educators from throughout the state realized a need for an organization to give guidance to the schools' extra-curricular programs.

The first attempt to perfect an organization was presented to the delegate assembly of the Mississippi Teachers Association (MTA). A committee was appointed to study Constitutions and By-Laws of other Activities Associations and to draw up a proposed constitution. A proposed Constitution was presented to the next delegate assembly of MTA. The delegates voted to authorize the Principals' Association to organize an Activities Association.

In 1960, the Principals' Association appointed E. S. Bishop as Coordinator. Study Chairmen of the eight educational districts were appointed to serve as the legislative body until the districts could elect this body. This body elected an Executive Committee, approved a Constitution and By-Laws and caused plans to be implemented for the operation of the Association.

D. M. Smith served as president of the Association from May, 1966 through May, 1968, and W. L. Slaughter served as president from June, 1968 through February 7, 1971. H. T. Drake served as Director of Activities from July 1, 1966 through February 7, 1971.

On February 8, 1971, the Magnolia State High School Activities Association and the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. were merged to form the new Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated.

MERGER OF FORMER ASSOCIATIONS TO FORM THE EXISTING ASSOCIATION

On September 10, 1969, the Magnolia State High School Activities Association filed suit in United States District Court seeking a merger with the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc., and on August 13, 1970, the two Associations were ordered to merge. The merger was effectuated on February 8, 1971.

By order entered on February 3, 1971, the Court approved and adopted a Merger Plan which, by the terms of the order, became effective on February 8, 1971. The Merger Plan contained certain new matter dealing with the transition of the two separate Associations into a new Merged Association, and also contained certain new Constitution and By-Law provisions, but it provided that the Constitution and By-Laws of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated (as previously constituted), as they appeared in that Association's 1969 – 1970 Handbook, should remain in full force and effect as the Constitution and By-Laws of the Merged Association, except where they were in conflict with the Merger Plan.

Therefore, for the sake of brevity and clarity in this Handbook, rather than setting out herein the verbatim Merger Plan which makes numerous references to the 1969 – 1970 Handbook of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated (as previously constituted), only the pertinent transitional provisions of the Merger Plan (Articles I-VI) are set forth verbatim herein, with the other new provisions of the Merger Plan being simply incorporated in the Constitution, By-Laws and general information which follow.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES AND DIRECTORS OF ACTIVITIES

W. B. “Bill” Kenna, Superintendent of Lexington Schools, was elected as the first full-time secretary on July 1, 1949. He served in this capacity until June 30, 1958. On January 6, 1950, the name of the organization became Mississippi High School Activities Association. The organization was duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Mississippi on December 19, 1956.

W. D. “Webb” Allen, Superintendent of Schools at Tupelo, was elected as the replacement and began work on July 1, 1958, retiring on June 30, 1968. The organization continued to get stronger, and the Officials’ Association became a part of the Association with a full-time Supervisor of Officials.

M. P “Dick” Smith, Superintendent of Picayune, began serving the organization on July 1, 1968. Having previously served as state president of the Association for five years, he brought unique experience to the growth of the Association. He guided the Association through the Federal Court cases and implemented the court ordered merger plan. He is credited with effectively creating a smooth transition which led to continued growth of the new Association. He retired on June 1, 1979.

H. T. Drake, Principal of the Rosa Scott High School at Madison, was elected full time Director of the Magnolia Association on July 1, 1966. He served in this capacity until February 8, 1971, when he was elected Assistant Director of Activities of the new Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated. He was instrumental in the merging of the two Associations and in helping the new organization to grow strong.

Woodrow L. Marsh, Superintendent of Schools at Cleveland, began his term in office on July 1, 1979. He had previously served on the Legislative Council for nine years. During his tenure, state championships in football, girls softball, and soccer were organized. The schools’ classification was changed from four to five classes. Divisions were developed in all sports and the number one and number two team advances in the state playoffs. Seeing a real need for additional office space, he led in the purchase of land, planning, financing and supervising the construction of the new office building at 1201 Clinton-Raymond Road in Clinton. He retired June 30, 1991, after serving forty-three years in the field of education in Mississippi.

Ennis H. Proctor, Ed.D., Principal of Forest Hill High School, began his term of office on July 1, 1991. Under Dr. Proctor’s leadership the MHSAA greatly expanded opportunities for secondary students to be actively involved in their schools. He established a corporate sponsorship program that helped the Association to become financially stable. Dr. Proctor also formed the scholar athlete scholarship program to encourage students academically, and he paid off the existing structure and expanded the headquarter building.

MERGER PLAN OF MAGNOLIA STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION AND MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

Magnolia State High School Activities (hereinafter referred to as the “Magnolia Association”) and its member schools, shall be merged in accordance with this Plan into one high school activities association, so that upon such merger taking effect there shall be only one high school activities association in the State of Mississippi, to be know as Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Merged Association”).

**I.
ORGANIZATION**

The Mississippi Association exists and is operating as a nonprofit corporation, it having been incorporated under the nonprofit corporation laws of the State of Mississippi. The Magnolia Association is an unincorporated association. Upon the merger being effectuated, the Magnolia Association and the Mississippi Association shall cease to exist. However, the Merged Association, although a wholly new association, shall exist and operate under the same Articles of Incorporation under which the Mississippi Association is now operating.

**II.
MEMBERSHIP**

All schools which are currently members in good standing of either the Mississippi Association or the Magnolia Association and which are eligible for membership under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Merged Association as hereinafter set forth shall automatically become members of the Merged Association.

**III.
MERGER OF ASSETS**

All assets of the Mississippi Association and the Magnolia Association including all funds, bank accounts, records, books, office furniture, equipment, automobiles and all other property, real and personal, shall be transferred and delivered to the Executive Director of the Merged Association and shall become property of the Merged Association.

**IV.
ADMINISTRATORS AND OTHER EMPLOYEES**

- A. The Merged Association shall retain the services of M. P. Smith (the present Executive Director of the Mississippi Association) as its Executive Director, and the services of H. T. Drake (the present Executive Director of the Magnolia Association) as its Assistant Executive Director, for the balance of their respective contracts, and their respective salaries shall be fixed commensurate to the salaries which they were receiving on May 7, 1970; provided, however, that their salaries thus fixed shall not be lower than the salaries which they were receiving on the aforesaid date. The administrative staff and other employees shall be employed free from racial discrimination.
- B. For a period of at least three years the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director shall not be of the same race.
- C. The Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director shall be given discretion in the hiring of their secretaries.
- D. Alphonse Marks shall be employed to serve as Assistant Supervisor of Officials for the 1970 – 71 school year, and he shall be compensated as follows: a minimum of \$15.00 per assignment and 10¢ per mile for travel per assignment.

**V.
INITIAL ELECTIONS OF
STATE COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, PRESIDENT,
ADVISORY COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT OFFICERS**

As soon as practicable after the merger has become effective, all members of the State Council, all members of the Executive Committee, the President of the Merged Association, all members of the Advisory Committees and all of the District Officers and Committeemen shall be elected as provided in the Constitution of the Merged Association. The first year of the term of offices of each person so elected shall end on June 30, 1971.

For the initial election of members of the State Council of the Merged Association, the Executive Directors of the two merging associations using current school enrollments and the map appearing on page seven (7) of the Mississippi Association's 1969-70 Handbook, shall determine the number and classification of schools eligible for membership in the new association in each of the eight districts of the state.

**VI.
ATHLETIC OFFICIALS**

- A. Each of the six Officials Districts and each local officials group shall elect a secretary and an assistant secretary, one of whom shall be white and the other black, and the secretary and assistant secretary shall work together in making game assignments.
- B. Athletic officials presently certified by either the Magnolia Association or the Mississippi Association shall be certified by the Merged Association.

Mississippi High School Activities Association
2009 – 2010 Legislative Council

			Term Expires
District I	Ronnie Hill, Principal, Baldwyn	1A/2A	2013
	Lynn McGee, Principal, Ripley	3A	2011
	Ralph Green, Principal, Shannon	4A	2012
	Roy Hazzle, A.D., Aberdeen	At-Large	2011
	*James Storey, Principal, Ripley Middle		
District II	Vince Jordan, Principal, Myrtle	1A/2A	2012
	TBA	3A	2010
	Phil Oakley, AD, Senatobia	4A	2013
	Charlie Howard, Coach, South Panola	5A/6A	2012
	*Jimmy Murphrey, Coach, Lafayette Junior		
District III	James Johnson, Supt., Hollandale	1A/2A	2009
	Lewis “Butch” Inmon, Coach, Shaw	At-Large	2011
	Jim Hughes, Coach, Clarksdale	4A	2011
	Larry Green, Superintendent, Western Line	At-Large	2010
	*Rickey Taylor, A.D., Merritt Middle		
District IV	Junior Graham, A.D., Eupora	1A/2A	2012
	Pete Lucovich, Coach, Carthage	3A	2010
	Jerrelyn Jackson, Asst. Supt., Kosciusko	4A	2012
	Greg Carter, Coach, Starkville	5A/6A	2012
	*Bobby Boone, Principal, Red Water		
District V	Kenny Robinson, Coach, Mize	1A/2A	2013
	Durwood Anderson, A.D., Raleigh	3A	2013
	Steve Hampton, A. D., Quitman	4A	2011
	Jermaine Brown, A. D. Meridian	5A/6A	2011
	*Jake Kyzar, Coach, Collins Middle		
District VI	Bill Ward, Principal, Pelahatchie	1A/2A	2012
	Sarah Richardson, Principal, Morton	3A	2010
	Tony Woolfolk, A.D., Yazoo City	4A	2010
	Lum Wright, A.D., Vicksburg/Warren	5A/6A	2010
	*Willie McInnis, Sumner Hill Junior		
District VII	Ronald Greer, Principal, Wesson	1A/2A	2013
	Tracy Cook, A.D., Jefferson County	3A	2013
	Randy Spring, Coach, Brookhaven	4A	2011
	Jason Case, Principal, W. Lincoln	At-Large	2012
	*Tommy Clopton, Coach, Wesson		
District VIII	Brandon Davis, Coach, Richton	1A/2A	2012
	Charles Neely, Coach, Purvis	3A	2010
	Larry Dolan, A.D., Forrest County AHS	4A	2013
	Howard McNeill, A.D., Gulfport	5A/6A	2010
	*Ricky Floyd, Coach, Gulfport Ninth		
	John McArthur, Band Director, Ridgeland – Fine Arts Member		2011
	*Junior High Representative		

**MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
2009-2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Lonnie Tillman, President, Athletic Director (2012)
Harrison County School District
11072 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
Phone: 228-539-7227, Fax: 228-539-6507

Rickey Neaves, Superintendent (2010)
Booneville School District
P. O. Box 358
Booneville, MS 38829
Phone: 662-728-2171, Fax: 662-728-4940

Jeff Gilder, Principal (2013)
Southaven High School
735 Rasco Road
Southaven, MS 38671-3999
Phone: 662-393-9300, Fax: 662-996-1574

Anthony Jenkins, Athletic Director (2013)
Hernando High School
805 Dilworth
Hernando, MS 38632-8701
Phone: 662-429-4145, Fax: 662-449-1100

Jim Mattox, Asst. Superintendent (2010)
Greenwood Public School District
P. O. Box 1497
Greenwood, MS 38930
Phone: 662-455-7403, Fax: 662-455-8973

King David Rush, Superintendent (2011)
Indianola School District
702 Highway 82 East
Indianola, MS 38751
Phone: 662-884-1200, Fax: 662-887-7042

Jimmy Pittman, Superintendent (2013)
Webster County School District
95 Clark Avenue
Eupora, MS 39744
Phone: 662-258-5921, Fax: 662-258-3134

North At-Large:
Kathy Davis Austin, Superintendent (2010)
Chickasaw County School District
P. O. Drawer 480
Houlka, MS 38850
Phone: 662-568-3333, Fax: 662-568-2993

Dwane Taylor, Principal (2011)
Southeast Lauderdale Attendance Center
2362 Long Creek Road
Meridian, MS 39301
Phone: 601-483-5501, Fax: 601-483-6347

Mike Kent, Superintendent (2010)
Madison County School District
P. O. Box 159
Flora, MS 39071
Phone: 601-879-3000, Fax: 601-879-3039

John Neal, Dir. of Cmty. Relations (2011)
Hinds County School District
13192 Highway 18
Raymond, MS 39154
Phone: 601-857-5222, Fax: 601-857-4959

Chuck Freeman, Athletic Director (2012)
North Pike High School
1022 Jaguar Trail
Summit, MS 39666
Phone: 601-276-2120, Fax: 601-276-2720

Greg Freeman, Athletic Director (2012)
Pascagoula School District
P. O. Box 250
Pascagoula, MS 39568-0250
Phone: 228-938-6568, Fax: 228-938-6569

Cheyenne Trussell, Athletic Director (2012)
Hattiesburg Department of Athletics
701 Stadium Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: 601-582-4366, Fax: 601-582-3507

South At-Large:
Edna Thomas, Asst. Superintendent (2010)
Hattiesburg Public School District
301 Mamie Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Phone: 601-582-5078, Fax: 601-582-6666

MHSAA
District Secretaries

DISTRICT I

Larry Williams
849 Jones Drive
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801
Phone: 662-841-2188

DISTRICT II

Truman Albritton
P. O. Box 572
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668
Phone: 662-562-6539

DISTRICT III

James Nicholson
P. O. Box 3333
Delta State University
Cleveland, Mississippi 38733
7015
Phone: 662-846-4354

DISTRICT IV

Gale Gregory
179 Gregory Road
Louisville, Mississippi 39339
Phone: 662-773-2817

DISTRICT V

Tommy Parker
5204 Highway 11 North
Ellisville, Mississippi 39437
Phone: 601-649-5201

DISTRICT VI

Jerry Huskey
P. O. Box 721075
Byram, Mississippi 39272
Phone: 601-668-2026

DISTRICT VII

Mike Goff
P. O. Box 383
Meadville, Mississippi 39653
Phone: 601-384-5556/601-384-

DISTRICT VIII

Carl Shepherd
4921 Highway 29
Petal, Mississippi 39465
Phone: 601-583-9201