

Schools shall abide by rules in the Constitution, by rules in the By-Laws, by rules in the Contest Rules, by rules in the TAPPS News Briefs, by regulations issued from the TAPPS office in the coaches and administrator's sports manuals, and other official notices from the TAPPS office. Where any term or section of the Contest Rules and/or the coaches and administrators' sports manuals is found to be inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws, the Constitution and By-Laws shall prevail and apply and the remaining terms and sections of the Contest Rules and/or the coaches and administrator's sports manuals shall continue in effect.

A. ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS. A school shall not participate in a sports activity unless that sport is indicated on the current contract, signed by the superintendent or designated administrator, and on file in the TAPPS office by September 1 of the current school year. Exception: A school which does not participate in football the first year of a new alignment may not participate the second year except by unanimous consent of the district executive committee.

B. DISTRICTS AND CLASSIFICATIONS.

1. *Classifications.* Schools are placed in classifications according to enrollment figures.

2. *District Assignments.*

Schools will be assigned to districts by the TAPPS Executive Board. District assignments and a list of tentative chairs will be mailed out to participant schools prior to the season. The district shall select a permanent president and notify the TAPPS office. However, the superintendent, principal, or coach in each school competing under this plan, is ultimately responsible for ascertaining the name of the district president, time of meeting, etc. If the president moves from a member school, each school in the district has a responsibility to see that a new president is elected and to notify the TAPPS office.

C. SCHEDULES

1. GAMES

a. TAPPS Member Schools shall schedule contests with school sponsored teams.

b. TAPPS Member Schools shall not schedule contests with select, AAU, Club or other similar teams.

2. INTERSTATE and INTERNATIONAL GAMES
 - a. Schools wishing to schedule interstate opponents must obtain approval from TAPPS prior to participating in any single contest or tournament event.
 - b. For contests in which the out of state opponent is traveling to Texas,
 1. School must be a member in good standing of a recognized State High School organization with eligibility rules in keeping with TAPPS standards.
 2. OUT OF STATE OPPONENT Application must be completed and approved prior to the date of competition.
 - c. For contests in which the TAPPS member school is traveling out of Texas
 1. The single contest or tournament must be sanctioned and approved by the NFHS.
 2. OUT OF STATE OPPONENT Application must be completed and approved prior to the date of competition.

3. DISTRICT SCHEDULES
 - a. are set by action of the District Executive Committee.
 - b. Game days originally agreed upon, either by district schedule or agreement between schools can only be changed by mutual agreement of the schools involved. Change is only valid when agreed upon in writing by both schools.
 - c. If a school forfeits a district game, and does not play that game,
 1. the forfeiting school shall not be eligible for the playoffs.
 2. None of the games involving the team cancelling the game will count towards the district standings. It is as if the team was never a part of the district.
 3. The individual players on the team are still eligible for consideration for all-district and all-state.
 4. If the game is played and later ordered to be forfeited by the District Executive Committee or if the school willingly forfeits the game after discovering an ineligible player, or some other rule violation, the team is not automatically removed from the playoffs.
 5. The team's won/loss record for district play, including any losses due to the forfeiture of teams that have played, shall be considered to determine if the team qualifies for a playoff berth.
 - d. Schools shall not forfeit any district games in order to play non-district games. Schools in violation of this provision will be subject to the range of penalties.

- e. **At the time of district certification, the district president shall certify all schools that will participate in the playoffs. Upon qualifying for the playoffs, schools must notify the TAPPS office in writing if their team will not participate in all playoff games in which they qualify as scheduled by TAPPS. If for any reason, the team cannot follow the schedule as provided by TAPPS the school shall remove itself from the playoffs without penalty so that the next highest ranked team may represent the district in the playoffs.**
 - f. **If a contest cannot be played as scheduled or completed as defined by the governing rules of the activity and the visiting team was not notified in advance of the situation or if the situation occurs during the contest**
 - 1. earnest effort should be expended to find an acceptable playing site so that the game may be played without additional travel expenses for team and fans.**
 - 2. A host school does not have to forfeit the contest unless the district executive committee rules that they have been negligent**
 - 3. If the contest is rescheduled, the home team will host the game at a mutually agreed date and time and reimburse the visiting school 50 cents per mile.**
 - 4. By mutual agreement, the visiting team may host the make-up game and no travel allowance shall be required.**
 - 5. If at the time of game stoppage one team has outscored the other, the losing coach may choose to accept the score as final**
4. FAILURE TO COMPLETE SEASON.
- a. *Regular Season.* A school that does not participate in a sport after signing the acceptance form should notify the TAPPS office prior to the season. A school may be suspended by the TAPPS Executive Board in that activity for a period of one year, unless sufficient justification is shown for not participating.
 - b. A school failing to participate in a sport after declaring for the sport (by submission of fees and contract) shall not participate in other district, regional, or state events until a fee equal to the event fee has been paid to the TAPPS office.

- c. A game or match cancelled after the contract has been signed, unless both parties agree to the cancellation, shall be forfeited by the team canceling the game or match.
 - d. In football, when two schools agree to play on a 2-year basis, **a contract should be signed by the two schools**, and agree that the home team shall keep 100% of the gate receipts, and the game is canceled the second year by the team that received 100% of the gate receipts the first year, the team that received no gate the first year is entitled to 50% of the net gate receipts from the first game unless mutually agreed otherwise. This is in addition to the forfeiture fee included in the contract.
 - e. *Playoffs.* Any school which qualifies for the playoffs in a sport and fails to participate or complete the official schedule of games/ matches, unless excused for valid reasons by the TAPPS Executive Board, may be suspended from that activity for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
5. WEATHER
- 1. Lightning
 - In the absence of Lightning Detectors or Predictors, TAPPS rules are as follows :
 - a. When thunder is heard or cloud to ground lightning is observed, the storm is close enough to strike you location with lightening. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
 - b. Thirty Minute Rule: Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - c. After beginning application of the 30 minute rule, any subsequent thunder or flash of lightning shall reset the clock and teams shall wait an additional 30 minutes from that point prior to resuming play.
 - d. A school that following the above guidelines shall not be required to forfeit contests.
 - 2. Temperature
 - a. In the event the outside temperature or heat index reaches 100 degrees as determined by the home team or event host,

interschool contests shall not be played without the mutual consent of all teams involved in the contest.

- b. In the event the outside temperature or chill factor reaches 32 degrees as determined by the home team or event host, interschool contests shall not be played without the mutual consent of all teams involved in the contest.

3. Travel

In the event of snow, ice or other weather conditions affecting travel, consideration should be given to the travel involved before and after a contest. A school that determines travel conditions to be unsafe shall not be required to forfeit contests.

D. WIN/LOSS PERCENTAGE. Non-district games shall not count on a team's district win/loss percentage.

E. PRACTICE/ SCRIMMAGE. A scrimmage is a practice that is a simulated contest between not more than four (4) teams. The following restrictions apply:

- 1. Do not count towards the maximum number of games allowed
- 2. Maximum Number
 - a. Three (3) for football
 - 1) Five (5) days between scrimmages
 - 2) Five (5) days between last scrimmage and first game
 - b. Four (4) for all other sports
- 3. No admission may be charged
- 4. Officials may be used
- 5. Officials shall not be paid
 - a. May be reimbursed for:
 - 1) Meals
 - 2) Mileage
- 6. A scrimmage may be scheduled after games have been played.
- 7. **A scrimmage contract should be obtained between the official's chapter and the host school. A reasonable fee may be paid to the official's chapter.**

F. PLAYING RULES.

- 1. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules govern:
 - a. Baseball
 - b. Basketball
 - c. Cross Country

- d. Softball
 - e. Swim and Dive
 - f. Soccer – FALL and WINTER
 - g. Track and Field
 - h. Volleyball
 - i. Wrestling
- 2. NCAA rules shall govern Football
 - 3. USTA rules shall govern Tennis
 - 4. USGA rules shall govern Golf

Any modification of or exception to a playing rule shall be noted in this manual, or a directive from the TAPPS office, for that sport.

G. **GAME ADMINISTRATOR.** In all TAPPS varsity athletic team contests, a game administrator shall be appointed by the home school. It is highly recommended that a game administrator be present for all sub-varsity games as well. Teams advancing to the state playoffs must insure that an administrator is appointed and present for each game which is held for football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball. The administrator should make themselves known to and be available to assist officials prior to, during or after the contest. That person must be a coach (other than the game coach), teacher, or administrator. It is recommended that a game administrator be designated by the home school for all non-varsity athletic team contests. The responsibilities of the game administrator are as follows:

- 1. see that officials are directed to their dressing room;
- 2. meet with the officials prior to game time (preferably on the playing field or court);
- 3. inform the officials where the game administrator will be seated;
- 4. assist the officials if they need to discourage unsportsmanlike conduct of a fan, player, or coach (such as removal from the gym);
- 5. check with the officials after the game to see if there is any misconduct that needs to be reported;
- 6. offer to provide an escort for the officials to their cars;
- 7. report incidents to the appropriate school administrator (home team or visitor);
- 8. report severe verbal abuse or physical contact of the official and any ejections of coaches and fans to the TAPPS office in writing within the next two working days.

H. **COACH TRAINING**

- 1. All TAPPS athletic directors and coaches (all levels of high school participation) shall complete the TAPPS SCOPE training prior to the start of their sports season annually.
- 2. SCOPE Training will include:
 - a. Solicitation of Students
 - b. Student Eligibility

- c. Contest Officials
- d. Game Administration
- e. Removal from a Contest
- f. Reporting Game Scores
- g. All District / All State Selection
- h. Fan Behavior
- i. Concussion in Sports
- j. First Aid and Steroid Use

3. The names of all coaches who complete the SCOPE training shall be sent to the TAPPS office.
4. It is the joint responsibility of the coach and athletic director to insure that the SCOPE and any other training are completed annually prior to the start of the individual's high school coaching duties.
5. Coaches with less than five (5) years experience coaching in public or private schools must complete the following through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS):
 - a. Fundamentals of Coaching
 - b. First Aid for Coaches
 - c. **Sport Specific**
 - i. **Baseball**
 - ii. **Basketball**
 - iii. **Cross Country / Track**
 - iv. **Football**
 - v. **Golf**
 - vi. **Soccer**
 - vii. **Softball**
 - viii. **Swim and Dive**
 - ix. **Tennis**
 - x. **Track**
 - xi. **Volleyball**
 - xii. **Wrestling**
6. Exceptions to #4 with approval from the TAPPS Office
 - a. Coaches with more than five (5) years coaching experience in either public or private school

- b. Verifiable college courses representing the curriculum listed in #4

I. REMOVAL FROM CONTEST

1. Conditions requiring the removal from a contest shall be determined by the governing organization for each sport as specified in the TAPPS By-Laws and outlined in the published rules for that sport.
2. Any coach or player ejected from, **or not allowed to continue participation in,** a contest or football coach receiving three or more 15 yard unsportsmanlike penalties during a contest, must
 - a. File a report with the TAPPS Office on the form located on the TAPPS Website
 - b. The form is due the following school day.
 - c. Both TAPPS schools involved in the contest must report any ejection occurring in the contest.
 - d. Fines for an ejection not reported to the TAPPS office by the deadline will be doubled.
 - e. Schools who fail to report an ejection are subject to further sanctions.
3. Coach who has documented SCOPE Training shall receive a
 - a. Private Reprimand
 - b. Suspension from the next scheduled contest **(single game or tournament game)** as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - c. Coach must complete the NFHS *Teaching and Modeling Behavior or similar* course prior to the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - d. The second and any subsequent ejections are subject to review by the *Athletic Executive Committee* for further sanctions.
 - i. Minimum Penalty to include 2 game suspension
4. Coach who has no documented SCOPE Training shall receive a
 - a. Public Reprimand – Coach
 - b. Public Reprimand – Athletic Director

- c. Suspension from the next scheduled contest **(single game or tournament game)** as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - d. Coach must complete the NFHS *Teaching and Modeling Behavior* or similar course prior to the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - e. The second and any subsequent ejections are subject to review by the *Athletic Executive Committee* for further sanctions.
 - i. Minimum Penalty to include 2 game suspension
5. Any student ejected from, **or not allowed to continue participation in,** a contest
- a. shall be suspended from the next scheduled **contest (single game or tournament game)** as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAPPS Office.
 - b. The Ejection report is due the following school day.
 - c. The second and any subsequent ejections are subject to review by the *Athletic Executive Committee* for further sanctions.
 - i. Minimum Penalty to include 2 game suspension
6. In the event of an ejection, **or a coach or student not being allowed to continue participation in a contest,** the School shall be responsible for the payment of a fine as follows:
- a. \$50 for the first ejection, student or coach, in a sport.
 - b. The fee will increase by \$50 for each subsequent ejection through the third ejection in a sport.
 - c. If more than three ejections occur in a sport, the *Athletic Executive Committee* will determine the amount of the fine
 - d. At least \$150 if a player or coach is ejected from a playoff contest.
 - e. If three ejections, coaches and players combined, are received in a sport during the season, the coaches and athletic director will be required to meet with the TAPPS Office.
 - f. If five ejections, coaches and players combined, are received by a member school during the school year, the athletic director and coaching staff of the member school will be required to meet with the TAPPS Office.

g. The FINE is due in the TAPPS office ten (10) days from the date of ejection. Failure to submit the fine by this deadline will result in the fine being doubled and all games occurring after the ten days being declared a forfeit. Once the fine has been paid games will not be forfeited, however, any games which were forfeited for nonpayment will not be reversed.

7. A coach or player deliberately coming into physical contact with, or threatening to harm an official shall receive a minimum five (5) game suspension.

8. If a player or coach is ejected in a playoff contest:

a. Play off contests after the district level of competition not scheduled by TAPPS

i. Fine

1. School to be Fined

2. \$150

ii. Player/Coach Suspension

1. One (1) playoff game if first Ejection of the year.

2. Minimum two (2) game suspension if not the first suspension of the year.

3. If final contest of a season

a. Suspensions carry forward to the next year

b. Playoff Contests Scheduled by TAPPS

i. Regional Competition

1. Volleyball and Basketball

a. Fine

i. School to be Fined

ii. \$150

b. Player/Coach suspension

i. one (1) playoff game if first Ejection of the year.

ii. Minimum two (2) game suspension if not the first suspension of the year.

iii. If final contest of a season

1. Suspensions carry forward to the next year

ii. State Competition

1. All Sports

a. Fine

i. School to be Fined

ii. \$150

b. Player/Coach suspension

i. one (1) playoff game if first Ejection of the year.

ii. Minimum two (2) game suspension if not the first suspension of the year.

iii. If final contest of a season

1. Suspensions carry forward to the next year

c. Awards

i. Players are not eligible for All Tournament Team

9. If a student or coach is ejected from a regular season tournament, the game suspension will be enforced the next game played by the team.

J. GUARANTEES.

1. *Football.* In district and non-district football games, the home team shall keep 100% of the gate receipts after payment of game officials as **stated in the game contract** unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both schools.
2. *Other Team Sports.* In district and non-district games/matches unless there is mutual agreement or district executive committee ruling, the home team is entitled to 100% of the gate receipts.
3. *Playoffs.*
 - a. In playoff games, at a neutral site,
 - i. expenses are to be paid from the gate receipts, as well as sharing any profit or loss from the game, and
 - ii. must be agreed upon prior to the game by both schools involved.
 - iii. This agreement should be in writing and signed by both school representatives.
 - b. **In playoff contests,**
 - i. **if the schools cannot agree on the officials**
 - ii. **and the chapter is determined by**
 - a. **coin toss (or similar manner)**
 - b. **or assigned by TAPPS,**

i. both schools are equally responsible for the payment of the officials before any other expenses are deducted from the gate.

4. *Expenses.* Expenses must be mutually agreed upon by the participants.

K. VIDEOTAPING AND FILMING.

1. *Non-Conference and District Contests.*
 - a. *Videotaping/Filming by Schools.*
 - 1) It is a violation to videotape or film a non-conference or district athletic contest in which your school or team is not competing unless prior consent of the two schools involved has been obtained.
 - 2) A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape a non-conference or district contest in which it is competing. However, the film or videotape may not be utilized until after the contest has been completed.
 - 3) Films and videotapes become the property of the school doing the filming unless by district rule or by consent of the schools involved in the contest.
 - b. *Film/Video For Scouting.*
 - 1) TAPPS does not have a rule about exchanging film. It does have a rule that prohibits taping/filming a game in which your school is not involved, UNLESS you have consent of both schools.
2. The film/video belongs to the school that film/tapes a game/scrimmage in which their team is participating, unless district rule or mutual agreement of the schools involved, states otherwise. The film/video cannot be used during the game for coaching purposes.
3. Exchanging films with an opponent is a recognized and accepted practice for scouting purpose. For example; team A is playing team B in game 3 of the season, the coach from A trades his film from game 1 and/or 2 with the coach from team B for his film from game 1 and/or 2. The films are the property of the school doing the filming and they do not have to get permission from anyone to exchange their own property.
4. For a coach to contact a team that has played his opponent and arrange to “borrow” or trade for that film is not a violation. The film is the property of the school that made it legally, since they were involved in the game.
5. Districts may make a rule that member schools may not “loan out” films, after the play-offs begin, in order to “protect” their district representatives. This is a district rule—not a TAPPS rule!

6. Schools in the football play-offs are REQUIRED to exchange 3 quality tapes with their opponent (recipient's choice)
 - a. No later than 10:00am on Monday, before a Friday Game.
 - b. *Videotaping/ Filming by Individuals.* Any individual taping or filming must have permission from the schools involved in the contest and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.
 - c. *Commercial Uses.* Use of the films or tapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all schools involved in the contest.

7. *Regional and State Playoffs.*
 - a. Schools and/or individuals must have prior approval of the tournament director to film or videotape a regional or state tournament, and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.
 - b. Commercial enterprises must have prior approval of the tournament director and the TAPPS director to film or videotape a regional or state tournament, and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.

L. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

1. Live animal mascots, cannons, firearms, fireworks, etc. are prohibited at TAPPS athletic contests.
2. No dogs or other animals are allowed at TAPPS hosted contests.
3. Except in their normal course of business, emergency vehicles shall not flash lights or sound sirens during the course of a game.
4. Noisemakers are prohibited at TAPPS events held at field houses and/ or gymnasiums.
5. In events held in field houses/gyms, megaphones may be used only by cheerleaders, in uniform. Megaphones must not be used to strike walls or playing surfaces.
6. Bands, when permitted, shall play only during time-outs and intermissions. Individual instruments may not be used as noisemakers.
7. No sound systems, other than the one(s) provided by the host school are allowed at TAPPS Secured sites or at neutral sites unless mutually agreed
8. Body paint and like decoration shall not be permitted by players or spectators. (Exception: Small markings as sold by cheer or other school organization on the cheek are permitted) This rule applies to all games held at neutral sites. If a TAPPS school is not going to permit this activity at their facility, the opponent should be notified in advance of the contest.

9. Air horns and bullhorns, handheld or otherwise, are not permitted at any TAPPS contest.
 10. The use of, or appearance of using, any controlled substance (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during or after games at contest sites is prohibited by TAPPS.
 11. Streamers, confetti or other such materials.
- M. STATE PLAYOFF INFORMATION. Playoff information for all applicable sports will be posted on the TAPPS website by the TAPPS office.
- N. ALL-STAR GAMES OTHER THAN TAPPS ALL-STAR VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL GAMES. Students may participate in an all-star game if that student has eligibility remaining in that sport. However, if the student has eligibility remaining in that sport, they may not participate on an All Star team that is being coached by a coach from their school.
- O. JURISDICTION OF INTER-DISTRICT DISPUTES. The Athletic Executive Committee shall have jurisdiction in all disputes arising between district winners that have been duly certified.
- P. CHEERLEADERS; SPIRIT GROUPS. All cheer and spirit performances at any TAPPS activity shall be in accordance with safety standards as prescribed by the National Federation High School Spirit Handbook.
- Q. CONCUSSIONS
1. Each TAPPS athletic director and coach will receive training in Concussion Management on an annual basis.
 2. Any player who shows signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion
 - a. Must be removed from the contest
 - b. May not return to play on the same day
 - c. Shall not return until cleared to play by an appropriate health-care professional as determined by the school administrator.
 - d. Written clearance must be obtained from the appropriate health care professional prior to student participation in any
 - 1) Practice
 - 2) Scrimmage
 - 3) Athletic Contest
 - e. A report of all concussions will be made to the TAPPS office
- R. TATTOOS

TATTOOS MUST BE COVERED BY TAPE OR THE UNIFORM AT ALL TIMES. This includes while preparing for competition, during competition and for awards presentations.

S. GAME UNIFORM

1. Athletes shall not remove their Game Jersey or uniform while inside the playing arena.
2. Removal of one's uniform shall be considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct and subject to sanction.