

**Chapter 2  
Bylaws**

**Subchapter A  
DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Section 1  
DEFINITIONS**

In the TAPPS Constitution, By-Laws and Contest Rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

- A. *Calendar week* means 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.
- B. *Constitution* means the Constitution of Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.
- C. *Contest* includes competition.
- D. *Contest Rules* means the rules governing TAPPS contests and competitions adopted by the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.
- E. *District* means a grouping of participant schools within an established classification that is determined to facilitate reasonable competition among the schools in TAPPS contests for a two-year period (designated as *region* in some instances).
- F. *District Executive Committee* means the committee of superintendents or designated representatives of participant schools within an assigned district.
- G. *Director* means the director of Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.
- H. *Enrollment* begins the day of a student's **registration and attendance** in the minimum number of required daily class periods and ceases with the last day of attendance.
- I. *Fan(s)* means devotees of a germane activity, e.g., spectators at a sporting event or a performance involving school students.
- J. *High school* means a school that offers instruction in the ninth, tenth, eleventh or twelfth grades, or any combination thereof, whether all of the grades are offered instruction in the same building.
- K. **Independent:** A school may play as an "Independent" team if
  - a. the school declares Independent status prior to realignment
  - b. If the team is placed in a TAPPS district and later withdraws from competition in the district to play as an independent
    - 1. During the first year of an alignment, the school must compete as an independent for remainder of Alignment Cycle.
    - 2. During the second year of an alignment, the school may not return to TAPPS competition for the following Alignment Cycle.
  - c. This 'Independent Team' is subject to all TAPPS rules.
- L. *Junior high school* means a school that offers instruction in the seventh and eighth grades, whether it also offers instruction in the sixth or ninth grade, and whether it occupies a building separate from an elementary or high school.
- M. *TAPPS* means the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

- N. *TAPPS contest* means competition between a TAPPS school and any other school, TAPPS or non-TAPPS member, in any contest listed in Section 73.
- O. *Nonparticipating school* means a member school that has not elected to participate in the germane activity.
- P. *Participant school* means member private or parochial school for which the annual event fee has been paid.
- Q. *Probation* - A given period of time during which a member school, employee(s) of the member schools or a specific program of the member school is subject to critical examination and evaluation to determine if the subject on probation is in compliance with the TAPPS constitution, By-Laws, and contest rules. If the component, while on probation, is found to be in violation of the TAPPS Constitution, By-Laws or Contest rules, that component will be subject to more stringent sanctions.
- R. *Inducement* means to encourage students to come to or remain at a member school for the purpose of participating in TAPPS events. Inducement includes but is not limited to the following:  
 offer or acceptance of the payment of tuition;  
 offer or acceptance of board;  
 offer or acceptance of lodging;  
 offer or acceptance of transportation;  
 offer or acceptance of a job for parent or student;  
 offer or acceptance of the payment of athletic camp registration;  
 offer or acceptance of payment of cash;  
 offer or acceptance of a University or College Scholarship;  
 offer or acceptance of free or reduced cost private instruction  
 offer or acceptance of any other valuable consideration to induce the student to enroll in a participant school.
- S. *Region* means a grouping of districts of participant schools that is determined to facilitate reasonable competition among schools certified to represent their districts in League contests.
- T. *School week* means the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the first instructional day of a calendar week and ends at the close of instruction on the last instructional day of the calendar week, excluding holidays.
- U. *Sponsor* means any person who is principally responsible, or responsible by delegation of or directing or coaching any student in TAPPS contests.
- V. *TAPPS Executive Board* means the State Executive Board of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools as described in Article III, #6 of the Constitution.
- W. *Summer months or summer vacation* means from the time TAPPS activities end in May until TAPPS activities begin for the new school year as published in the TAPPS calendar.
- X. *Traditional school year* means an approximate nine consecutive months instructional period with an approximate three-month vacation during the summer months.
- Y. *Valuable consideration* means any tangible or intangible property or service, including anything that is wearable, usable or salable.
- Z. *Varsity* means a contest entry at the highest level of competition as provided for in the fine arts and athletic plans at which the team, team member, or individual student is designated by the school to represent it in TAPPS district, bi-district, region, state or non-conference contests.

- AA. *Athletic Executive Committee* means the elected committee described in Section 24 of the TAPPS By-Laws.
- BB. *Fine Arts Executive Committee* means the appointed committee described in Section 25 of the TAPPS By-Laws.
- CC. *Coach*:
  - 1. A person who interacts with students in practice or competition in an extra-curricular activity including but not limited to:
    - a. Training
    - b. Teaching a skill
    - c. Instruction
    - d. Tutoring
    - e. Drilling
    - f. Exercising
    - g. Preparing
  - 2. For TAPPS purposes, coaches including but not limited to all of the following arrangements:
    - a. Paid
    - b. Unpaid
    - c. Full-time
    - d. Part-time
    - e. Stipend Only
    - f. Volunteer
    - g. Team or
    - h. Skills only (pitching, kicking, serve/serve return, goalkeeper, etc.)
- DD. ***Recreational Opportunities – Open Gym or Open Weight Room***
  - 1. Schools may provide recreational opportunities for students with advance approval of the school board or administration
  - 2. The dates and times of the recreational opportunities (open gym times) shall be announced, posted, or publicized so that every student attending the school is aware of the opportunity to participate.
  - 3. Activities shall be on a first come, first serve basis
  - 4. **School Coaches are responsible for notifying student athletes in their sport that any attendance to or participation in the open gym is strictly voluntary, never required, and is in no way a prerequisite for making a team or gaining playing time.**
  - 5. No instruction may be given during the open gym.
  - 6. Someone other than the coach may be appointed to supervise the gym or facilities.
  - 7. Coaches should not participate with their athletes in the athletes’ sport.
  - 8. Coach participation with their students places the responsibility on the coach and school to prove they are not violating Sunday and off-season regulations.
  - 9. Use of facilities may be restricted to that school’s student body. **Note:** If only members of an athletic team are participating in their sport in an open recreational facility, it could be deemed a violation of off-season regulations.

**EE. Open Gyms**

- a. During open gyms, the following **are** acceptable:
  - i. Attendance may be taken
  - ii. School equipment may be used
- b. During open gyms the following **are not** acceptable:
  - i. Mandatory Attendance
  - ii. Posting workouts
  - iii. Directing activities
  - iv. Demonstrating techniques
  - v. Charting of student achievement
  - vi. Grouping of student by performance level or other criteria
  - vii. Organizing teams
  - viii. Organizing contests or drills

**EE. Open Weight Room**

- a. During open weight, the following **are** acceptable:
  - a. Attendance may be taken
  - b. School equipment may be used
  - c. Posting workouts
  - d. Directing activities
  - e. Demonstrating techniques
  - f. Charting of student achievement
  - g. Grouping of student by performance level or other criteria
- b. During open gyms the following **are not** acceptable:
  - a. Mandatory Attendance