



Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship

Policies and Procedures

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(Revised August 2025)

Section 1 Christian Sportsmanship

Section 1.01 Christian sportsmanship is defined as:

- (a) **Respect for authority:** in accordance with Romans 13:1, all participants involved in a league activity shall peacefully submit to the authority in charge of the activity. The person in charge of the rules and play of the game will be the Officials. The person in charge of conduct will be the Home Team Administrator.

- (b) **Speech:** as stated in Ephesians 4:29, all communication at a league activity is to edify and build up the hearer. No derogatory or humiliating comments are to be made to officials, coaches, players or fans by anyone. Anyone using profanity will be subject to immediate ejection.

Section 1.02 Fans

Each school member is responsible for the general conduct of their participants and spectators. The team bench areas are off-limits to all except players, managers, coaches (two), game officials, and league officials.

Section 1.03 Players

Tenets of Christian sportsmanship and courtesy, as defined above shall always apply and prevail.

Section 1.04 Coaches, assistant coaches and volunteers

- (a) Coaches and assistant coaches shall be responsible for their own and their school's conduct and adherence to the sportsmanship statement as defined above. All coaches and volunteers closely related to the teams must read and sign a TCAF Code of Ethics Form which should be kept on file by the member school. Unless the Board determines that the severity of any single violation is grounds for dismissal, any Coach receiving two (2) coaching conduct violations of the Christian sportsmanship statement will be automatically dismissed from league activities for the remainder of that sport's season.

- (b) **No visible tattoos or piercing will be allowed**

- (c) **Specific to their sport.** Head Coaches are required to attend the TCAF Head Coaches Meeting specific to their sport. It is highly encouraged that Assistant Coaches also attend. All Coaches are responsible for knowing and abiding to the Coach rules and protocol of their specific sport.
- (d) **Required NFHS Courses:**
1. All Athletic Directors and Coaches are required to take the following NFHS Courses: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>

Concussion in Sports
Heat Illness Prevention
Sudden Cardiac Arrest
Sportsmanship
 2. Football Coaches must also complete the Football Tackling Course found on the NFHS website.
 3. **Deadlines for Completion:**
Athletic Directors – August 1st
Football – August 1st
Soccer/Volleyball/Cross Country/Cheer – August 15th
Basketball – October 15th
Spring Sports – February 1st
 4. **Copies of the Athletic Director's Certificates** need to be sent to the TCAF Director. **A copy of the Coach's certificates** should be kept by the school in the Coach's personnel file.
- (e) **Coach Removal/Ejection** – Every removal from a contest will result in both a suspension from participation and a monetary fine. The length of suspension and the amount of the fine will be determined by the circumstances of the removal as stated below. Multiple and/or more serious removals may include additional sanctions as herein or as determined by the Board of Directors.
1. **No Appeal** – A protest based on a game or contest Official's decision will not be considered.
 2. **Process** –An Incident Report must be filed with the TCAF Director on any coach removed from a contest. The form is due the following school day. Both TCAF schools involved in the contest must report any ejection. Fines for an ejection not reported to the TCAF Director by the deadline will be doubled.

Schools who fail to report an ejection are subject to further sanctions as determined by the Board of Directors.

3. **Removal** – A coach removed from a contest shall immediately leave the field, stadium, press box, gymnasium or fieldhouse and have no communication of any kind with the coaching staff or team.
4. **Suspension** – While serving a suspension, a coach cannot be on the field, in the stadium, in the press box, in the gymnasium or fieldhouse or have communication of any kind with the coaches or team during the contest.
5. **Contact with an Official or Threat of Harm** – A coach deliberately coming into physical contact with, or threatening harm to, an official shall receive a minimum five (5) game suspension and monetary fine determined by the TCAF Board of Directors.

6. **Regular Season or Tournament Game** –

First Offense – The coach will serve a one game suspension in all sports but Football. Football will serve a half game suspension. If ejection occurs during a non-district game, suspension must be served the next scheduled game. If an ejection occurs during a district game, the suspension must be served the next district game.

In addition to the one game suspension and fine, the Coach and team must take the NFHS *Teaching and Modeling Behavior* Course within one week of the incident. The Athletic Director must also sign off on completion.

Subsequent Ejections - If a coach is ejected from a game for a second time, in one season, said coach will serve a minimum of a two-game suspension and will be subject to review by the Executive Council. A third removal during a season will result in the coach being suspended for the remainder of that season.

Fine - \$200 per ejection for the coach. The school is responsible for the payment of all fines. The fine is due in the TCAF Office ten (10) days from the date of the ejection/removal. Failure to submit the fine by this deadline will result in the fine being doubled and all games occurring after the ten days and until fine is paid, 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. Playoffs –

Suspension - In all sports, a coach removed from a playoff game shall serve a two (2) game suspension, if it is the first ejection of the year.

Fine – \$400 per ejection for the coach. The School is responsible for the payment.

8. **Cumulative Ejections Review (Student, Coach, School)** If three ejections/removals, coaches and players combined, are received in a sport during the season, the Coaches and Athletic Director will be required to meet with the TCAF Board of Directors. If more than three ejections occur in a sport for a member school, the TCAF Board of Directors will determine the amount of the fine and any other sanctions deemed necessary.

Section 1.05 Officials

While recognizing the officials' final authority in all decisions, their officiating shall be performed in an attitude of meekness in accordance with Galatians 6:1 and the sportsmanship statement as defined above. If any coach feels the official(s) in charge was in violation of the Christian sportsmanship statement that coach has the right to request that the official not be sent to call any subsequent games for them. This request should be made to the organization which sent the official.

Section 1.06 Dress

The host school retains the right to refuse admission to any person not attired in an acceptable manner. However, this should be covered by an exchange of information with the other league member coaches prior to the game.

Section 1.07 Score running

Member schools accused of deliberately "running the score" shall be asked to respond to the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors finds the charges to be valid, the school in question will be considered in violation of the tenets of this league.

Section 2 TCAF Official Recruiting Position

- (a) **TCAF has taken the position that member schools will not recruit athletes.** We encourage schools to build their programs from within (Elementary and Jr. High). We want our schools to develop their own Athletes.
- (b) **Solicitation** TCAF recognizes for our member schools to survive, it is essential to solicit families to choose one of our member schools

to educate their child / children. The unacceptable solicitation of students by school personnel, school volunteers, parents, or any other third party is a violation of TCAF rules and may result in the loss of the affected student's eligibility to participate in TCAF events.

Forms of Acceptable Solicitation

- Billboard Advertising
- Mailings
- Open House
- Campus Visits to feeder schools
- Visits to churches
- Those things that promote the school to prospective families.

Forms of Unacceptable Solicitation (not limited to)

- School personnel campus visits targeting athletes.
- Mailings to specific athletes or groups of athletes
- Open House for athletes
- Tryouts or combines for athletes.
- Those things that target specific students for their athletic ability
- Recruiting Athletes through Social Media.
- Materials that negatively reflect on other TCAF member schools

- (c) **Financial Assistance:** A school shall produce accurate records of financial assistance provided to non-athletic students if this is common practice. It is illegal for a school to give such aid to those students who participate in athletics solely. This is a violation, including but not limited to forfeitures of games, ineligibility of the Athlete(s) in question, school probation, or school expulsion from TCAF.
- (d) **Provided Residence:** Housing, boarding or lodging may not be provided by school personnel, school volunteers, parents or any other third party to only those students who participate in athletics.
- (e) **Waiting Period:** If a student transfers to a TCAF school after the school year has begun, he/she shall be ineligible for competition for fifteen school days. This waiting period begins the first full day the student attends classes. The school shall also fill out all applicable paperwork and send copies to the state office. **Exception:** If a student transfers into a TCAF school within the first 15 days of the school year, the waiting period is waived. However, no student is

eligible for play until the original Transfer Forms have been received and approved by the TCAF Director.

- (f) **Contact:** Contact between athletes and their parents (or legal guardians) must be initiated through the prospective school's normal channels. Students requesting information from a member of the Coaching staff must be directed to the school admissions department.
- (g) **House Visits:** Visits to a perspective student's house is not permitted. All conferences shall be held on the campus of the school in which they are seeking to enroll.
- (h) **Recruitment Expenses:** A school may not provide an enrolled student-Athlete with transportation or expenses that are not normally offered to all students.

Section 3 Divisions

Section 3.01 Divisions – All school teams within the allotted 30% Home School player limit, will compete in the designated Division according to their enrollment.

Section 4 Eligibility/Probationary Action

Section 4.01 School/Team Eligibility

- (a) A **participating school** is one that has been approved for participation in any TCAF sponsored activity.
- (b) Any school applying for membership is required to have been in existence for at least one year.
- (c) No school shall be permitted to join TCAF while said school is on probation or has been suspended from any other athletic league within two years prior to application for TCAF membership.
- (d) Member schools are required to have in place an academic eligibility program for their athletes. These requirements must meet TCAF minimum standards. Member schools must send a copy of their academic requirements to the TCAF Director by Sept. 15th
- (e) **Academic Programs:** A student shall be permitted to participate in a TCAF contest if the student is in good and regular standing and is

passing all courses (70). A grade of incomplete shall be considered a failing grade for purposes of establishing student eligibility if not resolved within one week of the end of the grading period.

- (f) **Academic Eligibility Periods:** The first eligibility period, for all schools, will begin six weeks after school begins. Thereafter, grades should be checked at the end of the grading period whether it is six weeks or nine weeks. Any student failing any class at the grading period will be ineligible for a period of three weeks. At that time, grades will be checked again. If student is not passing all subjects, the player will remain ineligible for another three weeks. If said student passes all classes, they will once again be eligible for play. Any student or coach violating this rule will be subject to sanctions, forfeitures, or expulsion.
- (g) **Accelerated Christian Education Schools:** All students must be progressing toward graduation on a credit basis and on a passing (70) basis with a regular checking procedure by each school to assure they are in good academic standing. If a question of eligibility arises, a school may be required to present the student's academic records concerning eligibility to the state office.
- (h) **Home-School Participation:** A student who is Home schooled may participate with a member school. Said student must first meet the definition of a Homeschooled student to participate. While participating with a member school, Homeschooled students must be under the same academic umbrella of the member school in which the student is seeking participation. Home-school students must meet and follow **ALL** TCAF rules, policies, athletic and academic requirements for eligibility. The school is responsible for keeping a copy of all required records and shall be able to provide, upon request, all Home-school student records. Home-school students may only participate with one home-school group and/or school during a league calendar year.
 1. **Definition** - Home Schooling is an educational approach of parent directed education at home instead of enrolling them in traditional public, private or online school.
 2. Students can be members of a Homeschool Co-op but cannot attend their classes more than 3 days a week. (Federal definition) An actual Homeschool Co-op can be used for the classes that the parents are not comfortable with, however, the work is still guided by the parents at home. (The Cop-ops charge a minimal fee, but this is likened to tutoring, which is acceptable.)

3. Any student that meets the definition of a Home-Schooled student and is also taking an elective class with a member school may participate but still must be counted as a Home School student on all active team rosters.
 4. For member schools with a High School enrollment of under 40, the total number of home-schooled players on any team may not exceed 50% of the total number of players on the active roster.
 5. For member schools with a High School enrollment of 40 or above, the total number of home-schooled players on any team may not exceed 30% of the total number of players on the active roster.
- (i) **All Forms must be received by due date.** Any school that does not turn in any paperwork by the due date will be placed on probation. Once the Board deems it necessary to place a school on probation, the following steps will be taken.
1. The TCAF Director will inform said school of probation.
 2. The school will be given a due date for all missing paperwork must be received by the TCAF Director.
 3. If paperwork is not received by the TCAF Director, on date given, the school will be fined \$150.
 4. If any due date is violated again, said school will be fined an additional \$150 for every infraction.

Section 4.02 Player Eligibility

- (a) Individual participants must be regularly attending and meet all academic requirements of a Member School.
- (b) Students who are enrolled at and regularly attend another school, whether traditional or virtual, may not participate with a member school.
- (c) No student shall be permitted to participate in TCAF sports while said student is on probation or suspended from a member school. Any student that has been ruled ineligible by another school or league within two years prior to transferring to a TCAF school, will

not be approved for play in TCAF for the period of at least one calendar year.

- (d) **Physicals:** All students participating in athletics must have a physical a minimum of once every two years. Once the physical has been done, the student must present a completed and signed doctor's form to the school. The school in turn must keep the form on file.
- (e) **Transfer Students:** Schools must submit a transfer form to the TCAF Director for every new student that intends to participate in high school athletics. This includes Home-School students. Transfer students participating in High School Level Athletics are not eligible for play until the school has received approval from the TCAF Director. Any transfer student that has been ruled ineligible by another school or league within two years prior to transfer, will not be approved for play in TCAF for the period of at least one calendar year.
- See also Section 2 (e)
 - Exception: Eighth graders transferring to your school that did not play Varsity or Jr. Varsity level sports.
 - If a Home-School student played High School level sports with a school or Home-School Organization the previous year, forms must be signed by that school or organization.
 - All questions for clarification should be directed to the TCAF Director.
- (f) **TCAF to TCAF School Transfers:** If a student transfers from one TCAF school to another TCAF school, during the school year, said student must be enrolled and attending class 15 school days before the first District game to be eligible in the upcoming season.
- (g) **Transfer Students who transfer into a TCAF member school shall not be eligible for Varsity** competition in a sport for a period of one year **IF:**
- a Coach in that sport at the new school coached or trained the student at the previous school during the previous 12 months.

- a Coach at the new school acted as the Director, Owner, Manager, Supervisor or held a similar position in an establishment where the student received training during the previous 12 months.

- (h) **Full Time Students** are defined as students taking at least four core classes at a Member School. The only exception is seniors. Seniors must be taking all the classes required to graduate. NAUMS students must be taking three core classes and fulfill the credits needed in the four core classes by the end of the school year.

- (i) **Foreign Exchange students** are eligible for one year providing they are enrolled at and attending a member school for the entire school year. They must be included in the member school's registration. I-20 students are under the same guidelines as Citizen Students.

- (j) **Playing Up:** A player may "play-up" one level, but must continue to play at that level only, for the remainder of the season.

- (k) **Junior High Participation:** An 8th grade student may participate on the Varsity team. He/she will have 10 consecutive semesters to compete in Varsity athletics. Eighth graders may "play-up" one level, but must continue to play at that level only, for the remainder of the season. Any 8th grade student, participating at the JH level, may not play at the Varsity level after the JH season is completed. All 8th graders will count towards the school's High School enrollment.

- (l) **High School Participation Eligibility:** Once a student has entered the ninth grade, he/she has eight consecutive semesters to compete in varsity athletics.

- (m) **Graduation:** No one shall take part in any contest in this organization that has graduated, whether from his/her or any other school, at home or abroad, of equal or higher rank.

- (n) **Age:** A student is not eligible for competition if he/she has reached the age of nineteen prior to September 1st.

- (o) **No visible tattoos or piercing will be allowed.**

- (p) **Jr. Varsity –** No Senior shall participate on a JV Team. A varsity starter shall not play on the Junior Varsity team unless there are not

enough Junior Varsity players to begin the event and the opposing coach gives his permission. If the game is a JV District game, the game may still be played but will be forfeited by said team. Under no circumstances should a Varsity starter be allowed to play when there are Junior Varsity players on the bench.

(q) **Mixed Team Participation:**

TCAF Soccer – is a Fall Soccer Division that allows both male and female student participation.

All Other sports - Girls may not play on any team designated as a boy's team. Boys may not play on any team designated as a girls' team.

Gender Identity - TCAF recognizes a student's gender as that which is denoted on the student's birth certificate as presented from a recognized authority of the State of Texas or other such governing body authorized to issue birth certificates for their citizens.

(r) **Active Team rosters must be supplied to the Commissioners by 4pm on the due dates posted on the TCAF calendar.**

Furthermore, the roster shall contain the name of each player along with grade, date of birth, date entered 9th grade and whether the student is a Home-Schooled student or Foreign Exchange student. TCAF Roster Forms must be used and can be found on the TCAF Website.

- An **Active Team Roster** is defined as all athletes that are actively participating with the team through practice and game participation.

(s) Questions concerning a student's eligibility to play should be brought privately to one of the league officers so as to protect the student from undue stress or embarrassment.

(t) **Player Removal/Ejection** – Every removal from a contest will result in both a suspension from participation and a monetary fine. The length of suspension and the amount of the fine will be determined by the circumstances of the removal as stated below. Multiple and/or more serious removals may include additional sanctions as herein or as determined by the Board of Directors.

1. **No Appeal** – A protest based on a game or contest Official's decision will not be considered. Removals from a contest are not subject to Appeal, except for targeting ejections in Football. Targeting ejections may only be appealed through the procedures established by TCAF.
2. **Process** –An Incident Report must be filed with the TCAF Director on any player removed from a contest. The form is due the following school day. **Both TCAF schools** involved in the contest must report any ejection. Fines for an ejection not reported to the TCAF Director by the deadline will be doubled. Schools who fail to report an ejection are subject to further sanctions as determined by the Board of Directors.
3. **Removal** – A player removed from a contest shall immediately leave the field, stadium, press box, gymnasium or fieldhouse and have no communication of any kind with the coaching staff or team. If removing a student would result in lack of supervision for the player, then the player may remain on the bench or team area where supervision is provided.
4. **Suspension** – While serving a suspension, a student cannot be on the field, in the stadium, in the press box, in the gymnasium or fieldhouse or have communication of any kind with the coaches or team during the contest.
5. **Contact with an Official or Threat of Harm** – A player deliberately coming into physical contact with, or threatening harm to, an official shall receive a minimum five (5) game suspension and monetary fine determined by the TCAF Board of Directors.

6. **Regular Season or Tournament Game** –

First Offense – The player will serve a one game suspension in all sports but Football. Football will serve a half game suspension. If ejection occurs during a non-district game, suspension must be served the next scheduled game. If ejection occurs during a district game, the suspension must be served the next district game. In addition, the Coach, player and team must take the NFHS Sportsmanship Course within one week of the incident. The Athletic Director must also sign off on completion.

Subsequent Ejections - If a player is ejected from a game for a second time, in one season, said player will serve a minimum of a two-game suspension and will be subject to review by the

Executive Council. A third removal during a season will result in the player being suspended for the remainder of that season.

Fine - \$50 per ejection for the student. The school is responsible for payment of all fines. The fine is due in the TCAF Office ten (10) days from the date of the removal. Failure to submit the fine by this deadline will result in the fine being doubled and all games occurring after the ten days and until fine is paid 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. **Playoffs –**

Suspension - In all sports but Football, a player removed from a playoff game shall serve a one game suspension at the next contest. Football will serve a half game suspension in the first half of the next contest. If a player has a previous removal/ejection, the minimum suspension is two games. If the ejection occurs in the final game of the season, the suspension carries forward to the next year in that sport for all underclassmen. Seniors would serve the suspension in the next sport played. Removed players are not eligible for All Tournament Honors.

Fine – \$150 per ejection for the player. The School is responsible for the payment.

8. **Cumulative Ejections Review (Student, Coach, School)** If three ejections/removals, coaches and players combined, are received in a sport during the season, the Coaches and Athletic Director will be required to meet with the TCAF Board of Directors. If more than three ejections occur in a sport for a member school, the TCAF Board of Directors will determine the amount of the fine and any other sanctions deemed necessary.

Section 5 Internet Broadcasts, Photography, Videographers and Media at TCAF State Championships

A video broadcast is defined as any live or tape-delayed video footage of a contest in its entirety that can be broadcast over any channel or medium. For these purposes, a webcast is any video streamed over the internet.

Section 5.01 Video/Live-streaming Broadcasts:

- (a) TCAF is in partnership with EBH Fitness, LLC for live-streaming and archiving the TCAF State Championships. All TCAF video broadcasts are owned by TCAF and EBH Fitness, all rights reserved. No TCAF/EBH Fitness broadcasts or recordings may be rebroadcast without permission from the TCAF and EBH offices in advance.
- (b) Member schools will not be allowed to live-stream State Championships on any format, whether they are participating or not, without the approval of the TCAF Office.
- (c) Members schools may live-stream their regular season and play-off games (with the exception of any play-off game TCAF is hosting) but must be in accordance with the TCAF Broadcast General Guidelines.
- (d) Audio only and radio broadcasts are permitted during the regular season.

Section 5.02 Photography: Only one photographer from each school participating may be allowed access to the playing area. For access, it is required for the Photographer's name to be listed on the team's State Program Roster. The use of electronic flash equipment is prohibited at all indoor events.

Section 5.03 Videographers: Each school may have one Videographer crew (maximum of two persons) record the game from the stands for team archive purposes only.

Section 5.04 Media: No Media, (Includes Print, Photography, Digital and Video Media) whether school related or public, are allowed access without first obtaining permission from the TCAF Office prior to said event.

Section 5.05 Guidelines for Announcers

- (a) Announcers must be competent and exhibit professionalism.
- (b) There shall be no criticism of the Official's decisions.
- (c) No dramatization shall be made of any unsportsmanlike conduct, incidents or displays on the part of the participants or fans.
- (d) No mention shall be made of injuries, unpreventable accidents, or other incidents which may cause anxiety on the part of the viewers.

Section 5.06 Advertisement Restrictions – the following categories are prohibited during broadcast of any TCAF or TCAF member school activities.

Violations will be subject to a range of penalties determined by the Board of Directors.

- (a) Alcohol and Firearms advertisements
- (b) Political Announcements
- (c) Tobacco products
- (d) Gambling services or venues
- (e) Sexual services or adult entertainment venues

Section 6 Season Parameters

Section 6.01 Season guidelines

- (a) **All dates for first day of practice, scrimmages and district play** will be posted by TCAF on the TCAF website.
- (b) **Golf and Tennis are year-round sports** with the TCAF competitions being held in the Spring.
- (c) **If a school did not register for a specific sport during the annual registration period**, (i.e. new members, current members wanting to add a team, etc.) the registration process must be completed by the following dates to participate:

Fall Sports	August 1 st
Cross Country	September 15 th
Winter Sports	October 1 st
Spring Sports	February 1 st

- (d) **Qualification Date** - all District/Non-District games must be played by this date and final game reports sent to the appropriate Commissioner. Unless participating in post season play-offs, the season also officially ends on the qualification date.
- (e) **Post Qualification play** - the period between the qualification date and the date of the tournament has been built in for play-off games and bad weather. If your school is involved in a post season tournament, does not have to reschedule district games due to bad weather or is not involved in a tournament play-off game, you may schedule a non-district game to prepare for the tournament.
- (f) **Invitational** - member schools may schedule games with any school at any time in any sport within the season guidelines.

- (g) **Games** - Football – no more than one game during a calendar week. All other sports, although it is not mandatory, we do highly suggest that schools make every effort to not schedule more than two games during a calendar week. This does include Tournaments.

Section 6.02 Off Season guidelines

- (a) Schools may not schedule any mandatory sport specific practices in the off-season.
- (b) School sponsored teams shall not play, practice or participate in any competition in the off-season.
- (c) One on one, sport specific, instructional sessions is allowed but must not be mandatory.
- (d) **Summer Leagues:** Participation in summer leagues may not be mandatory, nor may they be used for recruiting. Coaches may coach registered school members who are willing to participate. Summer league teams may not practice more than once a week.

Section 7 Schedules

Section 7.01 Development - seasonal schedules will be developed by the Division Director and posted on the TCAF website.

- (a) Districts are set on a two-year rotation of Home and Away Games.
- (b) Teams beginning the two-year rotation with a Varsity Team should remain a Varsity team for the second year of the rotation.
- (c) Teams beginning the rotation playing at the JV level may move up to the Varsity level the second year IF there is an available spot open.

Section 7.02 School Responsibilities

- (a) Once schedules are received, the home team will be responsible for the establishment of game times and location. As a common courtesy in helping coaches prepare a season-long schedule of

games and times, it is requested that this task be completed as quickly as possible.

- (b) **Confirming games.** A written communication is required at least two weeks before a game by the hosting school. The form must include game time, location, map, gate fees, and any other appropriate information.
- (c) **Official Table** Home teams are responsible for keeping the “official” book and scoreboard. Book and Scoreboard Keepers must be trained and experienced individuals. Only the Official Book, Scoreboard Keeper, Visiting Team bookkeeper and League Officials may sit at the Official Table.
- (d) **The Home Team is responsible for arranging officials.** District games must be officiated by certified officials. These officials should not be related to the school in any way. Schools not providing proper officials will forfeit said game. All Officials should be given a “safe place” to relax during halftimes and between games. The officials should be given a copy of TCAF rules for each sport. The following sports require a **minimum** of the following number of officials:

Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Baseball	2 officials
Soccer	3 officials
Football	4 officials

- (e) **The Home Team Administrator and/or Athletic Director and Coaches are responsible for all league rules being followed.** All Schools must have an Administrator or designated Administrator (who is not the coach) present at all Home games. Administrators should introduce themselves to the visiting Coach before the game. Any school not following league rules will first be placed on probation. Any repeat offense will result in suspension.
- (f) **Game Reports:** After each District game, each participating school must send a Game Report to the appropriate Commissioner. Game Reports are due no later than noon, two school days after the game has been played. TCAF Game Report Forms must be used.
- (g) Each sport will have a scheduled **qualification** date. All district games must be played, and game results turned in by this date to qualify for post season play.
- (h) **Stats** – Each school is required to use MaxPreps.com for stats and standings during the district season. All schools must post rosters,

game results and stats in accordance with the TCAF calendar. Max Prep stats are also required for All District and All State Nominations. Failure to post the information will result in discipline action according to TCAF policy Section 4.01(i).

Section 7.03 Compliance and Forfeits

- (a) Once the season begins, each school has committed to the district schedule. If a member school does not complete their District schedule, the Board of Directors will decide what sanctions will be placed on said school. Sanctions can range from game(s) being awarded to the opposing team(s), to the offending school not being eligible for District honors/Post Season play or even League suspension.
- (b) If a member school is unable to meet a game time or date, they must notify the other team at least 48 hours before the scheduled game. If this notice is not given, it shall be declared a forfeit.
- (c) If a proper written confirmation was sent, a host team may declare a forfeit if 30 minutes after game time a team has failed to show up and no communication of travel problems have been made. If a proper confirmation was not sent, 30 minutes is required between game time and forfeit time, with approval of the officials required.
- (d) A forfeit may not be called due to inclement weather or problems with transportation when traveling to a game.
- (e) The forfeiting school shall pay all fees (officials, field, etc.) incurred.
- (f) Schools not providing certified officials, or the proper number of officials, will forfeit said game.

Section 7.04 Rescheduling

- (a) Every attempt should be made to play all games scheduled. Because of unforeseen situations, we realize all games cannot be played at the scheduled time. However, when a game is postponed for whatever reason, both teams must make a concerted effort to reschedule. If both teams cannot decide on a mutual date, both schools will forfeit.
- (b) **Football Visiting team traveling more than 100 miles:** For Football only - In the event of the visiting team having to travel

more than 100 miles, the game will be decided by declaration. In any case where points 2, 3, and 4 are used, if the game is a tie, there will be a score declaration of 1-0. The point system in declaring seeding will remain the same with this score being part of a tie for seeding or championships.

Criteria will be in this order:

- Actual Score
 - Penetrations
 - First Downs
 - Total Yards
- (c) All member schools committing to and participating in a seasonal schedule as developed by the Division Director will also be required to participate in the post-season play-offs/tournament. Teams failing to participate in the tournament must give a two-week notice. Otherwise, said school will still be responsible for paying tournament fees.

Section 8 Officials

- (a) **Qualifications** - covered in rules of each sport. They should be trained, certified, and bonded by an association approved by the Board of Directors..
- (b) **Fees**
1. The home team shall be responsible to pay the officials' fees.
 2. Forfeits and no-shows shall be obliged to pay the officials' fees.
- (c) **Scheduling** - the host school shall assume the responsibility of scheduling officials.
- (d) **Relationship** - every effort should be made to maintain the kind of relationship with the officials that would result in their wanting to be a part of the TCAF activities.
- (e) Officials should be provided with a "safe place" to change and relax during halftime and between games.

Section 9 Games

Section 9.01 Game Uniforms

- (a) All schools are required to have a Home and Away Uniform for Football, Soccer and Basketball.
- (b) See Sport specific rules for further uniform guidelines.
- (c) Athletes shall not remove their games jerseys or uniform while inside the playing arena.
- (d) Removal of one's uniform shall be considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct and subject to sanctions.
- (e) Cheer Skirt length must be mid-thigh. This will be different for each girl.

Section 9.02 Gates

Member schools may have gate fees. They must, however, publish this information in advance to all teams in their District.

Approved maximum league rates are:

Football:

\$8.00	non-students and adults
\$4.00	students (12th grade and below)
Free	participating team members, two coaches per team, two managers, up to six cheerleaders, and others so designated by the host school, League Executive Officers

All Other Sports:

\$6.00	non-students and adults
\$4.00	students (12th grade and below)
Free	participating team members, two coaches per team, two managers, up to six cheerleaders, and others so designated by the host school, League Executive Officers

Section 9.03 Video Taping for Scouting Purposes

A school may not video tape an opponent's game for scouting purposes without the consent in writing from both schools. You may attend games and take notes for scouting purposes.

Section 9.04 Cheerleaders and Pep Squads

(a) **Admission** (if gate fees in effect)

1. **Cheerleaders** - uniformed cheerleaders and their Sponsor, attending a game to cheer, will be admitted free for each of the competing schools.
2. **Pep Squads or Drill Teams** - regular admission unless stipulated otherwise in advance by the hosting school.

(b) **Restrictions**

1. Support and spirit squads of all types must remain clear of the field or court while play is underway.
2. Spectators' viewing must always be a consideration when placing any type of spirit group. Spectators' view must not be blocked.
3. Cheerleaders shall not intentionally distract (by any means) the players during play.
4. Cheers must be for their team, not against the other team.

Section 9.05 Protest

- (a) Protest shall be considered only when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule or the use of an ineligible player. No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an official's judgment.
- (b) The coaches of the contesting teams only have the right to protest a game.

- (c) Protest shall be made as follows:
1. The protesting coach shall immediately, and before any succeeding play begins, notify the Head Official that the game is being played under protest.
 2. Following such notice, the official shall consult with the other officials. If the officials are convinced that the decision conflicts with the rules, the Head Official shall reverse that decision. If, however, after consultation, the officials are convinced that the decision is not in conflict with the rules, the Head Official shall announce that the game is being played under protest. Failure of the Head Official to make such announcement shall not affect the validity of protest.
- (d) Protest made due to use of ineligible player may be considered only if made to the Head Official before the end of the game. Whenever it is found that an ineligible player is being used, said player shall be removed from the game, and the game shall be continued under protest or will be called a forfeit. The decision will be that of the protesting coach.
- (e) Any protest for any reason whatsoever must be submitted by the coach first to the officials at the game and then in writing to the league Director within 24 hours. The Head Official shall also submit a written report immediately.
- (f) The league Board of Directors and the Commissioner of officials shall hear and resolve any such protest as above, including rules. If protest is allowed, the game will resume from the point of the infraction.
- (g) Tournament protest will be handled as above with the following changes:
1. A member of the Board of Directors or a Commissioner and one official will be present at all tournament games to hear protests. A decision will be made immediately. All decisions will be final.
 2. The Commissioner should not rule on a game protest involving his or her school.

Section 9.06 Incidents

In the event of an incident occurring at any game, involving a coach, player, official or fan, an Incident Report should immediately be filled out by all involved and any credible witnesses. This form can be prepared on a computer or handwritten. All Administrators, Athletic Directors and Coaches should always carry copies of the Incident Report. This report does not replace a Game Report.

- (a) It should be standard procedure that Officials be provided with a "safe place" to change and relax during halftime and between games. This could be an office, classroom, etc.
- (b) If an incident occurs, involving an official, the officials should be immediately escorted to their "safe place."
- (c) Witnesses from both schools involved should be immediately separated and asked to fill out an Incident Report independently of others.
- (d) Officials should be asked to fill out an Incident Report if applicable.
- (e) All Reports should be sent directly to the League Director and should not be shared with anyone else.

Section 10 TCAF Sponsored Tournaments

- (a) Any member school hosting a TCAF tournament or State event shall follow all TCAF tournament guidelines.
- (b) Any member school hosting a TCAF tournament will be responsible for sending 25% of the tournament profits to the league.

Section 11 Post Season

Section 11.01 Post Season Play-offs/Tournament

- (a) All teams that are eligible for postseason play must participate. Once entering the play-offs, a team must complete the post season.
- (b) Teams that do not plan on participating in postseason play must notify the TCAF Director by the first day of the season.

- (c) All eligible teams that do not compete in postseason play will be fined \$500 and will not be eligible for State Championships for one calendar year.
- (d) If a school misses due to extenuating circumstances, beyond their control, an appeal can be made to the Executive Council.
- (e) State Championships are reserved for Varsity Level play only. Jr. Varsity Championships will be hosted by TCAF in the following sports: Volleyball and Basketball.
- (f) All District and All State Teams are also reserved for Varsity Level play only.

Section 11.02 Play-off Format (except football)

- (a) Brackets in all Divisions with more than 3 districts will be drawn so the District Champ and Runner-up of the same District will not meet in play-offs until the semi finals of the tournament.
- (b) The higher ranked team will be the Home and Host team until the Regional Round of Play-offs.
- (c) The Semi-Final Round shall be a neutral site.

Section 11.03 Play-off Format Football

- (a) The higher ranked team will be the Home and Host team in the first round only. After that, games should be played at a neutral site.
- (b) The Semi-Final Round shall be a neutral site.
- (c) District Champs receiving a Bye in the first round are not necessarily the Home team in the second round.
- (d) TCAF will schedule the State Championship Game.

Section 11.04 State Championship Guidelines

- (a) Tournament/Championship Fees are due **BEFORE** the beginning of play. Any team, delinquent an **ANY League** fee, will not be allowed to participate.
- (b) All participating teams must qualify at the District and/or Regional play-off levels.

- (c) Upon arrival, all Coaches must check their team in at the designated area.
- (d) All teams are responsible for bringing their own warm-up equipment.
- (e) Each team is allowed one Photographer and one Videographer to record the game for archive purposes.
- (f) Member school season passes are not applicable at League sponsored events.
- (g) Free admission will be given to Administrators, Staff Coaches, two Managers, one Stat Keeper and participating team members.
- (h) Free admission will also be given to Cheerleading squads and cheerleading coaches who are in uniform and at the tournament to cheer.
- (i) Admission will not be charged for children six years of age and under.

Section 11.05 State Championship Gym Guidelines

- (a) **Fans at no time** (before, during or after the game) should you be on the gym floor or approach the official table.
- (b) No Tailgate Parties are allowed on the premises.
- (c) **Students K through 8th grade** should always be accompanied by an adult. All spectators will need to be seated in the bleachers during any athletic event.
- (d) **Fans should always conduct themselves with good sportsmanship.** This includes respect for the other team. Remember, both teams have earned the right to be there and should be treated with respect. Cheer these young athletes, applaud them, but do not in any way disrespect your opponents
- (e) **At all times, display respect for the Officials.** Their roles is not unlike those of players, coaches, teachers and school administrators. Without them, this game would not be possible.
- (f) **Profanity** will result in an automatic Ejection from the premises.

- (g) **Noisemakers, Animals, Bicycles, Skateboards, Frisbees, Rollerblades, and Balls of all Types** are **NOT** allowed in the gymnasium.
- (h) **Only water** is allowed in the floor and bench areas.
- (i) **Authorized Personnel ONLY** will be allowed to cross over to the opposing side.
- (j) **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms** are prohibited, by law, on school property.

Section 11.06 State Championship Stadium Policies

- (a) **Fans at no time** (before, during or after the game) should you be on the field or approach the Officials.
- (b) **No Tailgate Parties** are allowed on the premises.
- (c) **Students K through 8th grade** should always be accompanied by an adult. All spectators will need to be seated in the bleachers during any athletic event. **No gathering of students in areas around the stadium or under the bleachers.** Younger students who are dropped off without adult supervision will be required to sit in the general admission section throughout the entire event.
- (d) **Fans should always conduct themselves with good sportsmanship.** This includes respect for the other team. Remember, both teams have earned the right to be there and should be treated with respect. Cheer these young athletes, applaud them, but do not in any way disrespect your opponents
- (e) **At all times, display respect for the Officials.** Their role is not unlike those of players, coaches, teachers and school administrators. Without them, this game would not be possible.
- (f) **Profanity** will result in an automatic Ejection from the premises.
- (g) **Noisemakers, Confetti, Animals, Bicycles, Skateboards, Frisbees, Rollerblades, and Balls of all Types** are **NOT** allowed in the stadium or field areas.
- (h) **Only water** is allowed in the field and sideline area.

- (i) **Authorized Personnel ONLY** will be allowed to cross over to the opposing side.
- (j) **Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms** are prohibited, by law, on school property.

Section 12 District Awards

- (a) **Varsity and JV District Championship Team** will be awarded a trophy provided by the TCAF League. Winners will be determined by the team with the best District Season Record. To qualify for a District Team award, each team must play every scheduled member team in its District.
- (b) **All-District Player:** The Districts will meet on the Qualification Dates to determine First and Second All District Teams.

Section 13 All-District Teams

- (a) **Selection:** The Districts will meet on the Qualification Dates to determine First and Second All District Teams.
- (b) **By Position:** Football and Soccer
- (c) **Not by Position:** Baseball, Basketball, Softball, Volleyball

Section 13.01 All-District Organization

- (a) Each school shall be represented at the All-District selection Meeting.
- (b) Each school shall rank their players for consideration.
- (c) Each school shall present statistics for their players recorded using MaxPreps during the season.
- (d) Each school has only one vote for each selection.
- (e) Each District will determine the number of players to be represented on First and Second All-District Teams.
- (f) District Chairs will compile all District Rankings and present them to Division Director.

Section 13.02 All-District Selection Process

- (a) The top ranked player from each school shall be placed into consideration for the All-District Team.
- (b) Each school shall vote to determine the number one player in the District.
- (c) The number two player from that school will now be elevated for consideration with the remaining players.
- (d) Each school shall vote to determine the number two player in the District.
- (e) The next player from that school will now be elevated for consideration with the remaining players.
- (f) The process will continue in this manner until the All-District Teams are complete.
- (g) Districts should review the First Team rankings in respect to the All-State meeting to ensure that the players will be best representing the district when All State teams are selected.
- (h) Districts should not predetermine player rankings based on the order of team finish in the district.
- (i) Districts should not fill all spots just because there is room for more players. Players should be worthy of first and second team status.

Section 13.03 All-State Organization

- (a) Each District shall be represented at the All-State Selection Meeting.
- (b) Each District shall present their players as ranked on the All-District Form for consideration.
- (c) Each District shall present statistics for their players recorded using MaxPreps during the season.
- (d) Each District has only one vote for each selection.
- (e) Each All-State Committee will determine the First and Second All-State Teams according to Section 12.5.

- (f) State Committee Chair will compile all All-State Rankings and present to Division Director.

Section 13.04 All-State Selection Process

- (a) The top ranked player from each district shall be placed in consideration for the All-State team.
- (b) The Committee shall vote to determine the number one player in the State.
- (c) The number two player from that district will now be elevated for consideration with the remaining players.
- (d) The Committee shall vote to determine the number two player in the State.
- (e) The next player from that district will now be elevated for consideration with the remaining players.
- (f) The process will continue in this manner until the All-State Teams are complete.
- (g) The State Committee shall not add additional places to the All-State Teams.
- (h) The State Committee should not predetermine player rankings based on the order of team finish in the State Play-offs.
- (i) The State Committee should not fill all spots just because there is room for more players. Players should be worthy of first and second team status.

Section 13.05 All-State Teams

- (a) **Six-Man Football Offense**
 - 1. 2 tight Ends
 - 2. 3 receivers
 - 3. 1 Center
 - 4. 1Quarterback
 - 5. 2 Running Backs
 - 6. 2 Spread Backs
 - 7. 1 Utility Back
 - 8. 1 Kicker
 - 9. 1 Specialty Team Player
 - 10. 1 Offensive Lineman

- (b) **Six-Man Football Defense**
 - 1. 3 Linesman
 - 2. 3 Linebackers
 - 3. 4 Defensive Backs
 - 4. 1 Punter

- (c) **Soccer**
 - 1. 4 Offensive Players
 - 2. 4 Defensive Players
 - 3. 4 Midfield Players
 - 4. 2 Goal Keepers

- (d) **Baseball** – 10 players on each team

- (e) **Basketball** – 10 players on each team

- (f) **Softball** – 10 players on each team

- (g) **Volleyball** – 10 players on each team