

**The South Carolina
Independent School Association**

**Blue Book
2023-24**

**Constitution
Athletic Handbook**



The South Carolina Independent School Association 2023-24

The South Carolina Independent School Association is a service driven organization serving the needs of Independent Schools. Services include: Professional Development covering all areas of Independent Education; Tailored in-service educational programs; Trustee orientation; Statewide student government and honor society association; Accreditation Program; Achievement testing program; Complete Athletic Program crowning over 70 State Championships; Athletic officials association; Student competitions and festivals in the areas of chess, journalism, art, photography, music, drama, science, math, spelling, quiz bowl, public speaking, and writing; All-Star games in volleyball, soccer, softball, baseball football, and basketball.

SCISA STAFF

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Directions To The SCISA Conference Center - 134 SCISA Drive, Orangeburg

From I-26: Take Exit 145 A (Hwy. 601 to Orangeburg) - Stay on Hwy 601 for 2.8 miles and turn **RIGHT** at the HILCREST Golf and Tennis (*Brick Sign*) (State A & M Road) - Proceed to the Stop Light and turn **RIGHT** (St. Matthews Road) - Travel 1.2 miles and turn **RIGHT** after you cross over the bridge and just before to reach the Stop Light on to SCISA Drive. The SCISA Conference Center is 200 yards down on the Right.

The South Carolina Independent School Athletic Association 1968 - 2023

The first real beginning towards organization of athletics came in September of 1968. Coaches from the few schools having athletics met at John C. Calhoun Academy in Walterboro to draw up the pattern of play for the school year. There were five soccer teams and fifteen schools that entered into basketball competition for the 1968-69 season. The spring sports calendar showed three baseball teams and five golf teams.

During the summer of 1969, SCISA appointed an athletic committee to be the governing body for all athletics in SCISA. Growth during the ensuing two years was so great, that a part-time athletic office with a part-time executive secretary was opened in August of 1971. It was during the first two months of operation that the need for a full-time executive secretary and an athletic office became evident. Working towards this goal, the South Carolina Independent School Athletic Association opened a full-time office on June 1, 1972. Mr. Al Hough of Columbia filled this position until January of 1978 when he resigned. Mr. Tony Blanton served in the position until July 1, 1978 and was followed by Mr. Jimmy Powers of Walterboro, who served from July 1, 1978, to September 1, 1979. When all the offices were consolidated and moved to Columbia, Mr. Powers was unable to move and it became necessary for him to resign. Bill Simpson of Columbia became Athletic Secretary on September 1, 1979. Mr. Simpson improved, developed, and expanded the program, formulating the basis for the Association's present structure. Henry G. Selby was named his successor in 1986. During this time the coaches and officials were organized into associations, and an all-star competition was sponsored. Mr. Selby resigned in May of 1988 and was replaced by Michael G. Fanning.

In 1988, all-star competitions were expanded to include: soccer, softball, baseball, senior and underclassman basketball and volleyball. SCISA began publishing individual statistics in football and basketball for a new high school publication called The High School Sports Report. In 1989, the first State Bench Press Competition was held at Clarendon Hall. The first 8-Man football game was played in 1989 under the leadership of Coach Eddie Huggins at James F. Byrnes (Florence).

SCISA hosted a boys and girls basketball camp at Coker College from 1988-1998. SCISA established the "*Bill Simpson Award*" in the fall of 1989. This annual award recognizes the top graduating male and female student athlete in SCISA based upon academic, athletic and community service accomplishments. This award is presented in the memory of Bill Simpson, SCISA Athletic Secretary (1979-1986). This award includes a \$500 scholarship. In 1990, SCISA established a Scholar-Athlete Certificate to recognize the academic achievement of two-sport athletes who met the academic criteria for his or her school's honor roll. A "Player-of-the-Week" award was established to recognize weekly individual performances in all sports.

In 1991, the SCISA Challenge, a baseball All-Star competition between SCISA and the "Low Country" public schools was held. This event was held from 1991-1996. Mixed doubles was added to the SCISA Open Tennis Tournament in May of 1992. Cross-Country and Girls Soccer were added to SCISA's athletic program in 1994-95.

In 1995, the prestigious "*Wachovia Cup*" was renamed the *James C. Williams, Jr.* President's Cup to honor the Association's top athletic program. In 1998, the President's Cup was awarded in two divisions, Division I for AAA schools and Division II for A-AA schools. The bench press competition was expanded to six events and named the SCISA State Speed & Strength Competition in the spring of 1998. Girls softball was changed from slow pitch to fast pitch. In October of 1998, SCISA held the first state swim competition. In the summer of 1999, the South Carolina Independent School Association office moved to Orangeburg.

In 2003-04, SCISA and the Georgia Independent School Association once again participated in all-star competitions in football, volleyball and baseball. In 2003, SCISA instituted the practice of awarding state champion medallions to all team members of every state championship teams. The state track meet was expanded to include the girls pole vault. Wrestling was added as a championship sport in 2004.

History continued

The first “Shrine Bowl” (Independent School All-Star Football Game) was played on November 26, 2005, in Charlotte. SCISA defeated the North Carolina Independent School All-Star Team. SCISA’s Head Coach was Calhoun Academy’s Adam Jarecki.

SCISA added Scholastic Clay Targets as a State Championship event in the spring of 2007. The 4 x 800 relay was added to the state track meet. In 2007, Girls’ Team Golf and Bowling was offered as championship sports. Heathwood Hall captured the golf title and Cambridge Academy won the bowling championship.

In January of 2010 SCISA crowned the first Girls’ Bowling State Championship team. SCISA also crowned a Girls’ Team Sporting Clays champion in the spring of 2010. SCISA, during the 2010-11 school year, held the first individual bowling championship for both boys and girls. Foster Krebs of Heathwood Hall captured the Boys’ Title with a 524 while Heathwood Hall’s Christina Miller won the Girls’ Title with a 450. In May, Hammond hosted the first SCISA Equestrian Championship. Ashley Hall won the Hunt Seat title and Hammond won both the Western and Over-all Championship.

SCISA became an affiliate member of the NFHS in 2012-13. In April of 2012, Hammond captured SCISA first boys lacrosse state championship. SCISA also instituted several new recognition programs including the Robert L. Jenkins Community Service Award-of-the-Year, SCISA Sportsperson-of-the-Month Award, Tri-Sport Athlete certificates and recognizing Academic State Champions.

SCISA began requiring coaches to complete online courses in sportsmanship, concussions, and heat illness in 2014. On April 5, 2014, SCISA Orangeburg Prep won SCISA’s first Trap & Skeet State Championship. Ashley Hall won SCISA’s first sailing championship in September of 2014. Beaufort Academy hosted the first sailing state championship event.

Mead Hall captured SCISA first archery title host by SCDNR in North Myrtle Beach in February of 2015. Ashley Hall was state runner-up. SCISA established a third President’s Cup so that the outstanding over-all program in each classification can be recognized.

The Independent School Association’s of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi formed the SECIS (Southeastern Association of Independent Schools) in 2016. A Golf Championship was held at Georgia’s Calhoun Gardens in April. SCISA was represented by Andrew Hall (Hammond), Nick Willis (Spartanburg Christian), Jack Parrott (Heathwood Hall), Kent Lawrence (Porter-Gaud), Tyler Gray (Thomas Sumter) and coached by Morgan Watt (Thomas Sumter). TEAM SCISA finished second. The following year the tournament was held at the Atlanta Athletic Club. TEAM SCISA won the championship.

In August of 2016 the Alabama Association hosted the first SECIS football kick-off at Montgomery’s Crampton Bowl. SCISA was represented by First Baptist Charleston and Trinity-Byrnes Collegiate School. In January of 2017 SCISA crowned the first bowling Co-ed State Champion, Spartanburg Christian. Girls Lacrosse was added in 2017 with Porter-Gaud capturing the first title.

2020 witnessed the world deal with a pandemic and all spring sports were cancelled.

In 2022, SCISA added the javelin to the state track meet. A fourth classification was added in 2022-23 school year.

SCISA Athletic Constitution

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be "The South Carolina Independent School Athletic Association".

ARTICLE II - OBJECT

The object of this organization is to formulate and maintain policies that will safeguard the educational values of interscholastic competition, to cultivate high ideals of sportsmanship, to develop and direct a program which will promote, protect, and conserve the health and physical welfare of all participants, and to promote uniformity of standards in all interscholastic competition (*create a level playing field*).

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: All South Carolina Independent School Association member schools that field an athletic team shall pay complete dues to the association, unless a waiver is granted by SCISA.

SECTION II: Schools put on probation for deficiencies by the South Carolina Independent School Association shall not be eligible to participate in the activities governed by this Association.

SECTION III: All South Carolina Independent School Association Full Member Schools' athletic teams must participate in SCISA, unless SCISA does not offer that sport.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNING BODY

SECTION I: The governing body of this association shall be The Athletic Committee as provided for in Article VI, Section III, of the SCISA Constitution.

SECTION II: The governing body shall meet as necessary. A meeting may be called at anytime by the chairman or by a majority of the Board of Directors.

SECTION III: Grievances or recommendations from member schools shall be made through the Association's Athletic Office.

SECTION IV: The Athletic Office must approve all contests between member and non-member schools. This approval must be in writing prior to the playing of the contest. In scheduling such contest, due consideration shall be given the satisfactory completion of all members' schedules. SCISA certified officials shall be used when the contest is played at the SCISA school.

SECTION V: The Athletic Committee or SCISA Athletic Director may revoke a student's eligibility at any time the evidence so warrants and it will be incumbent upon the school to provide proof of eligibility.

SECTION VI: Any member school that brings legal action against SCISA and the judgment is not in their favor, will be responsible for SCISA's legal fees.

SECTION VII: The Athletic Committee has the authority to rule on any matter not specifically covered by rule, acting in the spirit and intent of SCISA rules, policies, and procedures.

SECTION VIII: SCISA communicates and deals directly with member schools. All student, teacher, staff, coach and fan issues are handled and communicated through official school staff. SCISA is charged to protect the privacy rights of students and staff. School officials can include parents/custodial guardians in the process and official communication with SCISA. Presentations made by parents or family representatives without school officials present will be received as information only. SCISA staff must protect the privacy rights of students and not discuss a student's status without proper school officials present.

ARTICLE V - CONFERENCES AND CLASSIFICATION

SECTION I: The Athletic Committee shall determine classification for athletic purposes, each two-year period, based on enrollment in grades 8-11 and geographic location. The enrollment of boys should be considered for classifying football schools. A school with an enrollment of forty-eight (48) boys or more in grades 8-11, may not participate in 8-Man football. The Committee shall institute conferences based on the above in the best interests of all member schools.

SECTION II: New members will be assigned to conferences by the Athletic Committee in an equitable fashion.

SECTION III: A school may request to play in a higher classification in: Football or Boys Soccer only; or All Sports; or All Sports except football or boys soccer.

ARTICLE VI - ELIGIBILITY RULES: STUDENT

The primary purpose of school is education. The participation in athletics is a privilege for those students who are eligible to represent the SCISA member school where he/she is a full time student and is meeting all academic, grade, age, residency (guardianship), eight semester, and additional eligibility rules.

- An ineligible player is not allowed to participate against another school in any competition whether practice sessions, scrimmages, jamborees, or scheduled games (SCISA or out-of-league games).
- An academically ineligible player may not take part in practice sessions.
- A student must not have received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

ARTICLE VI - ELIGIBILITY RULES: STUDENT

SECTION I: ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IS A PREREQUISITE TO PARTICIPATION.

- A. In order to participate in athletic activities of the South Carolina Independent School Association, a student must be enrolled in and attending the member school in order to participate in that school's athletic program. The student must also meet all other necessary requirements for participation.
- B. A student in grades 9-12 must take and pass at least **four (4), one unit CORE Courses** or **any five (5) one unit courses, each grading period** (6/9/12 week) or semester to be eligible.
 - Students below the 9th grade must pass four (4) subjects each grading period/semester.
 - A senior who has met or is meeting all requirements for graduation must pass four (4), one-credit courses each marking period/semester.
 - A student who is repeating a course for which he/she has previously received credit cannot count this course as one required for eligibility.
- C. A Maximum of **Two Credits** earned/recovered during summer sessions may be accepted from an accredited school with an established summer school program.
- D. First Semester Academic Eligibility: A student must have earned a minimum of 4 core units or any 5 units of credit from the previous school year to be declared eligible for the First Semester (Fall) of a school year.
 - Any student who did not receive credit for at least **one-half of all courses taken the previous school year** cannot be declared eligible until after the successful completion of the **1st Semester**.
 - Block Schedule: At least two units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school. (*Example: a student who earned 4 units for the first semester but withdrew/dropped-out the 2nd semester shall be declared ineligible for the First Semester*).
- E. Home School Courses. If a school allows a student to take courses at "home", those course are **not eligible** for athletic eligibility.
- F. Schools providing non-traditional academic programs such as "virtual school", distance learning or other non-traditional courses shall seek prior approval by SCISA before these courses may be used for athletic eligibility.
- G. Core Courses: Those courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Computer Science (1), Fine Arts(1) and Foreign Language that are recommended by the Commission on Higher Education and are common to SCISA schools.
- H. A One Credit Course is a course taken for 36 weeks, one period each day for a minimum of 45 minutes. A course taken each day as above for 18 weeks would be a half credit which when combined with another half credit course would be the equivalent of a one credit course. A course taken for 36 weeks but only three, 45 minute periods each week would not be a one credit course. Note: A One Credit Course taken for 18 weeks, shall meet for one period each day for a minimum of 90 minutes.
 - **Dual Credit Courses** are treated as one half of a carnige unit only for athletic eligibility.
- I. Eligibility is to be declared on the fourth (4th) school day after the end of the marking period. A student shall become eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on the fourth school day after the end of the marking period.
Example 1: The marking period ends on Friday. Student X becomes eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on Thursday. Example 2: The marking period ends on a Monday and Tuesday is a holiday for students. Student Y becomes eligible or ineligible at 12:01 AM on the following Monday.

SECTION II: AGE REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION:

- A. A student is INELIGIBLE to participate in athletics if his/her 19th birthday is before July 1, 2023.
- B. **Junior Varsity**: In order to participate in junior varsity athletics, a student must not have reached his/her sixteenth (16th) birthday before July 1, 2023.
- C. **B-Team/Middle School**: In order to participate in B-Team athletics, a student must not have reached his/her fifteenth (15th) birthday before July 1, 2023. *Exception: B-Team Football. A student must not have reached his/ her fourteenth (14th) birthday before July 1, 2023.*

Note: The Athletic Committee shall not grant a waiver of the age requirements.

SECTION III: GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION:

- A. **Varsity Teams:** Eligible students in grades **8-12** may participate on varsity teams in baseball, lacrosse, basketball, softball, football and soccer. Eligible students in grades **6-12** may participate on all other varsity teams.

*To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the **skill level, maturity level, experience, and physical competitiveness** of students below the 10th grade before permitting participation on any varsity teams.*

- B. **Junior Varsity Teams:** Sport specific grade restrictions exists for Junior Varsity Teams. Eligible students in grades **5-10** may participate on junior varsity teams in track, cross country, swimming, volleyball, golf and tennis. Eligible students in grades **6-10** may participate on junior varsity teams in basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and wrestling.

*To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the **skill level, experience, maturity level and physical competitiveness** of students below the 8th grade before permitting participation on any JV-Team.*

- C. **Junior Varsity Football:** eligible students in grades **6-9** may participate in junior varsity football.

To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 8th grade before permitting participation on any junior varsity team.

- D. **B-Teams/Middle School:** Eligible students in grades **5 - 8** may participate on B-Teams in all sports except football.

- E. **B-Team/Middle School Football:** Eligible students in grades **5 - 7** may participate in B-Team football

To address player safety, coaches and parents must carefully evaluate the skill level and physical competitiveness of students below the 6th grade before permitting participation on any B-Team.

SECTION IV: EIGHT SEMESTER RULE

The primary purpose of school is **EDUCATION**. The participation in Athletics is a privilege for those students who are academically eligible.

EIGHT SEMESTER RULE: All students will have Eight (8) Consecutive Semesters of Eligibility beginning when he/she first enters the ninth grade, regardless of whether he/she participates in athletics. Exceptions to the *Eight Semester Rule* may be granted by the Athletic Committee for a **DOCUMENTED MEDICAL CONDITION, caused by an illness or injury**, which prevented his/her attending school sufficiently to pass.

A request for a waiver may be considered at the time that the facts have been determined. *Example: Student A was unable to attend school during the tenth grade because of an extended illness. A request for a waiver could be made and considered as soon as he/she recovers. All requests for waivers must be made in writing by the Headmaster.*

Requests for an Eight Semester Waiver must contain the following:

1. A written request from the school for an Eight Semester Waiver.
2. A copy of: A. Birth Certificate; B. Complete Transcript.
3. Documented medical information from a licensed healthcare provider stating the causal relationship between the medical condition and the school absences.
4. Detailed attendance records clearly indicating and corresponding to absences directly related to the documented medical condition.
5. Statement from the school administration attesting to the academic failure/retention due to excessive absences caused by a documented medical condition. Also, detailed information addressing how/why academic assistance would or would not be able to bring the student up to standard.
6. A written appeal brief must be filed, in its entirety, ten days prior to a scheduled meeting.
7. The school may request to personally appear before the Athletic Committee. Presentations to the Athletic Committee shall be limited to 15 minutes.

The decisions of the Athletic Committee (whether appealed or not) to grant a waiver shall not be considered as setting a precedent for other cases of somewhat similar nature.

SECTION V: STUDENT ELIGIBILITY BELOW GRADE 9

1. Students below the 9th grade must pass four (4) subjects each grading period/semester to be eligible for the next grading period.
2. A student must have passed the previous school year to be eligible for athletic participation the first grading period.
3. A student who repeats a grade below the ninth grade after having passed that grade would not be eligible during the year that is repeated. A waiver may be considered following the presentation of appropriate academic documentation detailing the school's recommendation for repeating the grade.
Note: a student cannot use a course that he/she has previously received credit for current athletic eligibility.
4. All students must comply with the age requirements and grade level restrictions for each level of competition.

SECTION VI: AMATEUR STATUS

A student-athlete must maintain an amateur status. A student may not have competed for money or valuable consideration other than prizes with symbolic value. Symbolic value is used to mean that the award must have some relationship to the sport being played. *Some examples are but not limited to: miniature gold and silver footballs, basketballs..., plaques, trophies, cups, ribbons, banners, sweaters and jackets. Allowable travel, meals, and lodging expenses are acceptable.*

Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in organized youth sports programs, camps or playground activities shall not jeopardize amateur status. Coaches are responsible for making this known to his/her players.

SECTION VII: RECRUITING

The recruiting or proselytizing of student athletes shall be considered a violation of the spirit and philosophy of the rules and regulations governing SCISA Athletics and considered unsportsmanlike conduct. A student should not be subjected to undue influence or any special inducement by any person or group in an attempt to entice the student to transfer primarily for athletic purposes. Recruitment in this manner shall cause the student to be ineligible upon transfer and shall jeopardize the standing of the school in the Association.

Some examples of undue influence are:

1. *The student is asked by a member of the school faculty, a coach or member of a "booster club" to transfer from one school to another. School personnel cannot make the initial contact.*
2. *Special Privileges given to parents such as employment or financial aid.*
3. *Financial aid for transportation, room, board, or tuition.*
4. *Given any consideration not afforded other students. Example: financial assistance cannot be awarded because of the student's participation in a specific sport or sports in general.*

Note: Prior to enrollment a prospective student-athlete may visit a school provided the arrangements for the visit are cleared through the school administration of the school to be visited.

Section VIII: Scholarships and Financial Aid

A school shall have a standard procedure for the awarding of scholarships and financial aid. An acceptable school financial aid procedure/plan must:

1. Be in writing and on file in the school office.
2. Be approved by the school board.
3. Contain details of the qualifying criteria for aid.
4. Include all students in the grade structure of the school.
5. Demonstrate through documentation the application and approval process.
6. Show evidence of including non-athletes.
7. Comply with SCISA athletic eligibility reporting.

Financial Awards:

Many SCISA member schools utilize outside agencies to determine if and how much financial aid should be awarded. Outside agencies or organizations will evaluate the need for financial aid based on information provided to them by parents on a standardized application. Those qualifying for financial aid are determined by the agency, not by the school or one person, putting the school out of the decision process as to who gets help.

Schools who made such determinations "in-house" must have a written procedure and appropriate documentation available for SCISA review. SCISA is duty bound and charged by the membership to provide a level playing and the uniformity of standards.

Warning Signs, Red Flags and Reporting

1. A pattern of transfers into an athletic program, especially at the senior high level.
2. Sheer number of athletes receiving financial aid.
3. Involvement of Booster Clubs with financial aid.
4. No evidence of inclusion of non-athletes.

This type of activity should and will draw scrutiny and an evaluation by SCISA.

Each school is required to file both:

- A. New Student Form: School**
- B. New Student Form: Parent**

SECTION IX: ESTABLISHING ENROLLMENT FOR ATHLETIC PURPOSES

1. A student is considered to have enrolled in a school if they:
 - A. File a completed Agreement for Participation Form **and/or** attends a practice at any time during the defined sport season (including the first day of a fall athletic practice regardless whether school is in session); or
 - B. **Attends school during a class day** counted toward the gross days requirement.

2. **Sixty Day Rule**: A student who enrolls (see #1 for definition of enrolls) and then transfers must wait sixty (60) calendar days before establishing eligibility (to be eligible to participate in athletics).

The Sixty Days may be waived following league/Committee review if all of the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the Committee at it's sole and absolute discretion for a **non-member to member** transfer:

- A. The school shall file completed a Transfer Form (Parent's Form and School Form).
 - B. The parents provide a statement detailing the reason for the transfer;
 - C. The student enrolls in the SCISA member school on or before: 1. ***September 21st for fall sports;***
2. ***January 8th (or the end of the transfer's first semester) for winter sports.***
 - D. If approved, a transfer must participate in **ten (10) days of practice** before he/she is allowed to participate in a game.
 - E. **Second semester transfers** are subjected to the Sixty Day Rule (*transfers after January 9th/end of first semester*).
3. Any student who transfers from a member school to a member school must complete a Transfer Form.
 4. The Athletic Committee may waive these requirements if a ***Bona Fide*** change in residence is determined. *Bona fide means: The move must be with the intent of being permanent. The entire household must be moved into the new residence. The original residence must be clearly closed as the residence of the family and must not be used by the family.*
 5. A transfer is ineligible to participate in the play-offs or state championship unless he/she has enrolled and **attended classes** at the member school for **thirty (30) calendar days prior to the start of the play-offs.**
 6. A transfer student must have been eligible to represent his/her former school academically as well as eligible under any school, student or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred or the student must wait for ninety (90) calendar days to be declared eligible for athletics. The Athletic Committee reserves the right to extend this period under special circumstances.

Note: The stated wait period for a transfer student shall begin on the first day the student attends a class.

SECTION X: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

An international student shall be defined as any non-U.S. citizen, who is residing with anyone other than his/her own family.

International Students may be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a maximum of one calendar year from the date of enrollment provided they:

1. Are a part of an approved International Educational program that is listed by CSIET.
2. Have been assigned to schools by a method which ensures that no student, school official, coach, volunteer, employee or other interested party has influenced the assignment.
3. Have not graduated or are not eligible for graduation from high school.
4. Meet all SCISA eligibility standards while a student at a member school.
5. Are submitted on a **Form 4** and an **International Student Eligibility Request Form**.
6. Have not reached his/her seventeenth (**17th birthday before July 1** of the current school year (2023 for the 2023-24 school year). If he/she has, then he/she shall not be eligible for participation in athletics.

Note: An international student is not eligible until ruled so by SCISA.

Note: Form 4 and a complete I-20 Form shall be filed for a student whose home is in another country but who attends a school in the United States outside the auspices of an established exchange program.

Eligibility Review Procedure: A school shall provide the following information for an eligibility ruling.

1. Verification of Date of Birth;
2. A letter from the CSIET approved International Educational program that placed the student detailing the selection process, specifically how your school was selected.
3. A written statement from the school's administration verifying that no interested party acted on behalf of the school to influence the assignment.
4. A completed FORM 4
5. **SCISA may Grant or Deny eligibility.**

Requests for First Semester International Student Eligibility Consideration Deadline: **September 1, 2023 or first scheduled athletic contest.**

Requests for Second Semester International Student Eligibility Consideration Deadline: **January 10, 2024**

International Student Extended Stay-to-Graduation Policy:

Each student is subject to league/Committee review. Schools shall submit the following information.

1. Completed I-20
2. Completed International Student Form
3. School's written International Student Program description including selection process and cost.
4. International student cannot receive any financial assistance from the school (sources of income/support listed on I-20)
5. The student's first year must be in compliance with the International Student Policy as stated in Section X, #6 and within his/her Eight Semesters (*Have not reached his/her seventeenth (17th) birthday before July 1 of the current school year, 2023 for the 2023-24 school year*). If he/she has, then he/she shall not be eligible for participation in athletics.

Residency Programs or Boarding Programs will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Students/schools shall file all required forms and also a copy of his/her I-20 form for review.

Note: A student returning to his school from a foreign exchange program may resume athletic competition provided he/she meets all requirements relative to age and semesters of eligibility. The semester or semesters spent in the exchange program will count toward the eight consecutive semesters of eligibility.

SECTION XI: GUARDIANSHIP

A student must reside with his/her parent or a legally appointed guardian to be eligible for athletic participation. A legally appointed guardian will have the same status as a parent under the following circumstances:

1. Both parents are deceased;
2. Both parents reside outside the contiguous United States and the parents are U. S. citizens;
3. A student becomes a ward of the court and the DSS assumes legal guardianship.
4. The student becomes a ward of an orphanage.

Exceptions/Waivers may be granted by the Athletic Committee on a case by case basis. Some examples that would be considered are:

1. A student has lived with a relative for a number of years prior to a request to participate in athletics.
2. A family relocates because of work and a student wishes to finish the school year or complete their senior year with their class.
3. An approved International Student.

NOTE: A student is not eligible until ruled so by SCISA or the SCISA Athletic Committee.

ARTICLE VII - ELIGIBILITY RULES - TEAM

SECTION I: Member schools become eligible for tournaments or championships by participation in the regular schedule as set forth in each activity. ***Player Participation is defined as dressed in the team uniform and in the team area or named in the score book.***

1. A student may participate in only one football game each calendar week. *Exception: SCISA may grant an exception based upon a weather or health related postponement of a contest.*
2. No student shall participate in two games or more of the same sport on the same day unless the contests are doubleheaders/tri-matches or a tournament format.
3. A student cannot participate in a JV game and Varsity contest on the same day.
4. Basketball: A student's name must be listed in the scorebook for at least one-half of all JV basketball games scheduled to be eligible to participate in the JV conference Tournament. *Exception: a player who becomes eligible after the start of the basketball season.*
5. A student is eligible to participate in the JV/B-Team Region Tournament or Region Varsity Tournament, not both.
6. Game limitations apply to both the team and student-athlete.
7. Any school or coach that permits any suspended coach or athlete to participate in any athletic contest in violation of the suspension will be suspended. The game shall be forfeited.
8. The removal of a team before the completion of the game is a violation of the code of conduct.
9. A sport's season ends at the conclusion of that sports championship event.
 - 9A. Can a school play a game or participate in a tournament after the completion of that sports season (state championship's have been crowned)? Yes, with prior approval.

ARTICLE VII - ELIGIBILITY RULES - TEAM - CONTINUED

SECTION II: TEAM PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

SCISA's policies are designed that all students are able to compete on a level playing field in a safe, competitive and friendly environment, free of discrimination. SCISA's rules and regulations are intended to provide every student athlete with equal opportunities to participate in athletics. A student shall participate based on the gender noted on the student's original certificate of birth. The Certificate of Birth is defined as: 1. It must be an original certified document. 2. It must be obtained from the state, county, or city government in which the student was born. 3. It must include the given and surnames. 4. It must be legible and unaltered.

SCISA sport activity-specific participation opportunities and restrictions.

Football: football participation is allowed for all eligible students regardless of gender.

Wrestling: students may only participate for his/her gender specific team (girls on the girls' team, boys may only play on the boys' team).

Volleyball: SCISA sponsors volleyball only for girls. A boy may not compete on the girls' volleyball team for any reason. If SCISA offers boys' volleyball, a female cannot play both season. Female participate is restricted to the girls' team.

Girls' Golf: SCISA sponsors a fall season only for girls. A boy may not compete on the girls' golf team for any reason. Currently, girls are allowed to play both seasons (spring season one tee box is utilized)

Boys' Golf: SCISA allows for girls to participate in both the fall girls' league and as a member of the spring boys' team.

Cross Country, Swimming, Track & Field: A student may only participate in the his/her specific gender when participating in these individual/team, sports.

Bowling, Scholastic Shooting Program: If both genders compete on the same team, they are considered to be a boys' team for the purpose of competition. SCISA offers championships in boys, girls, and Co-ed teams bowling.

Basketball/Soccer: If a school sponsors both a boys and girls team, students may only play for his/her gender specific team (girls on the girls' team, boys may only play on the boys' team). If a school only sponsors a boys' team, then female students may play on the boys' team. A boy may not compete on the girls' team for any reason.

Competitive Cheer: Not more than one (1) male may participate on a girls' competitive cheer team.

Tennis: If a school sponsors both a boys (spring) and girls (fall) team, students may only play for his/her gender specific team (girls on the girls' team, boys may only play on the boys' team). If a school only sponsors a boys' team, then female students may play on the boys' team (spring). A boy may not compete on the girls' team for any reason. The Committee reserves the right to allow girls dual season participation in order to salvage a boys team.

Baseball: participation is allowed for all eligible students regardless of gender.

Softball: participation is restricted to girls only on the softball team. A boy may not compete on the girls' softball team for any reason.

SECTION III: TEAM ELIGIBILITY: AGE AND GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

For team age and grade level restrictions and requirements see Article VI; Sections II and III.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

SECTION I: Amendments to this constitution can be made upon two-thirds favorable vote of the SCISA Board of Directors, provided prior notice and text of the proposed changes have been given to the Directors thirty (30) days before a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION II: When an amendment is adopted, its effective date is the date of adoption unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption or passage.

ARTICLE IX - OFFICIALS

All member schools will use SCISA certified Officials for all home contests.

ARTICLE X - OFFICIAL RULES FOR CONTESTS

National Federation Rules shall govern all athletic contests. There will be no deviation other than those adopted by the SCISA Athletic Committee or by the SCISA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI - ADMISSION PRICES

The **ceiling prices** for admission to any contest during the regular season are: *Adults - \$10.00 and Students - \$5.00*. Play-off prices shall be set by the Athletic Committee.

ARTICLE XII - SCISA ATHLETIC PASSES

Five (5) Athletic Passes will be issued to each school in the name of the school. These passes are transferable among eligible members of the school staff during the year at the discretion of each Headmaster. Each pass can be used once at any SCISA athletic event and is good for the holder, their spouse, and dependent children. Each school may purchase up to four (4) additional passes for \$80.00 each.

Article XIII: Organized Practice

SCISA establishes a first organized practice date for all sports. Organized practices must not take place before these established dates. An organized practice is defined as: an athletic situation involving **a coach and more than the allowed number of student-athletes** where instruction, correction, drills, and/or skills associated with that sport are taking place. (Note: see player restrictions listed for each sport)

Player Restrictions during Out-of-Season during the school year:

- Football, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Track: No More than four (4) student-athletes
- All other sports: No More than three (3) student-athletes

First Practice Dates

Thursday, July 27, 2023 -	First Day of Organized Practice for Fall Sports
Monday, October 30, 2023 -	First Day of Organized Practice for Winter Sports
Monday, January 29, 2024 -	First Day of Organized Practice for Spring Sports

Summer Practice Policy - Summer schedule runs June 3 - July 20, 2024

- ◇ Teams are limited to twelve (12) total practices/games. Teams shall not have more than two (2) practices/games per week which last no more than 1 1/2 hours per practice.
- ◇ Camp: Teams attending a camp during this period will count the number of days at camp against the 12 total practices.
- ◇ Football is restricted from contact.
- ◇ Closed Dates: One week associated with July 4th; and the last week of July prior to the first practice July 21-24.
- ◇ Camp attendance during a closed season is legal if: the camp is off campus, open and advertised to the general public, and not led by any member of the school coaching staff. SCISA recommends that summer work-outs should be voluntary in nature.

Conditioning & Strength Training

General conditioning and strength training is legal throughout the year.

Exceptions: Cross Country and/or track coaches are prohibited from leading conditioning sessions from the date of the State Cross Country Meet until January 2, 2024.

Coaching Out-of-School Teams (Club, Travel, AAU...) July 27, 2023 - May 2024

It shall be considered a violation if a coach (*any coach on your school staff; paid or volunteer*), coaches an out-of-school team that has more than:

- Football, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Track: No More than four (4) student-athletes
 - All other sports: No More than three (3) student-athletes
- students from the coach's school.

Open Gym or Free Play

No teaching, correcting or instruction by any member of the school's coaching staff.

Violations

Violations of the organized practice rule may result in a fine, suspensions, forfeitures and/or probation.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Article VI, Section 3, of the SCISA Constitution states that: the Athletic Committee shall be responsible for the Athletic Activities of the Association. The Committee shall develop operating procedures for Board approval under which the athletic program shall operate. The Committee shall be composed of nine members appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. The President may appoint new members between Board of Directors meetings to fill vacancies. All rulings by the Committee are final unless appealed as outlined in the Athletic Association Constitution and Regulations.

Athletic Committee Procedures:

The Athletic Committee is charged to formulate and maintain policies that will safeguard the educational values of interscholastic competition, to cultivate high ideals of sportsmanship, to develop and direct a program which will promote, protect, and conserve the health and physical welfare of all participants, and to promote uniformity of standards (*level playing field*) in all interscholastic competition.

1. Any school may submit information for Committee review. This information shall be in the form a complete, written brief, submitted through the office of the school Headmaster or Athletic Director to the SCISA Athletic Director. This brief is due, no later than five (5) days prior to a scheduled meeting.
2. A school may request to appear before the Athletic Committee. The request shall be made in a complete written brief which contains all information that the Committee will need to make a decision. The presentation shall be limited to 15 minutes in length. The written request must be submitted to the SCISA Office at least five (5) days before a scheduled meeting. An Athletic Committee member cannot appear before the Committee on behalf of his/her school.
3. Waiver requests, including Eight Semester waivers, must be submitted in writing, in its entirety, at least five (5) days prior to a scheduled Athletic Committee meeting. The written brief shall be submitted through the office of the school Headmaster to the SCISA Athletic Office. The brief must contain all medical and academic documentation so that a decision may be reached without any further investigation. Presentations to the Athletic Committee will be limited to 15 minutes in length. Notice to appeal an Athletic Committee waiver or eligibility decision must be made within seven (7) days of the published decision. The appeal shall be made to a Committee appointed by the SCISA President and/or Executive Director using only the information which was presented to the Athletic Committee.
4. INTERIM RULINGS AND APPEALS - The SCISA Athletic Director and the Chairman of the Athletic Committee may make such rulings as are necessary between Athletic Committee Meetings, subject to final approval by the Athletic Committee at its regular meeting. A ruling by the Athletic Committee/ Athletic Officer is subject to appeal to an Appeals Committee appointed by the President and/or Executive Director.
 - Note:
 - SCISA communicates and deals directly with member schools.
 - All student issues are handled and communicated through official school staff to insure the privacy rights of students.
 - School officials can include parents or custodial guardians in official communication with SCISA.
 - Presentations made without school officials present will be received as information only.
 - SCISA staff must protect the privacy rights of students and not discuss a student's status without proper school officials present.

A notice to appeal an athletic decision must be made in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of the ruling unless the ruling is time-sensitive due to tournament and/or play-off schedules. If so, the appeal shall be filed within 24 hours of the ruling. **An appeal must be in the form of a complete written brief** containing all pertinent information. The committee will review the written brief and all pertinent information used in making the original ruling.

ARTICLE XIV: SPORTSMANSHIP

SECTION I: PHILOSOPHY

The South Carolina Independent School Association believes that interscholastic athletics are an integral part of the total educational program. High standards of behavior, scholarship, and citizenship are important to a sound athletic program. Students volunteering to participate in athletics must assume the responsibilities of this privilege and are required to meet these expectations. Moreover, adults shall be models of good sportsmanship and will lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect, and self-control. Athletes, coaches, officials, and fans shall at all times conduct themselves in a reasonable and sportsmanlike manner. Each person will be responsible for his/her words and actions at all SCISA athletic events and will conform his/her behavior in adherence to the Code of Conduct.

SECTION II: SPORTSMANSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Participation in athletics is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by NFHS and SCISA. Each student-athlete represents his/her school and student body. It is the student-athlete's duty to conduct himself/herself in a manner that is becoming the student-athlete, his/her family, school and SCISA.

The following policy statement from the National Federation of State High School Associations expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows:

The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior, which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity.

One of the main goals of an athletic program is to teach the concept of sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, officials, coaches and spectators. Good sportsmanship includes showing courtesy and kindness towards your opponent as well as fellow team members. The contest is judged by the effort of the participants and not by putting down your opponent. Winning is exciting, but winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant is outside the spirit and interest of the contest. All SCISA sanctioned events are a reflection of our association and schools. The expectations of good sportsmanship of the team is extended to parents and fans before, during, and after athletic events.

The Fundamentals of Sportsmanship

Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest. The necessity to be well informed is essential. Know the rules. If you are uninformed, refrain from expressing opinions on officials, coaches, or administrative decisions. The spirit of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP depends on conformance to a rule's intent as well as to the letter of a given rule.

Exercise representative behavior at all times. The true value of interscholastic competition relies upon everyone exhibiting behavior which is representative of a sound value base. A proper perspective must be maintained if the educational values are to be realized. Your behavior influences others whether you are aware of it or not.

Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of affiliation. Applause for an opponent's good performance displays generosity and is a courtesy that should be regularly practiced. This not only represents GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP but reflects a true awareness of the game by recognizing and acknowledging quality.

Exhibit respect for the officials. The officials of any contest are impartial arbitrators who are trained and who perform to the best of their ability. Mistakes by all involved in the contest are a part of the game. We should not rationalize our own poor or unsuccessful performance or behavior by placing responsibility on an official. The rule of GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP is to accept and abide by the decision made. This value is critical for students to learn for later application in life.

Display openly a respect for the opponent at all times. Opponents are guests and should be treated cordially, provided with the best accommodations, and accorded tolerance at all times.

Be a positive representative for your school, team, or family. Display pride in your actions at every opportunity. Never allow your ego to interfere with good judgment and your responsibility as a school representative. Regardless of whether you are an adult, student, athlete, coach, or official, this value is paramount since it suggests that you care about yourself and how others perceive you.

SECTION III: ATHLETIC CODE OF CONDUCT

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in any SCISA athletic event and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct.

1. I will treat any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee with respect regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, or ability.
2. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct with any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or any other attendee.
3. I will not engage in any behavior which would endanger the health, safety, or well-being of any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or other attendee.
3. I will not use drugs or alcohol while at any athletic event. I will not attend, coach, officiate or participate in an athletic event while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
4. I will not use tobacco (including smokeless types) while at any athletic event.
5. I will not engage in the use of profanity.
6. I will not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or attendee.
7. I will not initiate a fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, spectator, player, official, or attendee.
8. I will not argue with officials or go through the motions indicating dislike or disdain for a decision.
9. I will not make any degrading remarks about any official, coach, athlete, or school. I will not make any degrading remark or criticism of any official, coach, athlete, or school to the media or on social media.
10. I will not detain or attempt to stop an official following the contest to request a ruling or explanation of actions taken by the official. I will not follow or "chase" an official after a contest.
11. I will not leave the bleachers or stands and enter the playing area to protest, object, criticize, or question a call.
12. I understand that conduct that leads to my removal from an athletic event may be considered a serious violation of the code of conduct.
13. I understand that as a coach or as a school administrator, that the removal of a team before the completion of the game may be considered a serious violation of the code of conduct.
14. I hereby agree that if I fail to conform my conduct to the code of conduct while attending, coaching, officiating, or participating in a SCISA athletic event that I will be subject to disciplinary action by SCISA.

SECTION IV: CONSEQUENCE

Any one or more of the following penalties may be imposed upon any school, coach, spectator or athlete upon a violation of Code of Conduct or Constitution of this association.

WARNING	<i>A warning is an official notice that an inexcusable, unethical, or unsportsmanlike action is a matter of record and any such act must not happen again.</i>
PROBATION	<i>Probation is a more severe type of penalty and is for a specified time period. A team on probation shall not play in any play-off, championship, conference tournaments, or invitationals.</i>
SUSPENSION	<i>Suspension is a severe penalty which may be imposed for any specified time period during which a team, individual, or coach is not allowed to participate. The suspension may be for one or multiple activities.</i>
FINE	<i>Fines may be levied for each infraction or violation. A fine may be levied in addition to one of the above penalties. All fines must be paid within ten (10) calendar days from the date of the notification.</i>
Demonstration of Proper Behavior	<i>A player or coach disqualification is typically a public event. A player may also be required to complete community service while a coach will have a team meeting to apologize for inappropriate or legal behavior.</i>

SECTION V: REPORTING

Violations of the Code of Conduct may be reported by:

1. **Game Officials/Referees** filing an incident report or disqualification notice.
Game officials are trained and certified neutral arbitrators of the rules including rules governing sportsmanship and player safety. Incident reports and disqualification notices from game officials will initiate the prescribed course of action by the Association which includes a penalty phase, an educational component, and community service. (see Disqualification/Sportsmanship page 16).
2. **SCISA Officials or representatives** on site. SCISA Officials or representatives are also neutral arbiters of the rules including rules governing sportsmanship and player safety. They can file incident reports which will initiate the prescribed course of action by the Association which includes a penalty phase, an educational component, and community service. (see Disqualification/Sportsmanship page 16).

SECTION V: REPORTING (continued)

3. **School officials** can submit a written Incident Report detailing the violation.
 - School officials include: Head of School and the Athletic Director.
 - Violations can include but are not limited to: damage to school property, unruly fan conduct, concerns with play including player safety or allegations of unsportsmanlike behavior before, during or after a game.
 - This type of violation, concern or allegation occurs either before/after the officials' jurisdiction has begun or ended; outside of the confines of play within the playing area, or not witnessed by the officials.

The process for reports of alleged incidents not reported by game official or association staff:

- 3A. All violations of the SCISA Code of Conduct must be reported in writing to the Athletic Office.
- 3B. All violations of the Constitution or the Code of Conduct Such violations, if possible, should be resolved directly between schools. The Athletic Office will be happy to assist in the resolution.
- 3C. The report should include game video or pictures of damaged areas.
- 3D. The Athletic Committee reserves the authority to review all cases and if evidence warrants, address the incident.
- 3E. If direct school to school contact with the assistance from the Athletic Office fails, then the matter will be brought before the Athletic Committee. Each school must submit a written brief containing all known facts pertinent to the incident. This information should be complete to the point that it will be possible to reach a valid decision without further investigation. The Committee may require the presence of any or all of the parties involved. All parties involved will be offered an opportunity to appear before the Committee.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES/REQUIREMENTS TO PROMOTE SPORTSMANSHIP

SECTION I: PRE-SEASON MEETING

Each school shall conduct at least one pre-season meeting with coaches, parents, and players to present the Code of Conduct and the expectations of good sportsmanship at athletic events. This meeting also provides the vehicle to present school policies, introduce school personnel, discuss the warning of inherent risk associated with athletic participation, and outline team goals and schedules. **\$250 Fine for failure to hold an annual sportsmanship meeting.**

SECTION II: DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

It is responsibility of each school's administration to be an active agent at every athletic event enforcing the SCISA Code of Conduct. In the absence of the Head of School or Athletic Director, each school is **Required** to provide a **DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE** at all athletic events, both home and away. The Designated Representative will represent the school's administration and will assist with the enforcement of the Code of Conduct. The Designated Representative:

- Must know the SCISA policies governing that specific sport. A copy of the Blue Book section which addresses that sport may be helpful with issues such as: *Are noise makers allowed?*, *Where cheerleaders may perform?*, *Problems with students or student groups...*
- Cannot be one of the coaches involved in the contest. The Designated Representative should not have other responsibilities that may have him/her unavailable when requested for by the officials.
- Will meet the officials at least (5) minutes before the start of the contest. They will notify the officials where they will be seated. Each school's Designated Representative should exchange cell numbers or agree to meet if an issue develops.
- Will assist the officials without hesitation when requested.
- Will be announced and introduced prior to the start of game (*If the PA announces line-ups...*).
- ****FOOTBALL:** Home Designated Representative will escort the officials off the field to dressing room.

Note: The Host School Is In Charge Of All Spectators.

SECTION III: UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS/EVENT SECURITY

1. Class AAA Varsity Football and Varsity Basketball Games: The Board of Directors requires that all Class AAA schools will provide a uniformed police officer at all varsity football and basketball games.
2. SCISA recommends that uniformed police officers be used at all contests.
3. If probable cause exists that a problem may arise at a contest, the Athletic Office can request, and the host school will provide, adequate uniformed police protection.
4. Security/school officials shall escort athletic officials from the playing field/court to the dressing room/parking lot.

SECTION IV: SCHOOL RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCT OF PLAYERS, FANS, AND COACHES

Each School Is Responsible For The Actions And Conduct Of Its Coaches, Athletes, and Fans Before, During, And After The Game. ***In the case of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the coaches, school officials, players, students or spectators of a school, the school will be subject to discipline by the Athletic Committee.*** All FINES will be directed to the offending school. The school will be responsible for paying of any fine within ten (10) days of receiving notification of the fine.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES/REQUIREMENTS TO PROMOTE SPORTSMANSHIP

SECTION V: HANDLING A FRACAS

Should a fracas begin, only members of the coaching staff will go on the field to stop the fracas. All substitutes and other team personnel are to remain in the team box. The officials are instructed to stay in control of the contest and not allow a fracas to begin, but once one has begun, they cannot get physically involved. Any athlete who leaves the team box or bench area and enters the field or floor area will be disqualified. All cameramen should be instructed to continue filming. This film will be vital to the Athletic Committee's investigation of the incident.

SECTION VI: FLAGS AND BANNERS

Flags and banners can communicate a positive message of school spirit, support, encouragement and sportsmanship. SCISA guidelines require the safe display and appropriate message of all flags and banners. The improper use of flags and banners can obscure the vision of spectators and can potentially injure a spectator. Banners shall not relay a message that can be harmful, hurtful or considered unsportsmanlike. SCISA prohibits the use or possession of flags or banners by spectators at all SCISA events. Cheerleaders and/or a school mascot may: Wave a flag during dead ball situations in areas approved by Home management or the tournament director; Flags may only contain the school name; Display banners which positively support his/her school and are approved by the School Head and displayed with the approval of home management or the tournament director.

SECTION VII: PARTICIPATION BY AN INELIGIBLE STUDENT

A student is defined ineligible due to: academic status; age and/or grade requirement; league suspension; participation in two games in one day other than those outlined in the appropriate rule section or any other student or team eligibility requirement. **PENALTY: a Two Hundred-fifty Dollar Fine** will be issued for each violation and All games the student participated in are **Forfeited**. The penalty will be more severe for a school and/or coach who knowingly allows an ineligible student to participate.

SECTION VIII: FILMING OF ATHLETIC CONTEST

A school is prohibited from filming an athletic contest that it is not participating in unless written permission is granted by both participating teams prior to the contest. Filming of a contest without prior written consent shall be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct. A school may be subject to a \$100 fine. *Coaches are encouraged to directly exchange game films.*

SECTION IX: EJECTIONS/DISQUALIFICATIONS OF PLAYERS AND COACHES:

Conduct that leads to an ejection/disqualification will be considered as serious unsportsmanlike conduct or a violation of a safety rule. Depending upon the severity of the offense, a player or coach may be warned, fined, suspended or placed on probation. These offenses are cumulative over the student's career. The disqualification of a coach will be considered on a case by case basis.

GUIDELINES FOR A PLAYER DISQUALIFICATION/EJECTION FROM AN ATHLETIC EVENT

FIRST OFFENSE: An Official warning and in Football: one game suspension/ Other sports 2 game suspension. If the disqualification is for unsportsmanlike, or flagrant illegal conduct, a \$100 Fine. Note: Additional games may be assessed due to the nature of the offense.

SECOND OFFENSE: a \$200 fine and suspension until an appearance before the Athletic Committee or SCISA staff.

THIRD OFFENSE: will result in the termination of eligibility (reinstatement may only be granted by the Athletic Committee and a \$500 Fine if reinstated by the Athletic Committee).

Disqualification/Ejection of a coach: An official warning and \$250 fine. The Committee could also consider suspension if the incident so warrants.

Disqualification/Ejection Procedure: School Procedure of a Player or Coach Disqualification:

1. The school will file a completed Form B (Disqualification/Incident Report) by 10:00AM of the next school day following the disqualification. *Exception: If the school has another game before the next school day the disqualification must be reported by email (athletics@scisa.org) or by phone (803-308-0330) before the next game.*
2. The school shall suspend the player for the next contest.
3. Appeal Process:
 - A. The school shall notify SCISA of the intent to appeal the disqualification by 10:00AM of the next school day following the disqualification. *Exception: If the school has another game before the next school day the disqualification must be reported by email (athletics@scisa.org) or by phone (803-308-0330) before the next game.*
 - B. The school shall file a written appeal brief within 24 hours of the conclusion of the contest to SCISA by e-mail or fax. The appeal must include conclusive video evidence that either the wrong player was identified or that a rule was misapplied. The Review Committee has sole discretion in the video evaluation.
 - C. The school shall mail a \$100 Appeal Fee.

Disqualification/Ejection Procedure: School Procedure of a Player or Coach Disqualification:

3. Appeal Process:

- D. The player may participate during the appeal process.
- E. If the appeal is successful, the \$100 shall be returned to the school. If the appeal is unsuccessful, the \$100 shall be forfeited to SCISA.
- 4. Any school that permits a student who was disqualified/ejected from a contest to participate in the next contest shall forfeit the contest and pay a \$100 fine.
- 5. If any school or coach permits any suspended coach or athlete to participate in any athletic contest in violation of the suspension, the coach shall be suspended and the program subject to probation. All games shall be forfeited. A \$250 fine will be issued.
- 6. The school shall have the player complete the required return to play protocol as outlined by SCISA.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: INTERIM RULINGS AND APPEALS

The Athletic Secretary and the Chairman of the Athletic Committee may make such rulings as are necessary between Athletic Committee Meetings, subject to final approval by the Athletic Committee at its regular meeting. A ruling by the Athletic Committee is subject to appeal to an Appeals Committee appointed by the President and/or Executive Director.

APPEALS

A school shall submit notice to appeal an athletic decision in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of the ruling unless the ruling is time-sensitive due to tournament and/or play-off schedules. If so, the appeal shall be filed within 24 hours of the ruling. An appeal must be in the form of a complete written brief containing all pertinent information. The brief must be filed with the SCISA Athletic Office. The Athletic Committee may hear the appeal at the next scheduled meeting, a special called meeting, or by a sub-committee appointed by the chairman.

A decision of the Athletic Committee/Athletic Office may be appealed to an Appeals Committee appointed by the President and/or Executive Director. Notice to appeal must be filed in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of the ruling unless the ruling is time sensitive (the see above). The appeal shall be made using only the written information which was presented to the Athletic Committee.

The committee will review the written brief and all pertinent information used in making the original ruling.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: GUIDELINES FOR PENALTIES AND FINES

During a school year, situations may arise involving the rules and regulations pertaining to the rules of the game, eligibility, required forms, schedules, entries to tournaments, and unsportsmanlike conduct are considered by the Athletic Committee. In order to avoid inconsistencies and to assist the Athletic Committee in being uniform in its dealings within the Association, these guidelines have been established. The Athletic Committee has the authority to raise or lower a fine depending upon the severity of the offense.

Ten Dollar Fine

The party responsible for a schedule change after schedules have been filed in the Athletic Office (football, basketball, baseball, volleyball and softball). This fine is paid directly to Officials Booking Director. Per change fee.

Fifty Dollar Fines

- 1. Failure by a school to post a complete roster prior to participation in a contest. This includes inadvertently omitting a name.
- 2. Failure to file a required form on or before the deadline in the Athletic Office.

One Hundred Dollar Fine

- 1. A school permits a student to practice/play without a completed Physical and/or Parents' Permission Form.
- 2. Unsportsmanlike conduct of players, coaches, or fans.
- 3. Failure to have a representative at a State Rules Clinic.

SECTION I - GAME CANCELLATION FEES / PENALTIES

Schools that do not fulfill athletic contracts will be subject to the following regulations. An athletic contract is a scheduled contest. All schools shall file all schedules with SCISA.

- A. A school that cancels a varsity home football game will pay the contract guarantee or \$1000.00.
- B. A school that cancels an away varsity football game will pay the contract guarantee or \$1500.00.
- C. A school that cancels a varsity home basketball doubleheader will pay a \$250.00 cancellation fee.
- D. A school that cancels a varsity away basketball doubleheader will pay a \$500.00 cancellation fee.
- E. A school that cancels any other type of athletic event will pay a \$250.00 cancellation fee.
- F. The cost of applicable officials' fees will also be paid by the canceling school.
- G. All cancellation fees will be paid to the offended school through the athletic office.
- H. The above regulations pertain only to written contracts or schedules on file in the Athletic Office.
- I. The score of a cancelled region game that is declared a forfeiture shall be the maximum number points awarded to a school for a region win for tie-breaker purposes.

The Athletic Committee may waive or reduce the above cancellation fees for a school when:

Because of financial problems or lack of enrollment, the school has shown good intentions in an effort to fulfill its contractual obligations. A school can provide evidence of a medical hardship in fulfilling the scheduled contest. The school declares: in non-football sports by the third practice date that it will be unable to field a team.

SCISA Return-to-Play Protocol - Student

1. Penalty or Consequence.

The player will be suspended: football one game/other sports two games for conduct that led to his or her disqualification.

- A. The number of games suspended can be increased based upon the severity of the offense and/or if this is the student's second or third disqualification in the student's SCISA athletic career (from B-Team through varsity participation).
- B. A student must appear before the Athletic Committee to seek reinstatement for his or her third disqualification.
- C. SCISA may impose a fine in addition to any suspensions once the facts have been reviewed.
- D. Termination of athletic participation may be assessed by the Athletic Committee after careful review of any serious incident.

2. Education.

The student will complete the NFHS learn course on Sportsmanship.

(<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/37000/sportsmanship>)

The NFHS developed this free course to give you a better understanding of sportsmanship, how it impacts the educational process and identifies your specific role in modeling it at all interscholastic athletic events. Insight is shared throughout the course from fans, players, parents, teacher-coaches and officials. This course will help provide schools a more positive game environment. The student shall complete the course within five days of the disqualification and will submit the certificate indicating successful completion of the course.

3. Exhibition of Positive Behavior.

The student will be required to complete a minimum of five (5) hours of community service at his or her school. The AD or school administration will assign service work to complete this requirement within 10 school days of the disqualification.

The conduct which led to the disqualification typically is highly visible. The public display of poor sportsmanship or illegal conduct should be corrected by a public display of positive behavior exhibited through community service.

SCISA Return-to-Play Protocol - Coach

1. Penalty or Consequence.

A Coach may be suspended for conduct that led to his or her disqualification.

- A. The number of games suspended will be based upon the severity of the offense and/or if the coach has been disqualified in any other athletic contest.
- B. A coach must appear before the Athletic Committee to seek reinstatement for his or her second disqualification in the same season or third in a school year.
- C. A fine of no less than \$150 for the first offense and up to \$500 will be issued in addition to any suspensions once the facts have been reviewed.
- D. Termination of coaching privileges may be assessed by the Athletic Committee after careful review of a serious incident.

2. Education.

The coach will complete the NFHS learn course on Teaching and Modeling Behavior. This course, authored by Bruce Brown, Director of Proactive Coaching and a master clinician, helps teacher/coaches understand the importance of modeling appropriate behavior and promoting good sportsmanship. Coaches will understand how inappropriate behavior affects how they and their teams are perceived by students, fans, opposing teams, and officials. This course highlights the benefits of a proactive approach in teaching and modeling behavior, as well as specific approaches for rehearsing appropriate behavior and sportsmanship. There is a \$20 fee for this course which will be the responsibility of the coach or school. The coach shall complete the course within two days of the disqualification and will submit the certificate indicating successful completion of the course.

3. Exhibition of Positive Behavior.

The coach will be required to hold a team meeting apologizing for his or her inappropriate behavior and accepting responsibility to always be a positive role model. The AD or school administration will require this meeting within 2 days of the disqualification. *The conduct which led to the disqualification typically is highly visible. The public display of poor sportsmanship or illegal conduct should be corrected by a public statement of positive behavior exhibited through good sportsmanship.*

RULES AND REGULATIONS: REQUIRED FORMS

1. **Certificate of Eligibility**: All students participating in athletics must be listed on a team roster with their name and grade. The roster will be posted on the school's athletic website at least one day before the first game.
2. **New Student / Transfer Student Form: Parents Form and School Form**: All "new-to-your-school" students who play a varsity sport must submit a completed New Student / Transfer Student Form. New Students are defined as students who enroll during the summer and before the start of fall practice. Transfer students are defined as students who transfer after the start of a school year or after practicing with a team on or after the first official practice date.
3. **Physical Form**: A completed physical is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. These forms must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition. A Physical Examination is valid from **April 1st** through the following school year or for one year from the Date Of the Examination.
4. **Agreement for Participation Form** (Parent's Permission Form): is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. These forms must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition.
5. **Warning of Inherent Risk**: is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. This form must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition.
6. **Student-Parent Concussion Awareness Form**: is required on all student athletes before they are allowed to practice or participate. This form must be on file for all participating students regardless of level of competition.
7. **International Student Certificate of Eligibility Form and Form 4**: All International Students participating in athletics must be submitted on an International Student Certificate of Eligibility Form before being allowed to participate. An international student is not eligible until ruled so by SCISA or the SCISA Evaluation Committee. Completed **I-20 Forms** are also required.
8. **Form B: Disqualification/Incident Report**: A school shall file a Disqualification Report on any player, coach or fan ejection. The report must include action taken by the school. All appropriate fines shall be submitted.
9. **Officials Mark-off Form**: a school may mark-off up to three officials each sports season.
10. **School Reports**: Reports issued by SCISA including, but not limited to: fall, winter, and spring school athletic profiles; Financial Reports.
11. **Fall, Winter, & Spring Athletic Reports**.
12. Schools shall digitally archive records.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: PROTESTS

1. Protests involving athletic contest rules will be heard only in those sports that allow protests by state adoption. This currently applies to **baseball and softball** only.
2. A protest involving judgment of officials will not be considered. All protests of an official's ruling must be made in writing to the Athletic Office (email or fax). It must be signed by the Coach and Headmaster. Protests must be accompanied by \$100. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld; otherwise the protest fee will revert to the SCISA general fund. All protests must be filed within 24 hours after the completion of the game. A faxed statement or e-mail to the SCISA Office or reaching the Athletic Director by telephone will satisfy the 24 hour requirement.
3. In the event a protest involves the actual play of a game, the chief official must be advised before resumption of play by the protesting team's authorized representative (coach), that the game is being played under protest, and the grounds on which the protest is being made. The opposing team must be notified and the game situation recorded.
4. A significant determining factor is: a team was given a significant athletic advantage or disadvantage by the official's ruling.
5. A protest against a school or student eligibility shall be filed in writing within 24 hours following the contest. The protest must identify the player(s) or situation(s) in question. The protest must stipulate the alleged violation. The accused school will be furnished copies of the protest.

RULES AND REGULATIONS: TROPHIES

SCISA has adopted certain types of trophies to be awarded to all State Champion and Runner-up Teams. A State Championship medal will be presented to all team members including coaching staffs of the state championship teams. Plaques may be awarded to the individual winners in those activities that it is appropriate to recognize individuals. The cost of all such awards will be an expense of the championship and will be factored into gate receipts or factored into any entry fees.

Awards presented at the conference or region level are the responsibility of the school or region/conference.

ATHLETIC POLICIES

Pre-Season Tournaments/Games

A team is permitted to host or participate in a maximum of One (1) Pre-Season Tournament or Play One Game prior to the first playing date, with prior approval of the SCISA Athletic Office. These should be considered official games and count on a team's record, unless SCISA is otherwise notified prior to the play of the game/tournament.

Post-Season Tournaments/Games *(after the completion of the SCISA Playoffs)*

Participation in a game or tournament after the conclusion of the SCISA season is only allowed with prior approval of the SCISA Athletic Office.

Jamborees - The request to have a jamboree in any sport must be made in writing by the administration of a school. That school is responsible for adherence to the rules and regulations as stated in the Blue Book. An outside organization may assist in the promotion of a jamboree, but the responsibility remains with the requesting school. A request to have a jamboree must be made at least seven (7) days prior to the event. The request should include:

1. Name of school;
2. Date of Event;
3. Schools participating;
4. Admission Prices;
5. Format of Play;
6. Method of disbursing Gate Receipts and Concession Receipts.

SCISA Tie-Breaker Procedure

- A. Each region shall decide on a region tie-breaker procedure prior to the start of the season.
- B. The SCISA Region Tie-Breaker Procedure **may be** considered and used in absence of an agreed to tie-breaker procedure.
 1. In a two-way tie, compare Head-to-Head. If one team has won both games, then they shall receive the higher seed. If they split, then a play-off game will be played (*if time allows, considering both the start of the play-offs and seeding process for the playoffs*). In a single game format, then the team that won the game will be seeded higher.
 2. In case of a three-way or more tie:
 - A. If three or more teams with identical region records tie, and one of the teams has defeated the others, that team will be seeded higher. The remaining ties will be broken by: head-to-head first, then use the point system.
 - B. If three or more teams with identical region records tie, the team that has the most wins between the tied teams (against each other) will be seeded highest. The team with the next-highest wins will be seeded next and so on. If this does not resolve tie(s), proceed to Point System until the tie(s) are broken.
 - C. Point System will be used. A team will receive 10 points for a region victory plus 1 point per margin of victory up to 5 (baseball, softball, soccer and 15 in football & basketball).

*Note: the Athletic Committee reserves the authority to adjust the playoff brackets or seeding process when events so warrant.

School Closure and Game Cancellation

If a school is closed due to health (medical) concerns, then that school cannot participate in an athletic contest until the conditions that caused the health (medical) closure has been cleared.

If a school is closed due to weather conditions or if forecasted weather conditions could pose a serious issue, then the two schools must communicate. If a mutual consent is not reached, then the SCISA will assist with the process.