

2023-24 TSSAA Bylaws Changes

TSSAA BYLAWS CHANGES APPROVED FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Article II, Section 16 (Tuition and Financial Aid)

Financial aid may be awarded on the basis of need, but proof of such need must be filed in the TSSAA office on forms approved by the Executive Director. In order to determine the basis for need, all schools awarding financial aid shall use one of the following services: FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment (FACTS), Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST), School and Student Scholastic Service for Financial Aid (SSS), Family Financial Needs Assessment (FFNA), Private School Aid Services, Blackbaud Tuition Management, or Tuition Aid Data Services (TADS). Schools must choose one of the companies for all student-athletes. A committee consisting of School Heads from Division II schools and one ex-officio, non-voting member from the Board of Control and Legislative Council will meet and make recommendations to the Board of Control on each student submitted. In addition, this committee will collect information from schools regarding financial aid statistics, grant procedures, and the overall financial aid program within the school. The Board of Control will then rule on all cases at the **November** meeting. The Board of Control shall have authority to reject the basis of need for students when in its opinion, or in the opinion of the school committee, the amount of need stated by the financial service cannot be justified.

2. Article II, Section 18 (Amateur Rule)

Section 18. A student who has never received payment for performance who has never used and is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or his/her athletic skill for pay in the sports which this Association governs and who has always contested under his/her own name is an amateur. (Accepting money for officiating athletic contests, payment for instructional services, or for working as an employee in a city or county recreation program is not a violation of this regulation.) A student who violates the amateur rule may be ineligible for up to 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. Bowling, golf and tennis students will abide by USBC, USGA, and USTA regulations in accepting pay. Such a student may be reinstated as an amateur after a period of one calendar year from the time he/she was declared ineligible has elapsed, provided he/she has not violated the amateur rule during this period.

Students may receive payment for activities not related to performance provided that they are carried out in a manner that does not suggest or reasonably suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of the TSSAA school. The student's activities for which they are compensated may not include an image or likeness of the student in a uniform, or other clothing or gear depicting the name or logo of the TSSAA member school the student is attending or has attended. No reference to TSSAA accolades or championships may be used in the student's activities for which they are compensated.

A student who violates any portion of the Amateur Rule shall be penalized according to the sanctions below:

- a. **First Violation:** The student shall receive a formal warning and return any award(s) or money received in violation of this rule. TSSAA shall direct the student in violation to immediately remove any endorsement, advertisement, sponsorship, or other promotional activity that is in violation of the Amateur Rule.
- b. **Second Violation:** The student shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at any level of competition for a period of one (1) year from the date of TSSAA's determination of the second violation.
- c. **Third Violation:** The penalty and any additional period of ineligibility will be determined by the Executive Director based on a consideration of the nature of the violation(s) and the extent to which the violation(s) may have been knowing, deliberate, or in reckless disregard of the provisions of this rule.

Note: It is expected that the TSSAA member school will ensure adherence to any of the above penalties imposed on their student.

3. Article II, Section 24 (Special Cases Involving Hardship)

The burden of establishing each of these elements to the Executive Director's satisfaction is upon the school at which eligibility is sought. **The individual student must meet the TSSAA definition of *enrolled* at the school where eligibility is sought in order for the Executive Director to consider the hardship case.**

Any decision of the Executive Director on any request for a waiver of eligibility rules under this Section may be appealed *de novo* to the Board of Control at its August, November, January March or June meetings. **The Board of Control only considers appeals at the June meeting on behalf of students that meet the TSSAA definition of *enrolled* at their new school.**

4. Article III, Section 14 (Playing of Ineligible Student-Athletes)

When a team plays an ineligible athlete in TSSAA tournaments or playoffs **and wins the contest, the win is vacated**, the team is removed from the tournament or playoff, and no team replaces that team in the tournament series. All awards and money earned from the post season tournament series must be returned to TSSAA.

5. Article IV, Section 8 (TSSAA Sports Calendar – Bowling)

First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 9.

6. Article IV, Section 10 (Jamborees)

A member school may participate in one jamboree per sport provided (a) **the jamboree is held before any of the participating schools play their first game**; (b) the jamboree is sponsored by the participating schools and all proceeds go to the participating schools; (c) the jamboree is conducted in accordance with the following regulations:

- A. No team or participant shall play more than the equivalent of half of a game or contest.
- B. Registered TSSAA officials must be used.
- C. Schools participating in a jamboree must file the regular eligibility report (TSSAA Portal Roster) with the state office prior to participating.
- D. Schools must hold membership in TSSAA or membership in a Tennessee conference in order to be eligible to participate in a jamboree. (Out-of-state schools must obtain approval from their state association before participating.)
- E. Football schools may participate in a jamboree as early as Thursday of the week preceding the opening of football season.
- F. Basketball schools may participate in a jamboree one week preceding the opening of basketball season.

Participation in such a jamboree shall not count as a regular-season contest or pre-season scrimmage provided the jamboree meets the above regulations