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ONLINE TICKETS

Online tickets for TSSAA championship events are available via GoFan.com. Member schools can sell tickets electronically during the regular season! For more information, contact pnoles@huddleinc.com.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES MONTH

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and its 51 state high school associations begin the annual celebration of National High School Activities Month next week with a focus on sportsmanship and a salute to the more than 500 million fans of high school sports. The NFHS has designated the month of October as National High School Activities Month to help schools throughout the nation promote the values inherent in high school athletic and performing arts activities. Started in 1980 as National High School Activities Week, the NFHS expanded the celebration to a month several years ago to provide additional time for the 19,000-plus high schools to hold special activities at the local level.

The purpose of National High School Activities Month is to remind students, parents, coaches, officials and others in communities across the country about the values and benefits of interscholastic activity programs.

High school activities help address society's most current issues by:

- Finding and nurturing the best effort of each young participant;
- Encouraging students to stay in school, perform better academically and become better citizens;
- Demanding respect for fair play and appreciation for the equitable

application of procedures, rules and regulations;

- Encouraging healthy lifestyles;
- Challenging racism, sexism and classism through the active pursuit of teamwork and school spirit.

Each week throughout the month-long celebration will feature a specific emphasis: **National Sportsmanship, Fan Appreciation and Public-Address Announcers Week** (Oct. 1-7); **National Performing Arts Activities Week** (Oct. 8-14); **National Coaches/Sponsors/Advisors/Officials Week** (Oct. 15-21); and **National Community Service /Youth Awareness Week** (Oct. 22-31). "High school sports and activity programs provide one of the best bargains in our community and nation and will continue to do so as long as our nation supports them as an integral part of the education of our young people," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "Not only do these programs teach the more than 12 million young people who participate in them valuable life skills lessons, such as ethics, integrity and healthy lifestyles, they also provide the best entertainment value in our nation."

The NFHS has provided suggested activities for schools during each of the week-long events. All materials for National High School Activities Month, including The Case for High School Activities, are available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

Congratulations to State Golf Champions

TSSAA would like to congratulate the following schools in winning the 2017 state golf tournaments!

DII-A Girls - Franklin Road Academy

DII-AA Girls - St. Agnes Academy

Division I Small Girls - Signal Mountain High School

Division I Large Girls - Houston High School

DII-A Boys - Christian Academy of Knoxville

DII-AA Boys - Memphis University School

Division I Small Boys - Alcoa High School

Division I Large Boys - Knoxville Halls High School

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECOGNITION

The TSSAA is proud to recognize Mr. Joel Pierce as its distinguished service honoree as an official. Mr. Pierce has been a registered TSSAA official for close to 50 years in baseball, football, basketball, and softball.

Mr. Pierce has also served as an assigning officer in Northeast Tennessee in those same sports since 1967. He worked the TSSAA State Baseball Championships in 1991 and the State Football Championships in 1992. He was the recipient of the TSSAA A. F. Bridges Award as an official in 2010, and was inducted into the Carter County Hall of Fame in 2014 and the TSSAA Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mr. Pierce has also worked on the collegiate level in women's basketball and baseball, as well as an area semi-professional football league. He is also a member of the National Association of Sports Officials.

The TSSAA is proud to honor Mr. Pierce for his many accomplishments and his dedication to high school athletics in Tennessee.



UPCOMING STATE TOURNAMENTS

STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Blackman & Siegel H.S., MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN

Tuesday, October 17 through
Thursday, October 19

GIRLS' STATE SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Siegel Soccer Complex
Murfreesboro, TN
Wednesday, October 25
through Saturday, October 28

STATE CROSS COUNTRY MEET

Steeplechase Course
Nashville, TN

Saturday, November 4

TSSAASPORTS.COM

THE NEW ONLINE HOME FOR TSSAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

TSSAAsports.com is the new site that will be the best source for brackets, schedules, historical results, records, etc. for championship events. Right now you can view previous football playoff series, including brackets and championship team photos. You can also search for historical information by school and see the database of state records and awards in many sports.

The Hall of Fame area of the website contains photos, bios and videos (if available) of all 300 TSSAA Hall of Fame inductees.

We plan on making significant additions to the website in the coming months, so check the site regularly as we continue our historical preservation efforts. We currently have complete football, baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, bowling (team) and volleyball historical brackets available. Many championship team photos are available as well.

WATCH EVENTS ON NFHS NETWORK

The championship matches for the Girls' State Volleyball Tournament and the championship games for the Girls' State Soccer Tournament will all be broadcast LIVE on the NFHS Network!

<http://tnhs.us/iypb9s>

NFHS Basketball Rules Changes

Effective with the 2017-18 high school basketball season, play will be stopped and an official warning will be given to the head coach – and recorded in the scorebook – for misconduct by the coach or other bench personnel unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case a technical foul shall be assessed. This new rule was one of the five changes recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Basketball Rules Committee at its April 10-12 meeting in Indianapolis. All changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors. In addition to misconduct violations related to Rule 10-5, the head coach will be officially warned for the first violation of Rule 10-6-1 regarding the coaching box. Rules 4-48-1 and 4-48-2 will both have a note stating that a warning is not required prior to calling a technical foul.

In other changes, the rules committee approved enlarging the coaching box from 14 feet to 28 feet. The coaching box now shall be bounded by a line drawn 28 feet from the end line toward the division line. A line drawn from the sideline toward the team bench becomes the end of the coaching box toward the end line. State associations may alter the length and placement of the 28-foot coaching box.

Changes in Rules 3-4-1d and 3-4-4 regarding uniforms were approved by the committee, including restrictions on identifying names that can be placed in the allowable area of the jersey. Identifying names on uniforms must adhere to the following: school name, school nickname, school logo, player's name and/or abbreviation of the official school name. The panel in the shoulder area on the back of the jersey may be used for placing an identifying name as well.

The committee also approved a change in the way officials signal a foul against a player. After verbally informing the

offender, the official shall use fingers on two hands to indicate to the scorer the number of the offender and the number of free throws. "This change was made to minimize reporting errors that occur between the officials and the scorekeepers," Wynns said. "Two-handed reporting is easier for the scorekeepers to see and comprehend, and it is less confusing."

NFHS Wrestling Rules Changes

An alternate two-piece uniform consisting of compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling and a form-fitted compression shirt has been approved for the 2017-18 season in high school wrestling. Wrestlers will have the option of the new two-piece uniform or the traditional one-piece singlet. This revision to Rule 4-1-1 was one of 11 rules changes recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Wrestling Rules Committee at its April 2-4 meeting in Indianapolis, and all changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling shall be school-issued and shall have a minimum 4-inch inseam that does not extend below the knee. The form-fitted compression shirt shall not cover or extend below the elbow and shall have a minimum 3-inch tail. The shirt may be worn under a singlet or with compression shorts or shorts designed for wrestling. Specific language was weight gain when an athlete misses weight on his or her first attempt on the scale.

In addition to activities that promote dehydration or drinking fluids to gain weight, the rule now prohibits activities such as cutting hair, modifying clothing, etc.

Another change designed to reduce risk of injury was developed regarding undergarment requirements for female contestants wearing a one-piece singlet or a form-fitted compression shirt, as well as for male contestants wearing shorts designed for wrestling. The com-

mittee approved use of the alternate two-piece uniform in the hopes of increasing boys and girls participation in the sport after receiving favorable results from experimentation and positive comments from schools, students, coaches and officials.

The committee approved two changes in Rule 5-11 related to falls and near falls. In 5-11-1, the shoulders or scapula of the offensive wrestler no longer must be inbounds to earn a fall. The committee agreed that wrestling should continue if the offensive wrestler's supporting parts remain inbounds and no body part of the defensive wrestler goes off the mat. In 5-11-5, "unless any part of the shoulders or both scapulae of the defensive wrestler is inbounds" was eliminated. If wrestling is continuing during a match, near falls and falls will be awarded/earned regardless of the out-of-bounds line. In a related rule, Rule 5-15-2b, c was changed as follows: "Near-fall points or a fall shall be earned while the supporting points of either wrestler are inbounds."

"The committee agreed that offensive wrestling should be rewarded," Elliott Hopkins, NFHS Director of Sports and Student Services said. "If wrestling is continuing, as allowed by current rules, and points for escapes and reversals are allowed, the ability to earn a fall or near fall should be there as well, with no deference to the out-of-bounds line."

"The wrestling rules committee did another phenomenal job in taking the necessary strides to promote participation by approving a two-piece alternate uniform to be worn," Hopkins said. "The committee also continued its commitment to reducing risk by making the straight-back salto and suplay illegal maneuvers, as well as prohibiting weight loss or gain in the weigh-in area. In addition, scoring a fall or near-fall is strengthened by the modifications to the definition and location of fall and near-fall in our rules book."