

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS OF THE  
HAWAII HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

All member schools of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) shall adhere to the regulations as set by the Executive Board.

Section 1            Regulations Governing the Administration of the HHSAA

A.            Responsibility of the Principal/Headmaster

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the principal/headmaster of a member school to determine that students have met and maintained all eligibility requirements.

B.            Payments of Dues

1. All dues as authorized by the HHSAA are payable on or before 1 October of each year. Notice of payment of dues shall be sent to each league and school on or before 1 September of each year by the Executive Director.
2. A school shall not be eligible to participate in any state tournament until annual dues have been paid.

C.            Supervision Requirement

No member school or individual student may participate in any HHSAA approved activity unless under the direct supervision of a school authorized coach or designee.

Section 2            Eligibility

A.            A student is eligible to participate in a given sport provided that for fall sports the student is enrolled at the school within fifteen (15) days after the first day of the school or for winter/spring sports the student is enrolled prior to the HHSAA start date<sup>1</sup>; and one of the following: (1) the student is enrolled at his/her home public school; (2) the student is re-enrolled at the first private school where he/she participated in any sport<sup>2</sup>; or (3) the student did not participate in that same sport at another school during the previous and/or current school year.

1. Students boarding on location at a public school with a boarding program shall be deemed to be attending a private school on the island.
2. Students residing in an open school district or open geographic area shall have established their home public school with their initial enrollment.

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<sup>1</sup> This enrollment deadline does not apply to students enrolling from out-of-state or inter-island who have a valid change of residence as defined in (L)(2)(b). These students are immediately eligible to participate in any given sport provided Sections B-N are met.

<sup>2</sup> The student must have previously attended this private school and participated in a sport at that school during 9<sup>th</sup> grade or later. E.g. student attends private school in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and participates in a sport. If that student transfers to another school in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and plays a sport(s), he/she would be allowed to return to the same private school in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and play that same sport(s). However, if the student transfers to a different private school from the one he/she attended in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, he/she would not be eligible to play the same sport(s) the following school year. Furthermore, if the student participated in fall sport at the current school prior to transferring back to the first private school he/she would be deemed ineligible for participation in that sport for that year.

3. The use of undue influence by any person, connected or not connected with any member school, to secure the transfer of a student to a member school for the purpose of participation in HHSAA activities shall cause the student to be ineligible for HHSAA activities for the period of one year and may result in other penalties for the member school.
- B. Students of public charter schools which offer a particular HHSAA sport shall be allowed to participate in the HHSAA state tournament of such sport, as long as the public charter school is in good standing with the HHSAA. Also, students of public charter schools that do not offer a particular HHSAA sport shall be allowed to participate in the HHSAA state tournament of such sport with the school in the complex of which the public charter school is located, as long as the public charter school is in good standing with the HHSAA.
  - C. Students of Anuenue School, Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind, and Ke Kula `O Ehunuikaimalino shall be allowed to participate in HHSAA state tournaments with the school that they participate with in their league activities.
  - D. Pac-5 teams are eligible to participate in the following HHSAA state tournaments: baseball, canoe paddling, cheerleading, football, soccer, softball, and girls water polo.
  - E. All students participating in HHSAA tournaments must have a minimum 2.0 grade point average (GPA) as well as passing courses required for graduation.
  - F. No student shall be eligible to participate in HHSAA activities who have reached nineteen years of age prior to the first day of September of the school year in which such participation is intended.
  - G. No student shall participate in HHSAA activities in more than four seasons in any one activity and not more than three seasons in one activity after entering the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - H. A student entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall have eight consecutive semesters of athletic eligibility. Enrollment and/or attendance of 15 days or more shall count as one of the eight semesters. Participation in one or more athletic contests shall count as one of the eight semesters.
  - I. A student must be an amateur to be eligible to participate in a given sport. A student has forfeited his/her right to compete as an amateur in a given sport and has thereby become ineligible for further high school competition in the same sport by any of the following actions:
    1. Having competed for money in any organized athletic activity.
    2. Having competed under an assumed name in any organized athletic activity.
    3. Having accepted an award in non-school athletic activities which he or she has converted into cash by sale or by pawning.
    4. Having signed a professional athletic contract.

The student will remain eligible to participate in any other sport where the student retains his or her amateur status.
  - J. No student shall be eligible to represent his/her school in interscholastic competition who has ever participated on the team of an institution higher than that of high school.
  - K. No student shall compete in any high school activity who is a graduate of a high school.

L. Definitions

1. Enrollment. For public schools where acceptance of a student is mandatory, enrollment and the effective date of enrollment shall mean the date that all necessary application and/or registration documents have been completed and submitted to the public school, including “Geographic Exception” documentation where applicable, and the public school is required by law to accept the student. For private schools where acceptance is discretionary, enrollment and the effective date of enrollment shall be the date that the private school approves and accepts the application and/or registration documents. A private school may impose additional conditions for official enrollment (such as payment of tuition or actual attendance).
2. Home Public School and Residency. The public school located in the geographic district where the student has residency.
  - a. A student’s residence is the place where a student regularly resides with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), regularly eats and sleeps, and declares as his/her true, fixed, and permanent home. Evidence of residency for the student and/or his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may include, but is not limited to: a sworn statement or declaration of residency by the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s); a deed, Agreement of Sale, or other similar documentation of ownership recorded in the Bureau of Conveyances of the State of Hawaii; verified documentation from an Escrow or Title Insurance company licensed in the State of Hawaii; a Rental Agreement and/or rent receipt from a landlord; a statement or declaration from the landlord; Real Property Tax Office records; voter registration records; ecclesiastical membership records; and vehicle registration records. A student shall have only one residence.
  - b. A student may change his/her residence, but evidence of such change must be provided. In addition to evidence to establish the new residence as set forth above, the student and/or his parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must provide evidence that the prior residence has been vacated or abandoned. That is, the prior residence was sold or otherwise legally conveyed to person(s) other than the parent(s) or legal guardian(s); the prior residence has been rented to third person(s) under a long-term, bona fide Rental Agreement; and/or all of the personal property of the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have been moved to the new residence. The prior residence must not be used as a residence by the student or any of his/her parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any relative under such circumstances in which it could be reasonably inferred that the change of residence was a sham.<sup>3</sup>
  - c. In the event of a divorce or legal separation of the parents of a student, the residence of the student shall be the residence of the custodial parent, or the parent who is awarded primary custody under the Decree of Divorce or Decree of Legal Separation. In the event of joint custody where neither parent is named as the custodial or primary custodial parent, the residence of the student shall be the residence of the family residence if either parent continues to reside at the family residence. If neither parent has custody or primary custody, and neither parent resides in the former family residence, but if one of the parents resides in the geographic area or school district of the home public school,

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<sup>3</sup> Students participating in a boarding program at a private or public school shall be determined to have a valid change of residence.

then such residence shall be deemed to be the residence of the student. If none of the foregoing is applicable, then the residence of the student for purposes of this rule shall be the residence of the parent designated in writing and signed by both parents and the student, and such designated parent shall not be changed without a Court Order or Decree. If none of the foregoing is applicable, then the residence issue shall be appealed to and determined in the sound and reasonable discretion of the League's Executive Board, subject to appeal to the HHSAA Executive Board.

- d. Residency and/or any change or residence will be determined by the Principal, Athletic Director and/or Registrar at the school where the student is enrolled. The school shall retain a record or file of the evidence of residency for six (6) months after the student is no longer a student at the school (e.g. student graduates, drops out, transfers to another school, etc.) or if the residency of the student is under appeal, whichever is later.
  - e. Any determination of residency shall be subject to appeal by any other school to the League's Executive Board, and subject to further appeal to the HHSAA Executive Board.
3. Legal Guardianship. Legal guardianship shall mean and refer to a bona fide legal guardian duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction in the best interests of the student. The student and/or the legal guardian(s) must provide a court-certified copy of an Order or Decree of guardianship. If the legal guardianship was established by a non-Hawaii Court, the student and/or legal guardian(s) must provide additional evidence, including but not necessarily limited, to powers conferred upon the legal guardian(s), terms of guardianship, if any, and whether the legal guardian(s) was appointed due to death, incompetence, or unsuitability of the parents. Should it appear that a legal guardian has been appointed or established for the purpose of *circumventing* rule, the legal guardianship may be ignored and the student shall be considered as if no legal guardianship exists. A change of legal guardianship will require an appeal.
- a. A "ward of the court" shall refer to a student who is subject to or under the protection and custody of a court of competent jurisdiction, either directly or through a guardian duly appointed by the court. The student shall be deemed to be a resident of his or her duly appointed guardian, or as otherwise ordered by the court. The student and/or the duly appointed legal guardian shall provide a court-certified copy of an Order or Decree of the court naming the guardian and/or the student's new place of residence.
4. Participates. A student participates in a sport if the student is enrolled at the school and:
- a. The student has attended organized practices at the school or with the school's varsity and/or junior varsity teams for five (5) or more days;
  - b. The student has played, entered, or otherwise competed in any games, contests, or events, including pre-season, varsity, and junior varsity events between league and non-league schools and any other schools from other states (not including intramural events) ("athletic event");
  - c. The student has dressed in the uniform for and as part of the school's team at an athletic event, whether or not the student actually competed in, played in, or entered the athletic event; OR

- d. The student is on the most current Eligibility List filed with the League Executive Director.
- M. If any false, incorrect, or misleading information is submitted or provided concerning a student's residence, the student shall not be eligible to compete in any athletic events for twelve (12) months from the date of discovery, and the school(s) shall forfeit any athletic event in which such student participated or participates.
- N. This rule shall be subject to the mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act ("NCLB") and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ("MVHA"). Therefore, should there be any conflicts between the provisions of this rule and those of the NCLB and/or MVHA Acts, the provisions of the NCLB and/or MVHA Acts shall prevail.
- O. Special cases may be appealed to the Executive Board of the League in which the student has enrolled for consideration. Each appeal must be submitted to the League Executive Director using the Appeal Form approved by the League's Executive Board. Each appeal must include a Waiver of Confidentiality where the student and his parent(s) or guardian(s) waive any confidentiality or privacy rights pertaining to all school records at any and all schools. Each appeal must be approved by the Principal and Athletic Director of the school where the student is currently enrolled. No appeals asking for pre-approvals or conditional approvals will be considered by the Executive Board. That is, no appeal will be considered by the Executive Board until the student has actually transferred to the new school. The appeal shall be submitted in writing at least 21 days prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the League's Executive Board.
  - 1. During the appeal period, the student shall not be allowed to participate in the sport(s) for which he/she is seeking to be allowed to participate pursuant to this Rule.
  - 2. Should the decision of the League's Executive Board be in conflict with any provision of this Eligibility Rule, an appeal may be made to the HHSAA Executive Board. The appeal must be submitted in writing at the end of the League's regular season, but prior to any participation in the HHSAA state tournament of such sport. Each appeal must include a Waiver of Confidentiality where the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) waive any confidentiality or privacy rights pertaining to all school records at any and all schools. The League in which the student participated must approve each appeal. The decision rendered by the HHSAA Executive Board will be final.

Section 3 Eligibility Documentation

A. Physical Examination Requirement

No student shall be eligible to compete in any HHSAA athletic activities unless the student has an annual physician's certificate stating that he/she is physically able to compete in interscholastic athletic competition.

Section 4 Inter-League Contests

A. Determining HHSAA Champions

Any sport being considered for a state championship event must be sponsored by at least three leagues. HHSAA championship competitions should include representatives from each league that sponsors that sport. A league is not, however, required to host a state tournament in a sport which they do not officially conduct interscholastic competition.

B. Control of Tournaments

All tournaments shall be followed as specified in the HHSAA Handbook. HHSAA sanction forms are not required for any contests solely involving member schools at their respective facilities. HHSAA sanction forms are required for all other athletic contests.

1. The athletic directors' assembly shall approve or disapprove new sport.
2. If approved, the athletic directors' assembly shall recommend the new sport to the Executive Board for approval.
3. If approved, the Executive Director shall implement the new sport as a State Tournament.

Section 5 Activity Limitations and Awards

A. Schedules

All member leagues shall adhere to all seeding deadlines established by the HHSAA Executive Director.

B. HHSAA Start Date Policy

1. The start date for each sport will be a maximum of thirteen (13) weeks prior to the state tournament week.

The start date policy will apply to all sports in which the HHSAA conducts state championships. Each league will determine the starting date for all lower level teams not to exceed a thirteen (13) week season.

Individual sports shall have a try-out date, a maximum of thirteen (13) weeks prior to the state tournament week. Prior to the try-out date, practices cannot be mandatory and team selections cannot be made.

2. The Start Date Policy may be amended by the HHSAA Executive Director at his/her discretion
3. Coach-Player Contact Restrictions

Student-athletes of team sports have no outside participation restrictions except for league rules/by-laws that govern in-season (Green shaded area of the chart) outside participation restrictions.

The following restrictions apply to all Varsity and Junior Varsity programs:

In-season – 13 weeks – (Green area)

Out of season Conditioning and Weight Training – (White area). Restrictions to be determined by each league. The program shall have a coach or other authorized personnel in supervision. Prior to the start dates, activities cannot be mandated and team selections cannot be made.

Member schools bear the responsibility of monitoring facilities and making the determination if adult supervision is adequate for off-season conditioning.

Summer Activities - (Yellow Area)  
No restrictions during this period.

No Contact/Dead period – (Red Area). The no contact/dead period is defined as a specified time span of non-instructional/non-developmental sport specific activity.

For the winter and spring sport seasons, the no contact/dead periods coincide with the weeks just prior to the start dates for fall and winter sports, in part to allow student-athletes to try out for other sports in other seasons.

Football Spring Practice. To be determined by each league Football spring practice period or those leagues who allow spring practice.

Exemptions to this policy. Requests for exemptions to this policy to participate in a national or international sporting event must be made in writing to the HHSAA Executive Director.

It is highly recommended for individual and team sports that student-athletes have at least one week of total rest between seasons.

#### 4. Penalty for Violations

If a violation occurs and is reported, the Athletic Director shall warn the coach and inform the league Executive Director, in writing. The league Executive Director shall forward the report to the HHSAA office.

If a second violation should occur, the coach will be dismissed, and will not be allowed to coach at any HHSAA member school for two (2) years at any state tournament game. A coach is defined as any person on the staff, inclusive of volunteer coaches.

#### C. All-Star Contests

1. No high school student shall participate in any all-star contests(s) unless such contest(s) are sanctioned by the member league involved and the HHSAA.
2. No member high school shall permit the use of its facilities nor of its employees directly or indirectly in the management, coaching, officiating, supervising, promoting or player selection of any all-star team or contest(s) involving high school players or those who, during the previous school year, were members of the high school team unless such contest(s) are first sanctioned by the HHSAA or, if it is an interstate competition, by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

#### D. Interstate and International Contests

1. All interstate and international high school athletic contests held during the school year shall be conducted by high school authorities. Contests held out of school season shall be approved by the HHSAA. Exceptions to this rule shall be granted by HHSAA.
2. All high school athletes shall compete under the rules and regulations adopted by the HHSAA.
3. The number of games played must be counted as part of the total limit for that sport as stipulated by state regulations.

4. Procedures for sanctioning interstate and international contest.
  - a. Member schools will be responsible to make all preliminary arrangements.
  - b. Public schools shall follow Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) procedures for out-of-state travel. Independent schools shall not be required to follow DOE procedures.
  - c. Requests shall be cleared by the member leagues and HHSAA.
  - d. Member schools shall refer to the miscellaneous procedures for sanction of out-of-state games adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

E. Preseason and Post-season play

All inter-league preseason and post-season play shall be sanctioned by the HHSAA.

F. Awards

1. A member school or individual player may not accept an award directly from an outside person or organization without the approval of their league and the HHSAA. Any member school or individual player found guilty of accepting monetary awards shall be ineligible from further competition until reinstated by the HHSAA. Member schools and individual players may accept awards of minimal intrinsic value for participation in HHSAA sanctioned school or non-school competition.
2. Member schools or individual players may not accept cash awards for any interscholastic competition sponsored and/or approved by the HHSAA.

Section 6 Protest and Penalties

A. Duty to Report Ineligibility

It shall be the responsibility of the principal/headmaster or coach who has knowledge or information which places in question the eligibility of any student-athlete who is likely to participate in any contest, to report such knowledge or information immediately to the principal of the participant's school. Failure to do so shall be an indication of bad faith and the school officials, by their failure to report such knowledge or information immediately, shall forfeit the right to protest the result of the contest(s) in which the ineligible contestant participated.

B. Procedure for Protest

Protests, or complaints alleging a violation of rules or policies must be submitted to HHSAA in writing. All protests concerning the outcome of a game or contest must be made and concluded by appropriate HHSAA officials and/or school officials prior to the end of the protested game or contest.

After a game or contest has been completed, protests regarding the outcome are not allowed. No protest shall be considered if the protest is based upon a judgment call of an official. The foregoing is not to be construed as prohibiting HHSAA from initiating action on a rule or policy violation.

C. Particular Protests



Protests involving sportsmanship, lack of crowd control, inappropriate actions of players, spectators and/or coaches may be submitted to the Executive Board or sports protest committee.

D. Withdrawal of a Team

No member school may withdraw its representatives from a HHSAA activity prior to the termination of the activity, except by mutual consent of the responsible school representatives from the participating schools or the Executive Director.

E. Authority of HHSAA

HHSAA upon having knowledge of an infraction of a rule or policy may initiate action.

F. Penalties

In assessing penalties, HHSAA may consider any of the following:

1. Reprimand: An official letter to the member school or individual coach in regard to the offense committed and warning against acts of a detrimental nature which are contrary to the aims and philosophies of the HHSAA. A copy of the letter will be maintained by the Executive Director.
2. Probation: An official letter to the member school or individual coach in regard to the offense committed clearly stating what the conduct, activity or behavior needs correcting. Offending schools or individuals would be advised that their continued participation in the HHSAA would be on a probationary status for period of one year. In addition, the offending member school or individual would be warned that any failure to correct these specified problems may result in more severe action by HHSAA, including, but not limited to: restriction, suspension or combination thereof.
3. Restriction: Action which would restrict participation from state level activities. The restriction may be applied to a member school, team or individual.
4. Suspension: The effect of a suspension shall be to temporarily discontinue the member school from HHSAA membership and prohibit participation in any or all HHSAA sponsored activities. The length of the suspension would be set by the Executive Board.
5. Costs: HHSAA may assess against a member school all or part of the costs of litigation, including attorney's fees, if HHSAA is required to defend itself as a result of the failure of a member school to adhere to HHSAA's By-Laws or Administrative Regulations.

G. Appeal Process

All penalties or sanctions imposed by HHSAA may be appealed to the Executive Board. Penalties or sanctions arising as a result of a violation amongst public schools only, shall be addressed per Hawaii Department of Education Regulation #2120.2.

Section 7 Sports

A. List of Championship Sports

The HHSAA will conduct championships in the following sports: air riflery, baseball, basketball, bowling, canoe paddling, cheerleading, cross country, football, golf, judo, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, water polo and wrestling.

B. Official Rule Books

The HHSAA shall follow the rules established by the National Federation of State High School Association for all team sports. The HHSAA may grant an exception to the National Federation rules.

Section 8 Amendments

The HHSAA Administrative Regulations may be amended at any meeting of the Executive Board which has met the quorum requirements as stated in the HHSAA By-Laws. Action on amendments shall require a majority of the member schools. Each Executive Board member shall have the number of votes equal to the number of member schools in the league he or she represents. The effective date of the amendment(s) shall be established by the Executive Board.