



MAJOR OSAA RULE CHANGES FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

All of these changes either were implemented during the 2014-15 school year or are new additions for the 2015-16 school year.

CONSTITUTION (Articles and Rules)

- **AMENDED QUALIFICATIONS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP – ONE ACTIVITY EACH SEASON, PER GENDER.** Changes qualification for full membership requiring that a school participate in at least one OSAA activity each season, per gender to be eligible for OSAA state championship events. Includes an appeal process to the Executive Director. *(Article 3.1.5 – Membership and Dues, Full Membership)*
- **AMENDED QUALIFICATIONS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. (EFFECTIVE August 1, 2016)** Adds a qualification for full membership requiring that no financial assistance be provided on the basis of a student's potential or participation in OSAA-sanctioned activities. Further requires that need-based financial assistance be based on an evaluation of information provided from an outside agency approved by the Executive Director. *(Article 3.1.7 – Membership and Dues, Full Membership)*
- **AMENDED QUALIFICATIONS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP – PAYMENT OF TUITION. (EFFECTIVE August 1, 2016)** Adds a qualification for full membership requiring that if tuition is charged, it must be paid by the student's parent or other family member, including any loan for payment of tuition. Defines parent and family member. *(Article 3.1.8 – Membership and Dues, Full Membership)*
- **AMENDED QUALIFICATIONS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP – USE OF NAME, MASCOT, IDENTIFYING MARKS.** Adds a qualification for full membership requiring that schools allow the Association use of the school's name, mascot and other identifying marks in Association-related activities, including, but not limited to, television, promotion, licensing and merchandising programs. *(Article 3.1.9 – Membership and Dues, Full Membership)*
- **EXPANDED COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP EXCEPTION.** Allows 6A, 5A schools to co-op with 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A schools when the schools are housed in the same building where students take classes together. *(Article 6.5 – Cooperative Sponsorship)*
- **ADDED LACK OF INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL LANGUAGE.** Addresses responsibilities of the school and principal in general. Outlines scope of responsibilities with regards to athletics and activity programs. *(Rule 1 – Responsibility of the Member School and Principal)*
- **INCREASED MAXIMUM FINES FOR LACK OF INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL.** Clarifies that violations involving a lack of institutional control are not subject to the \$2,500 maximum fine amount. *(Rule 5 – Violations of Regulations - Penalties)*
- **AMENDED THRESHOLD FOR ADDING A SPORT/ACTIVITY.** Allows the Delegate Assembly to consider adding a championship where no championship is currently provided by the Association when the number of schools participating in the activity reaches 50. *(Rule 6.2 – Adding a Sport/Activity)*
- **AMENDED THRESHOLD FOR DELETING A SPORT/ACTIVITY.** Allows the Delegate Assembly to consider deleting a championship when the number of schools participating in the sport/activity falls below 50 schools. *(Rule 6.3 – Deleting a Sport/Activity)*
- **RAISED MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD GRADUATION.** Increases the minimum standards needed prior to the start of each school year in order to be making satisfactory progress toward graduation. *(Rule 8.1.2 – Satisfactory Progress Toward Graduation)*
- **AMENDED ELIGIBILITY OF TRANSFERS WITH AFFILIATION IN A COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP.** Denies eligibility to transfers when the student's school is in a cooperative sponsorship with a school where the student is ineligible due to affiliation. *(Rule 8.6.5 – Transfers to a School with Affiliation)*
- **CREATED AN EXCEPTION FOR MID-YEAR TRANSFERS WHEN THE SCHOOL OF REPRESENTATION DOES NOT CHANGE.** Allows eligibility to follow students transferring mid-year between a full member school and an Associate Member school or home school when the school of representation does not change. *(Rule 8.6.6 – Mid-Year Transfers)*

- DELETED SOLO MUSIC SCHOOL MUSIC CLASS PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT. Eliminates requirement that students be enrolled in the music class at a full member school in order to be eligible for the Solo Music State Championships. (*Music Rule 8 – Individual Eligibility*)

BOARD POLICIES

- CERTIFICATION – ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES. (**Football coaches only; Recommended for Fall 2015; Required for Fall 2016**) Adds a requirement that all football coaches complete the USA Football Heads Up certification prior to assuming coaching duties and to recertify annually through an online exam. Requires each member school sponsoring football to identify a Player Safety Coach. Each Player Safety Coach is required to attend an in person clinic annually conducted by a USA Football Master Trainer. (*BP – Certification – Athletic Directors and Coaches*)
- CHEMICAL HEALTH POSITION. Revises Association’s position to address cannabis, e-cigarettes and other nicotine delivery products. (*BP – Chemical Health Position*)
- CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT. Updates current policy in response to recently amended legislation aligning return-to-participate procedures for private and public schools. (*BP – Concussion Management*)
- EJECTION POLICIES - FINES. Eliminates monetary fine for soccer players ejected as a result of receiving two yellow cards. (*BP – Ejection Policies - Fines*)
- PRACTICE MODEL. Limits full contact to only one practice on any multiple practice session day. Limits full contact to a combined total maximum of 90 minutes over three days per week, starting in Week 3. Defines full contact only as Thud and Live Action per USA Football guidelines. (*BP – Practice Model*)
- REPORTING SCHEDULES AND RESULTS. Requires schools to input schedules and results through TrackWrestling in order to gather opponent data for seeding special district and state championship brackets. (*BP – Reporting Schedules and Results*)
- SHARED FACILITIES. Establishes an approval process and consistent guidelines for each sport, plus Cheerleading and Dance/Drill, when high school programs share facilities at the same time as other groups (e.g. other high schools, middle schools/junior highs and club programs). (*BP – Shared Facilities*)
- STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – INDIVIDUAL SPORT SUBSTITUTIONS. Clarifies individual sport substitution procedures in cross country and golf. (*BP – State Championships – Individual Sport Substitutions*)
- STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - RANKINGS. Implements recommendations from the Rankings Committee to use the Colley rank to break ties in the OSAA Rankings. Sets dates each season after which games added to a team’s schedule won’t be counted in the rankings. (*BP – State Championships - Rankings*)

PRACTICE LIMITATIONS

- FOOTBALL. Changes individual quarter limitations to four per day and five per week (with possible additional quarter depending on # of plays). Redefines a week in football as running from Tuesday through Monday. (*Practice Limitations - Football*)

FORMS MODIFICATIONS

- SHARED FACILITIES. Required for schools planning to share practice facilities at the same time as other schools/non-school teams. (*Forms – Shared Facilities Request*)
- UPDATES: Existing forms have been modified to make them consistent with the changes specified above.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES HANDBOOKS

- UPDATES. Activity specific changes have been made to the Cheerleading, Dance/Drill and Speech Handbooks.
- UPDATES. The Music Handbook has been divided into separate documents specific to Band/Orchestra, Choir and Solo Music. Activity specific changes have been made to each of these “new” Handbooks.

OTHER

- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Additional Questions and Answers, particularly covering changes listed above, have been added to the Handbook.