

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT
ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS
(TAIAO)**

General Rules

(Last Revised March 23, 2025)

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SUB CHAPTER A - Introduction and Definitions

SECTION 200 - INTRODUCTION

- A. **Purpose.** The purposes of the TAI AO athletic, academic and fine arts programs are:
1. To assist, advise and aid the Member Organizations in organizing and conducting interscholastic competition;
 2. To devise and prepare rules that will equalize and stimulate wholesome competition between schools/organizations of similar size, and reinforce the curriculum;
 3. To regulate competition so that students, Member Organizations, and their fans can secure the greatest educational, social, recreational and aesthetic benefits from the events, contests and activities;
 4. To reinforce the concept to all Member Organizations that competition is an integral part of the educational program;
 5. To preserve the contest, event or activity for the overall benefit of the contestant and not sacrifice the student to the competition;
 6. To promote the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play in all contests;
 7. To promote among the students, Member Organizations, and fans a spirit of friendly rivalry and a respect for the rules; and,
 8. To forward the concept of accepting decisions of officials without protest and treating officials as co-partners in the educational process of competition.
- B. **Member Organization Authority.** Responsibility for the proper administration, contracts, arrangements, control and scheduling of TAI AO sponsored events, contests and activities in all Member Organizations shall be under the supervision of the Member Organization's superintendent or a designated administrator.
- C. **Coach or Adult Supervisor.** No student shall represent his or her Member Organization at any time in connection with TAI AO competition unless accompanied by a coach or another authorized representative of the Member Organization.

SECTION 201 - DEFINITIONS

In the TAI AO Constitution and General Rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

- A. *Calendar week* means 12:01 a.m. on Sunday through midnight on Saturday.
- B. *Coach* means a person under the authority of a member organization who provides students with training, teaching and instruction for the purpose of preparing and participating in contests.
- C. *Commissioner* means the commissioner of TAI AO.
- D. *Constitution* means the Constitution of Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations ("TAI AO").
- E. *Contest* includes competition.
- F. *Contest Rules* means the rules governing TAI AO contests and competitions as adopted by
- G. *Division* means a grouping of participant schools within an established classification.

SUB CHAPTER A – Introduction and Definitions

- H. *Reserved for expansion.*
- I. *Committee* means the sports committee appointed by the Commissioner charged with oversight and supervision of all TAI AO sports related contests, events and activities.
- J. *Committee Chairman* means the individual appointed by the Commissioner to chair the sport specific TAI AO Committee.
- K. *High School* refers to contests open to students of a Member Organization at the High School level in accordance with Section 236 Eligibility during the year of participation.
- L. *Member Organization* means a Private School, Parochial School, Charter School or Home School Group in good standing with TAI AO.
- M. *Middle School* refers to contests open to students of a Member Organization below High School level in accordance with Section 236 Eligibility during the year of participation.
- N. *Probation* means a specific period of time during which a Member Organization, coach, administrator, student or specific program of a member organization employee(s) is subject to critical examination and evaluation to determine if the subject on probation is in compliance with the TAI AO constitution, General Rules, and other rules and approved policies.
- O. *Region* means a grouping of Member Organizations for the purpose of facilitating reasonable competition among Member Organizations within the region.
- P. *School week* means the week beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Monday and ends at 12:00 p.m. on the following Friday.
- Q. *Student* means any young man or woman eligible to participate as an individual or on a team under the authority of a member organization.
- R. *TAI AO* means the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations.
- S. *TAI AO Steering Committee* means the executive committee of TAI AO as described in Article IV of the Constitution.
- T. *Varsity* means the contest entry at the highest level of competition as provided for in the Athletic, Academic and Fine Arts Plans at which a team, team member, or individual student is designated to represent a Member Organization in TAI AO regional or state contests, events and activities.
- U. *Year of Participation* shall mean the 12 month period beginning on September 1st and ending on August 31st of the following calendar year. Those sports which span the September 1 cut-off will be considered part of the year in which the season ends.
- V. *Calendar Year* shall mean the 12 month period beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st of the same year.

Sections 202 to 205 are reserved for expansion.

SUB CHAPTER B – Membership

SECTION 206 – APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

A. Requirements for Membership.

1. All organizations applying for admission in TAI AO must meet the organizational requirements listed in Article III of the TAI AO Constitution.
2. If the Applicant organization is a member of an organization similar to TAI AO for extracurricular activities, the Applicant organization must be in good standing with that organization and eligible for continuing membership in that organization.

B. Initial request for information.

1. All organizations must complete the Information Request Form located on the TAI AO website.
2. Upon receipt of the Information Request Form the TAI AO office will contact the named representative of the applying organization for a phone interview if necessary..

C. Application Process.

1. The initial step in the Application Process will be a phone interview with a TAI AO representative.
2. At conclusion of the phone interview, applying organizations meeting the basic requirements for membership in TAI AO will be forwarded an Application for Membership.
3. Each organization will be required to complete and return the Application for Membership with all requested documentation to the TAI AO office.
4. In addition, the Application for Membership may be accompanied with the annual TAI AO membership fee.
5. Upon receipt of the complete Application for membership, the TAI AO Steering Committee will review the application and will notify the applying organization within 30 working days of receipt.

SECTION 207 – QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

A. Good Standing. A Member Organization in good standing means an organization that;

1. Has paid its annual dues and all related sport and event fees by the deadline(s) required by TAI AO;
2. Has met all deadlines in submitting required forms and reports to the appropriate TAI AO officer or committee;
3. Has met its obligations in regard to competition in scheduled contests;
4. Has followed the rules and guidelines of the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures;
5. Has completed its probationary term; and,
6. Has not and is not involved with litigation against TAI AO

B. Right to Participate. In order to be authorized to compete in TAI AO sponsored activities, contests or events the following will apply;

1. Each Member Organization is responsible for having read and agreed to comply with the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures.
 2. TAI AO requires all Member Organizations to provide each coach and administrator with the proper information related to a particular activity, contest or event.
 3. Each Member Organization agrees to timely comply with the following;
 - a. To pay all dues and fees by the specified date;
 - b. Complete all TAI AO required forms and rosters;
 - c. Make provisions for liability and medical insurance on all coaches and students for all TAI AO events and contests; and,
 - d. Upon request by TAI AO, provide the name of the insurance carrier for subsection 3. c. above.
 4. No member organization will be allowed to participate in any event if the organization has not paid the applicable event fee.
- C. **Qualified Member Organizations.** A Member Organization that has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs A. and B. above shall be considered a Qualified Member Organization for voting purposes.

SECTION 209 – MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES

- A. **Annual Association Dues.** Each Member Organization shall pay the annual membership dues at the time and in the amount determined by the TAI AO Steering Committee.
- B. **Fees.** Each Member Organization that wishes to participate in TAI AO activities, events and contests shall pay the applicable fee at the time and in the amount as determined by the TAI AO Committee charged with oversight.
- C. **Special Fees.** A special or one-time fee may be assessed for TAI AO activities, events and contests in addition to entry or admission fees.

SECTION 210 – LEGAL ACTION

- A. **Legal Action.** Any TAI AO Member Organization, employee, administrator, coach, student, parent representative or volunteer which files a lawsuit or other legal action which must be defended, shall reimburse TAI AO, its Steering Committee, other committees, any member of any of the forgoing TAI AO committees and/or any TAI AO employee, officer or ad hoc committee member for any and all expenses incurred for that defense.

Sections 211 to 215 are reserved for expansion.

SUB CHAPTER C – Organization and Administration

SECTION 216 – COMMITTEES

A. Steering Committee.

1. **Nomination and Election.** TAI AO shall be governed by the Steering Committee which shall be selected in the manner provided in Article IV of the TAI AO Constitution.
2. **Committee Officers.** The Steering Committee officers shall be nominated and elected in the manner provided in Article IV of the TAI AO Constitution.
3. **Eligibility.**
 - a. Only persons associated with a Member Organization which has been a Member Organization in good standing for a minimum of three (3) years may be nominated and elected to the Steering Committee;
 - b. In the event a person elected to the Steering Committee ceases to be associated with a Member Organization, and that individual becomes associated with an organization or school either not a TAI AO Member Organization, or not eligible to be a TAI AO Member Organization, then that member of the Steering Committee shall no longer be eligible to serve on the Steering Committee, effective upon the date he/she becomes associated with said non-TAI AO Member Organization or ineligible organization or school.
 - c. “Associated” in Subsection 3 is to be defined by the Member Organization with whom the Steering Committee member was elected. It does not require the Steering Committee member to be a coach or board member of the Member Organization.
4. **Re-election.** Each Steering Committee member is eligible for re-election, subject to the provisions of Subchapter C, Section 216.A.3.b, above.
5. **Responsibilities.** The Steering Committee shall;
 - a. Fulfill its obligations as required by the TAI AO Constitution;
 - b. Establish guidelines, regulations, policies and procedures as authorized by the Constitution and General Rules;
 - c. Nominate and appoint committees to assist with supervision and operation of the Association;
 - d. Develop and approve the annual budget for the Association;
 - e. Levy annual dues and fees for Association activities, events and contests;
 - f. Employ a commissioner to direct the daily operations of the Association;
 - g. Interview and approve or deny new organizations seeking membership in TAI AO;
 - h. Determine, from time to time, if a Member Organization has fulfilled all requirements for membership and to have the right to participate in TAI AO activities, events and contests;
 - i. Develop and maintain an annual Association calendar of activities, events and contests;
6. **Authority.** The Steering Committee shall have the authority to;
 - a. Propose, authorize and modify the TAI AO General Rules and policies and procedures
 - b. Propose, authorize and modify TAI AO sport specific plans with advice from the Sports Committees
 - c. Appoint all committee positions and officers other than the Steering Committee;
 - d. Conduct investigations;

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- e. Determine violations of the TIAAO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures;
- f. Impose penalties and sanctions; and,
- g. Serve as the final appeal of committee decisions and rulings;

B. Athletic, Academic and Fine Arts Committees.

1. **Nomination, Appointment and Composition.** Members of the Athletic, Academic and Fine Arts Committees shall be nominated and appointed as provided in Article IV of the TIAAO Constitution.
2. **Re-appointment.** Each committee member is eligible for re-appointment and may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. Waivers for the term limits can be made if it is in the best interest of the league and approved by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.
3. **Committee Officers.**
 - a. Committee officers shall be selected in the manner provided in Article IV of the TIAAO Constitution;
 - b. No person shall be eligible to be a chair of a committee unless that person has been on the committee for a period of one year;
 - c. The Steering Committee may make an exception when forming new committees or sub-committees.
4. **Responsibilities.**
 - a. The Athletic Committees will assist, advise and recommend to the Steering Committee athletic plans, policies and procedures in the area of athletics.
 - b. The Academic and Fine Arts Committee will assist, advise and recommend to the Steering Committee plans, policies and procedures in the area of academics and Fine Arts.
 - c. All Committees will;
 - i. Meet at such times and in such locations as is necessary to conduct the business of the committee;
 - ii. Enforce all rules contained in the TIAAO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures, including assessment of penalty for any rule violation.
 - iii. Review, maintain and approve a list of eligible students submitted by each Member Organization, prior to the beginning of the first scheduled athletic competition/event.
 - iv. Review and rule, in accordance with the TIAAO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures, on all questions of eligibility.
 - v. Assist the Commissioner and Steering Committee in the execution of Regional and State athletic play-offs.
 - vi. Establish the method of qualification for post season play-offs and the method to determine representatives in the event two or more Member Organizations are tied in competition for post season activities.
 - vii. Take such other action and perform any and all duties that are reasonable, necessary or desirable, and consistent with the TIAAO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures.
5. **Prohibited Actions.** A committee does not have the authority to vote a student eligible when that student does not meet the requirements of the TIAAO Constitution or General Rules. A committee does not have the authority to change their sport specific plans 253
6. **Appeals.** Decisions handed down by a committee may be appealed to the TIAAO Steering Committee except for those pertaining to Region & Division Alignments in Section 253.

C. **Other Committees.** The Steering Committee may, from time to time, appoint such other

SUB CHAPTER C – Organization and Administration

committees which shall have such duties and responsibilities as assigned.

SECTION 217 – TAI AO COMMISSIONER

- A. **Commissioner.** The TAI AO Steering Committee shall employ a person to serve as Commissioner in the manner provided in Article IV of the Constitution.
- B. **Responsibilities.** In addition to those duties outlined in the TAI AO Constitution, the Commissioner has the responsibility:
1. To serve as the chief administrative officer of TAI AO and as a member of the Steering Committee;
 2. To employ, subject to Steering Committee approval, all TAI AO staff and consultants;
 3. For day to day operation of TAI AO;
 4. To work closely with the Steering Committee on contractual and fiscal matters, committee meeting agenda, and other association business;
 5. For the administration of all TAI AO sponsored activities, events and contests;
 6. To take such other actions that are necessary or desirable under and consistent with:
 - a. The actions and directions of the TAI AO Steering Committee; and,
 - b. The TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures.
- C. **Removal.** The TAI AO Commissioner shall serve at the pleasure of the Steering Committee and shall be subject to removal at any time, either for or without cause, by resolution adopted at a meeting of the Steering Committee called for that purpose.

SECTION 218 – EFFECT OF COMMITTEE ACTION ON TAI AO

- A. **Binding Actions.** TAI AO shall be bound only by those actions that are reasonably undertaken by TAI AO pursuant to the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures.

SECTION 219 - TAI AO SPORT COMMITTEES

A. Membership.

1. Each sport specific TAI AO committee shall be appointed by the Commissioner.
2. The Commissioner shall appoint the committee chairman.
3. Committee members shall be affiliated with a TAI AO member in good standing.
4. No first year organization or first year in a sport shall be appointed to a committee.
5. Committees should be composed of three to five members.
6. *For example, a three year TAI AO member adds soccer. They must compete in soccer for a full season before they can have a representative on a sports committee..*

- B. **Responsibilities.** In addition to those duties outlined in the TAI AO Constitution, the TAI AO committee members have the responsibility:

1. To work closely with the Commissioner on contractual and fiscal matters, committee meeting agenda, and other association business;
2. For the administration of their respective sport sponsored activities, events and contests; which shall include but not limited to:
 - a. Handling disciplinary matters,
 - b. Answering sport plan specific questions,
 - c. Appointing a single postseason administrators who is approved by the Commissioner
 - d. Establish regions and divisions which must be approved by the Commissioner.
3. To take such other actions that are necessary or desirable under and consistent with:

SUB CHAPTER C – Organization and Administration

- a. The actions and directions of the sports committee; and,
 - b. The TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures,
4. To pass along to the Commissioner all matters which pertain to athlete eligibility or participation within TAI AO including transfers.

C. Removal. Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner and shall be subject to removal at any time, either for or without cause, by written notice. A removed committee member shall have the right to appeal their removal to the Steering Committee without having to pay any fees for the appeal.

SECTION 220 - INSURANCE

- A. **Liability Insurance.** TAI AO shall pay the premium on and be covered by a liability insurance policy with the following minimum coverage limits:
1. \$1,000,000.00 bodily injury
 2. \$1,000,000.00 property damage
- B. **Coverage Limits.** The TAI AO insurance will not cover students or other participants while actively engaged in practice or other activities, events or contests.
- C. **Member Coverage.** All Member Organizations are required to make provisions for liability and medical insurance on all coaches and students for all TAI AO activities, events and contests.
- D. **Coverage Funding.** TAI AO's insurance premiums will be funded through Member Organization annual dues.

Sections 220 to 224 are reserved for expansion.

SUB CHAPTER D – Membership and Committee Meetings

SECTION 225 – MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A. TAI AO Membership Meeting.

1. **Annual Meeting.** An annual meeting of the Member Organizations shall be held each year on either the 1st or the 3rd Saturday during the month of June at such time and place as stated in a notice of meeting issued by the Steering Committee for the election of members of the Steering Committee and to transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.
2. **Special Meetings of the TAI AO Membership.**
 - a. Special meetings of the Member Organizations may be held when called by the Steering Committee or when called by a notice in writing, including electronic means of communication, to all Member Organizations by not less than one-third of the Association membership in good standing and entitled to vote at such meetings.
 - b. Written notice setting forth the time and place of any special meeting of the TAI AO membership and stating the purposes for which the meeting is called shall be mailed, emailed or delivered to each Member Organization in good standing and entitled to vote and to each member of the Steering Committee not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the meeting.

B. Committee Meetings.

1. **Regular Meetings.** Meetings of the TAI AO committees may be held at such time and location as requested by the Chairman of each committee for the transaction of such committee business as may properly be brought before the meeting.
2. **Action without a Formal Meeting.**
 - a. When it is necessary for an Athletic Committee, or the Academic Committee and Fine Arts Committee, to make a determination with regard to the applicability of TAI AO rules to persons within the jurisdiction of TAI AO, including alleged violations of TAI AO rules, the applicable committee shall have the option of making a decision on the matter based upon written submissions or convening an informal meeting to discuss the matter in an effort to achieve an equitable resolution.
 - b. If a decision is made to hold an informal meeting (hearing), the interested parties should be given written notice of the meeting and invited to attend. All decisions by committees shall be in writing, whether based upon a written submission or testimony at an informal meeting.
 - c. Final appeals of a committee's decision may be heard by the TAI AO Steering Committee.

C. Meeting Quorum and Voting.

A majority of the Qualifying Member Organizations or a majority of a TAI AO committee, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a committee or membership meeting. When a specific item of business is required to be voted on, a majority of the Qualifying Member Organizations or committee members that established the quorum shall pass or approve of the item in question.

D. Voting.

Each Qualifying Member Organization and each committee member shall have one vote on each matter submitted to a vote. A Qualifying Member Organization may vote either through its delegate or by a properly executed written proxy. Members shall not be eligible to vote on matters in which the member's organization is implicated in the contested matter.

SUB CHAPTER D – Membership and Committee Meetings

The Commissioner shall have the final authority to decide whether a committee member can cast a vote.

- E. **Proxies.** Every Qualifying Member Organization may authorize another Qualifying Member Organization to act as its proxy.
 - 1. A proxy must be submitted online or emailed to the commissioner at least three full days before the annual meeting by the delegate of the Qualifying Member Organization.
 - 2. No proxy shall be valid after the expiration of eleven months from the date thereof.
 - 3. Every proxy shall be revocable at the pleasure of the Qualifying Member Organization or its delegate.
- F. **Telephone Meetings.** The Chairman of any TAI AO committee may allow any Association or committee meeting to be held by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment such that all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. All Qualified Member Organizations or committee members connected by telephone or other electronic communication shall count toward a quorum and may participate and vote.
- G. **Supermajority Voting Requirements.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the TAI AO General Rules or approved policies and procedures, the following actions taken on behalf of the Association and/or its Member Organizations shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Qualifying Member Organizations;
 - 1. A change in the name of the Association;
 - 2. The dissolution of the Association;
 - 3. The merger or consolidation of the Association;
 - 4. The removal of a Steering Committee Member prior to expiration of his or her current term of office.

SECTION 226 – APPEALS OF COMMITTEE RULINGS AND DECISIONS

- A. **Appeals to the Steering Committee.** Decisions by a TAI AO committee may be appealed to the Steering Committee which shall have the discretion to either accept or decline to hear the appeal. If the appeal is heard the appeal may be:
 - 1. Referred back to the original committee;
 - 2. Granted; or,
 - 3. Rejected.
- B. **Steering Committee Options.** The Steering Committee may accept the sanctions presented, reduce the sanctions or add additional sanctions based on their findings.
- C. **Appeal Fees.** An appeal to the Steering Committee shall carry a minimum fee of \$200. This fee shall be nonrefundable and is due within 10 days of filing the appeal. An additional fee may be charged for any appeal requiring committee members to attend in person in which the committee must convene outside of its posted meeting schedule. Provided, however, in the case of an expulsion or suspension, the minimum fee shall be waived.
- D. **Appeal Procedure.**
 - 1. **Appeal by E-mail.** All information, representing both sides of the appeal, is submitted to the TAI AO State Office on the appeal form located on the TAI AO website, which, in turn, shall be forwarded to the Steering Committee for decision without a hearing or other discussion. The TAI AO State Office will contact both parties involved in the appeal to make sure all documentation and written testimony are complete before forwarding it to the Steering Committee. **Appeal by Conference Call.** All information, representing both sides of the appeal, is submitted to the TAI AO State Office on the appeal form located on

the TAI AO website. At the request of the person or Member Organization making the appeal, a conference call hearing shall be held. Prior to the conference call the TAI AO State Office will contact both parties involved in the appeal to make sure all written documentation and testimony is complete before forwarding it to the Steering Committee and arranging for the conference call.

2. **In Person Appeal.** All information, representing both sides of appeal, is submitted to the TAI AO State Office on the appeal form located on the TAI AO website. The parties involved in the appeal will be required to wait for the next scheduled Steering Committee meeting and appear for a hearing in person. Prior to the hearing the TAI AO State Office will contact both parties involved in the appeal to make sure all written documentation and testimony is complete before forwarding it to the Steering Committee and scheduling the hearing.
 3. **Appeal Costs.** The appealing party shall be responsible for all costs associated with any special meeting if the timing of the issues requires a special meeting of the Steering Committee.
- E. **Timing.** Appeal of a TAI AO committee decision must be received in the TAI AO State Office within ten days of notification of the committee's findings. After ten calendar days, the original committee decision will become final.
- F. **Steering Committee Decision.** The Steering Committee's decision is final.
- G. **Representation.** A Member Organization may have a legal representation present at an appeal to provide advice. However, only Member Organization personnel will be allowed to make presentations or directly present questions to the Steering Committee

SECTION 227 - APPEALS OF DIVISION ALIGNMENT

- A. Decisions by a TAI AO committee related to division alignment may be appealed to the TAI AO Commissioner
- B. A Member Organization whose original appeal is denied by the Commissioner may not be appealed to the Steering Committee.

Sections 228 to 230 are reserved for expansion.

SUB CHAPTER E - RULES AND AMENDMENTS

SECTION 231 – RULES AND AMENDMENTS

A. Rules of Construction.

1. **General Construction.** The rules of TAI AO shall be broadly construed to give reasonable effect to the intentions, purposes, and objectives of TAI AO. However, rules involving eligibility, rules involving violations and rules involving penalties shall be strictly construed.
2. **Constitution Prevails.** Where any term or section of the General Rules or policies and procedures of TAI AO are found to be inconsistent with the TAI AO Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail and apply and the remaining terms and sections of the General Rules or policies and procedures of TAI AO shall continue in effect.
3. **Effect of Titles.** Titles appearing throughout the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures are for descriptive purposes only.

B. Amendments to the General Rules, Policies and Procedures.

The TAI AO General Rules and policies and procedures may be amended by the TAI AO Steering Committee without approval or referendum of TAI AO Member Organizations.

SUB CHAPTER F - Finances

SECTION 232 – BUDGET AND EXPENSES

- A. **Annual Report.** The TAI AO Commissioner, or their designee, is responsible to prepare an annual report on the financial and programmatic conditions and activities of TAI AO.
- B. **Annual Budget.**
 - 1. The TAI AO Commissioner, or their designee, shall prepare an annual budget for the Association and submit it to the TAI AO Steering Committee for approval.
 - 2. The TAI AO Steering Committee shall be responsible for approval of the annual budget of the Association.
- C. **Audit.** All of the financial affairs of TAI AO are subject to audit in accordance with the policies of the TAI AO Steering Committee.
- D. **Authorized Expenditures.** All expenditures of TAI AO funds shall be authorized consistent with the rules, regulations, and practices of the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures.
- E. **Authorized Reimbursements.** The Commissioner shall establish an equitable program of reimbursements for TAI AO contractors, Member Organizations assisting with postseason events, and other approved individuals as follows:
 - 1. TAI AO Contractors: Basic reimbursement rates for TAI AO contractors shall be set at:
 - a. Lodging: Maximum of \$150 per day.
 - b. Travel: \$0.65 per mile.\
 - c. Food: \$25 per day for single-day assignments; \$35 per day when overnight travel is required.
 - 2. The Commissioner, with the approval of two Steering Committee members, may increase these maximum reimbursement rates as needed to account for exceptional circumstances or regional cost variations. Such increases shall be documented and reported in the annual budget under Subsection B.
 - 3. The Commissioner shall establish an equitable program of reimbursing member organizations that assist with postseason events. The Commissioner shall obtain approval from the Steering Committee for paying any Member Organization or committee member for services that extend beyond reimbursements for postseason events or contractor duties as outlined above.
- F. **Sources of Revenue.** TAI AO sources of revenue shall include the following:
 - 1. Membership dues;
 - 2. Activity and Event fees;
 - 3. Contest fees; including, but not limited to, academic and fine arts events and activities;
 - 4. Donations;
 - 5. Fees related to and collected in connection with open records production requests;
 - 6. Publication sales (programs, directory, constitution, general rules and policies and procedures);
 - 7. Filing fees for new Member Organization applications;
 - 8. Admission price for state level track and field, football, baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, wrestling, and volleyball;
 - 9. Proceeds from radio and television broadcasting and telecasting contracts;
 - 10. Merchandise sales; and.

11. Income from advertising and licensing the use of trademarks and logos.

Sections 233 to 235 are reserved for expansion.

SUB CHAPTER G - Eligibility

SECTION 236 - ELIGIBILITY

A. Age Requirements.

1. Article VI Section 2. of the Constitution shall control the upper age limit of students eligible to participate.
2. Except as provided in subsection A.3. below, a student will be considered a High School student who is 14 years of age or older as of May 31st in the **calendar year** of participation. Examples:
 - a. A player cannot turn 19 years of age before May 31st of the calendar year. participating
 - b. Player A turns 14 on May 30th, 2022. Player A will be a High School player when the Fall 2022-2023 season sports begin.
 - c. Player B turns 14 on June 5th, 2022. Player B will be considered a middle school player when the Fall 2022-2023 season sports begin school year **without a valid approved Exception.**
 - d. Player C, (a Senior) can not turn 19 years of age during his/her final year without a valid approved Exception **listed in Section H below.**
3. **Playing Down.** From time to time a Member Organization may seek permission from the Commissioner to authorize a student who will be 14 years of age as of May 31st in the current year of participation to “play down” at the Middle School level and not initiate his/her High School eligibility. Commissioner will be guided in his/her decision by the following:
 - a. The safety of the students against whom he/she may compete.
 - b. The ability of the Member Organization to participate in the sport in question at the Middle School level.
 - c. The prior history of the Member Organization and/or it’s coaches and other representative in complying the Rules, Regulations and Requirements of TAI AO, and;
 - d. Such other factors or guidelines as the Steering Committee may implement from time to time.

B. Definitions.

1. **One Team.** No student will be allowed to participate on more than one team per sport at a time.
 - a. For example, Student A participates on a Member Organization’s Varsity Basketball team during the Regular Season, Student A may not participate on any other TAI AO or non-TAI AO basketball team during the Regular Season.
 - b. For example, Student A participates on a Select/Club volleyball team during the Summer. Student A may not participate on any other TAI AO or non-TAI AO volleyball team during the Summer.
 - c. Any student participating on more than one team per sport at a time shall be deemed ineligible and the Member Organization involved will be required to forfeit all games, contest, events or matches in which the student participated.
2. **Year** shall mean the 12-month period beginning on June 1 and ending on May 31 of the following calendar year. Those sports which span the June 1 cut-off will be considered part of the year in which the season ends.

3. **Participation** shall apply to any student who has been listed on the roster of a member organization and had participated in regular season activities, events or contests. Eligibility is affected regardless of the duration of the participation or the reason for stopping the participation. Eligibility is not affected by participation in practices, offseason activities, summer leagues or sub-varsity participation in varsity level tournaments, meets, events, etc.
 4. **Ineligible** shall mean a student is not authorized by the Member Organization or TIAAO to participate in any contests, events, games or matches, including, without limitation, against TIAAO and/or non-TIAAO opponents, until the reasons for ineligibility have been removed.
 5. **Select Competition Division Eligibility.** A student participating on a team assigned to the Select Competition Division under Section 252.D must meet all other eligibility requirements in this Subchapter G. Participation in club or select teams outside of TIAAO does not inherently affect individual eligibility unless it violates the "One Team" rule in Section 236.B.1.
- C. **Game and Match Participation Limits.** Game and Match participation limits provided in the different Athletic Plans shall include all contest, events, games and matches played by the Member Organization's team in that sport. This shall include, without limitations, all contests, events, games and matches against TIAAO and non-TIAAO opponents. This shall also include, for Middle School students, all middle school and high school activities.
- D. **Academic Requirements.**
1. **Academics First.** All Member Organizations are expected to monitor their students and ensure that academics are a primary pursuit in student life while athletics and other extra-curricular activities and events are secondary
 2. **Schools.** Member Organizations which are Private, Parochial and Charter schools, while not required, are encouraged to ensure students achieve and maintain a passing grade (e.g. 70 in the scale of 100) in order to maintain eligibility for athletics.
 3. **Home Schools.** TIAAO recognizes that it is common for home educated students to be working at a "grade level" different from the one they would be if they were in public or private school. TIAAO completely supports the right of parents to direct the education of their children. If, in the home educating parents' opinion, a child's participation in TIAAO activities, events or contests is rendering that student's academic performance unacceptable, TIAAO will support those parents' decision to remove that student from participation for a time.
 4. Any Member Organization may reserve the right to hold their students to higher academic requirements for eligibility if desired.
 5. TIAAO Member Organizations will certify each student's eligibility to participate on the official Team Roster posted on MaxPreps on the roster deadline date and before entering "Post Season" play. The Athletic Director, Head Master or the Member Organization's top administrative officer must sign eligibility forms. (See Section J. below.)
- E. **Four Year Rule:**
1. Except as otherwise provided, a student is allowed up to 4 consecutive years of eligibility to participate in TIAAO at the High School level,
 2. Initial classification (as a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior) of a student participating at the High School level for the first time will be determined by the grade level assigned to the student by any academic institution attended by the student during the current Year of Participation. In the event the student is not enrolled in any academic institution at that time, initial classification of the student will be established by his/her age as of May 31st of the current year of participation; or, a valid approved exception by

the applicable sports committee listed in Section H below.

3. A student is allowed less than 4 consecutive years of eligibility to participate in TAI AO at the High School level in the following situations:
 - a. **First Official Roster Designation:** A student's eligibility to participate at the High School level will be limited to his/her first official classification on a Member Organization's Roster for a particular sport, competition or event. (For example, a student participating for the first time who is listed as a sophomore will only have 3 years of eligibility, including the sophomore year, regardless of age.)
 - b. **Advanced Age:** A student participating at the High School level for the first time who is older than 14 years as of May 31st will have his/her years of eligibility reduced by 1 year for each year beyond 14 years of age. (For example, a student who will be 16 years of age as of May 31st will be limited to 2 years of High School level participation.)
 - c. **Classification Limited by Academic Classification:** Subject to subsections E. 2. a. and .b above, the High School eligibility of a student participating in dual or simultaneous credit will be further limited to the highest current classification of the student's Member Organization and the current official classification by any school (public or private), college, university, trade school or other technical training or educational organization in which the student is enrolled for dual or simultaneous credit or the attainment of academic or vocational credit. (For example, a student listed as a sophomore by his/her Member Organization but who is listed as a Junior by a school he/she is enrolled in will only have 2 years of eligibility, including the current year, regardless of age.)
 - d. **Classification limited by graduation status:** No student who has declared themselves to have graduated from high school will be eligible to participate in TAI AO events. For example, students who are considered full time students at junior or technical schools are not eligible. Furthermore, students who have claimed graduation on any government or employment documentation shall not be eligible for participation in TAI AO. For example a student who has taken the military ASVAB test.

F. Younger Students: Due to safety concerns;

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 4-7, no student 13 years or younger as of September 1st in the year of participation may play on any TAI AO High School team
2. If a student turns 14 following May 31st but prior to September 1st, and the member organization and family agree to advance the student to High School play, this is acceptable, but will begin the student's four years of High School participation.
3. A 13 year old student playing up on a varsity team, who desires to maintain their four years of varsity eligibility, will only be allowed if the Member Organization cannot field the minimum number of players required. For example, if a varsity basketball team has only six varsity players, then they could "play up" one eligible JH player so as to field a team of seven players (5 plus 2). They would not be eligible to play up to an eighth player and still obtain a waiver preserving four subsequent years of eligibility. The definition of minimum number per sport is:
 - a. Basketball (5 players) and volleyball (6 players) plus 2
 - b. Soccer (11), baseball (9) and softball (9) plus 3
 - c. Football (6) plus 4
 - d. Individual sports (Golf, Tennis, Track and Cross Country) are not applicable for playing up
4. The sole purpose of "Playing Up" a student shall be to allow the Member Organization

to participate in the sport in question and shall not be for the purpose of allowing the team in question to be more competitive. This shall apply to any event, contest, competition or game including, without limitation, against both TAI AO and non-TAI AO opponents. Furthermore, the absence of a middle school team shall not be a reason to play a student up.

5. **Expanded Play Up Due to Injury:** To prevent forfeits during the regular season, a Member Organization may temporarily play up an 8th-grade middle school student (age 13 as of September 1st in the year of participation) to the varsity level when injuries reduce the varsity roster below the minimum number of players required to field a team, as defined in subsection 3 above. The maximum number of middle school players permitted to play up per sport during the season is:
 - a. Football: 2 players
 - b. Basketball: 1 player
 - c. Volleyball: 1 player
 - d. Soccer: 1 player
 - e. Baseball: 2 players
 - f. Softball: 2 players

These players must return to their middle school team as soon as an injured varsity player is eligible to return, restoring the varsity roster to at least the minimum number required. A middle school player playing up under this rule may not participate in both a middle school game and a varsity game within the same calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The Member Organization must notify the supervising TAI AO Committee of the player(s) being played up and provide documentation of the injury status of varsity players within 48 hours of the first game in which the middle school player participates.

6. Any student playing on a member organization's Varsity team MAY NOT participate on another youth team (per Rule B.1.).
7. No student 12 years or younger as of June 1st in the year of participation may play on any TAI AO Varsity team.

G. **Middle School:**

1. **Age Requirements.** Except as otherwise provided in subsection A.3. above, participation in TAI AO sponsored Middle School activities, events and contests, other than football, shall be open to students who;
 - a. Will reach their 10th birthday prior to May 31st in the calendar year of participation; and,
 - b. Will not have reached their 14th birthday prior to May 31st of the same year.
 - c. Participation in football will require
 - i. The student to have reached their 11th birthday no later than May 31st in the calendar year of participation; and,
 - ii. Will not have reached 14 years of age or older as of May 31st of the same year.
 - i. Cannot turn 15 years of age before May 31st of the participating school year without a valid approved Exception listed in Section H below.
2. **Four Year Rule.** In sports other than football, Students may have up to four consecutive years of eligibility at the Middle School level. Football participation will be limited to up to three consecutive years of eligibility.
3. A Member Organization may adopt eligibility rules related to Middle School participation that are more stringent than TAI AO rules for eligibility (including academic eligibility).

4. Questions concerning eligibility shall be referred to the TAI AO Committee providing oversight for the contest, event or activity in question for review and a decision.
- H. **Approved Age Exceptions.** It is understood that sometimes for academic reasons, a student will be “held back” a year or their initial start in primary education was delayed due to parents’ choice and a child may not meet the age requirements for eligibility listed above. The following are approved Exceptions to the age limitations listed above, provided that only students fully enrolled in a charter, private, or parochial school Member Organization may qualify for these exceptions. Full enrollment means the student is registered as a full-time student under the academic policies of the Member Organization and is not partially enrolled for the sole purpose of obtaining an eligibility exemption. Homeschool students may not partially or fully enroll in a charter, private, or parochial school to avail themselves of these exceptions:
1. A student “held back” a year by an academic institution will participate at the grade level according to the grade assigned by said institution i.e. a charter, private or parochial school member organization, provided the student is fully enrolled in that institution and not homeschooled.
 2. A homeschool student that at one time attended a K-6 academic institution i.e. private, charter, or public school, and it was deemed **by that institution** for the child to be classified at a grade level lower than the typical ages of grades or in essence “held back”, then at some point the family elected to homeschool and progressed the student forward at any point (kindergarten thru the current grade) from the classification established **by the accredited academic institution**. **Documentation will be required to establish this exception.** This exception applies only if the student is currently fully enrolled in a charter, private, or parochial school Member Organization.
 3. Players previously provided an exception to the eligibility age restrictions that were “grandfathered” by existing TAI AO rules prior to the 2019 annual meeting. These players should not have dates of birth at or later than September 1st, 2004. The last age group of this designation were Sophomores during the 2021 Fall school year, and this exception will be obsolete by the beginning of the Fall 2024 sports seasons.
 4. Exceptions to the standard age academic requirements i.e. ages 11-12 (7th grade), 12-13 (8th grade), 13-14 (9th grade), etc. will only be approved for **1 year of eligibility** for students fully enrolled in a charter, private, or parochial school Member Organization. A student can only be “held back” **for 1 year**. Never will a 2 or more year exception be approved by the league under any circumstances.
- I. **Physicals.** All students participating in athletics must have a physical examination every other year. Once the physical has been done, the student must present a completed and signed doctor’s form to the head coach or administrator in charge. The Member Organization in turn must keep the form on file.
- J. **Challenge of Eligibility.** If a student’s eligibility to compete in TAI AO activities, events or contests is questioned, the student’s family has the burden in any proceeding to establish that the student is eligible. A birth certificate attested by the appropriate official is the best evidence of the date of birth. If this evidence is not available, other credible evidence of the date of birth may be considered.
- K. **Required Forms.** It shall be the responsibility of each Member Organization to keep on file the following required annual forms for each student who participates in any practice, scrimmage, or game.
1. **Medical.** This form is to be kept on file in the school office. The form is not to be sent to the TAI AO office unless requested.
 2. **Registration Form.** An annual participation form, signed by the student’s parent or

guardian, is required and kept on file in the office of the Member Organization. Since this form provides parents' permission for travel, etc., the coach may keep a copy with him/her. The form is not to be sent to the TAIIO office unless requested.

3. **Rules Acknowledgment for Students.** An annual TAIIO Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian is required and shall be kept on file in the office of the Member Organization. The form is not to be sent to the TAIIO office unless requested.
4. **Rules Acknowledgment for Coaches.** An annual TAIIO Rules Acknowledgment Form signed by each team's head coach is required and shall be kept on file in the office of the Member Organization. A copy of this form shall be sent to the TAIIO office upon request.
5. **Official Roster and Eligibility Form.**
 - a. All students, regardless of classification, shall be included on the appropriate team roster and submitted to TAIIO. It may also be required to be input into MaxPreps.com for certain sports as outlined in Section 254.A.5. Roster may be adjusted until the final roster date as set by the appropriate sports committee. As of the final roster date, the roster submitted to TAIIO and in MaxPreps shall become the FINAL and official roster for the team for the remainder of the season, except as provided in Section 254.A.5.d regarding movement between JV and varsity .
 - b. The Roster shall include the following information:
 1. First and Last Name;
 2. Jersey Number;
 3. Grade Classification;
 4. Seasons of Club / Select play (this information is not listed in Maxpreps, and must be submitted to TAIIO using the online form):
 5. Enrollment status. The only three options are 1. homeschooled, 2. not homeschooled, 3. Partially homeschooled. (this information is not listed in Maxpreps, and must be submitted to to TAIIO using the online form)
 6. Dates of Birth of each player on the roster (this information is not listed in Maxpreps, and must be submitted to to TAIIO using the online form)
 - c. By listing a student on the roster, the respective coach is certifying that the student is eligible to participate in TAIIO in the respective sport. Should a student lose eligibility status after the final roster is posted, the coach of that student must notify the applicable sports committee and opposing coaches of this fact along with the number of games that student will be ineligible to participate.
 - d. No additions will be allowed to the final roster after the final roster date, except as provided in Section 254.A.5.d for movement between JV and varsity rosters.
 - e. The only changes allowed to the final roster will be in the event of a damaged jersey that cannot be replaced by the same number. This change must be approved by the sports committee supervising that sport and the opposing coaches must be made aware of the change as soon as reasonably possible.
 - f. The chairman of the respective sports committee shall cause a true copy of each roster to be printed on the day following the final roster date. These copies shall be maintained and accessible should there be a question as to eligibility status of a student.
 - g. Any student not listed on the final roster shall be considered to be ineligible.
 - h. Any Member Organization found to be utilizing an ineligible student will be subject to sanctions by TAIIO.

SECTION 237 – NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY.**A. Equal Opportunity.**

1. No student, otherwise eligible to participate in TAI AO sponsored games, events or activities, shall be denied, because of race, color, sex, religion or national origin, the opportunity to;
 - a. Participate in Academic and Fine Arts events, contest or competition,
 - b. Participate in the following individual sports;
 1. Cross Country,
 2. Golf,
 3. Swimming and Diving,
 4. Tennis,
 5. Track and Field,
 6. All of the foregoing individual sports are classified as an individual sport and, therefore, female or male students may not participate on opposite gender teams as the opportunity exists to participate at the division, regional and state levels as an individual.
 - c. Participate on the following teams;
 1. Boys' Football,
 2. Boys' Basketball,
 3. Boys' Soccer,
 4. Boys' Baseball,
 5. Girls' Volleyball
 6. Girls' Basketball,
 7. Girls' Soccer,
 8. Girls' Softball.
2. Gender shall be determined based on a student's gender as assigned at birth. In cases where a student's birth certificate is unavailable, other similar government documents used for the purpose of birth gender identification may be substituted.

B. Exception to Non-Discrimination.

1. Boys shall not be eligible nor allowed to participate on girls' gender specific teams. Except as provided below, girls shall not be eligible nor allowed to participate on boys' gender specific teams.
2. Where a Member Organization offers only a boys' team in any gender specific sport, girls may participate on the boys' team at the discretion of the Member Organization.
3. Except as provided by Subsection B.2. above, an interscholastic athletic team sponsored or authorized by a Member Organization may not allow a student to compete in an interscholastic athletic competition sponsored or authorized by the Member Organization that is designated for the biological sex opposite to the student's biological sex as determined at the student's birth and correctly stated on the student's original official birth certificate.
4. For purposes of this Section, a statement of a student's biological sex on the student's original official birth certificate is considered to have correctly stated the student's biological sex as determined at the student's birth if the statement was:
 - a. Entered at or near the time of the student's birth; or
 - b. Modified to correct a clerical error in the student's biological sex.

Sections 238 to 239 are reserved for expansion.

SUB CHAPTER H – Transfer Rule & Transfer Students

SECTION 240 – TRANSFERS

A. **Purpose of Transfer Rules.** The TIAAO rules on transfer;

1. Have been developed to protect student participation in TIAAO activities, events and contests;
2. Are intended to deter transfers by a student from one Member Organization to another based on, among other factors, monetary incentives, increased visibility to college recruiters, increased competitive advantage, or increased playing time;
3. Are intended to be designed to protect students who have previously participated in interscholastic competition at a Member Organization from being replaced by students who transfer for athletic or financial reasons, including the effects of student or family shopping for schools or being recruited for athletic purposes; and,
4. Are to encourage fair play, discourage the abuse of overenthusiastic promotion of Member Organization programs, and to protect the integrity of interscholastic athletic programs for both Member Organizations and TIAAO.
5. Are intended to strongly discourage transfers from one Member Organization to another Member Organization; such transfer requests shall be reviewed with a high level of scrutiny and should only be submitted in exceptional circumstances.

B. **Transfer Form.**

1. **Full Transfer.** To be used in the case of a student leaving one Member Organization with the intention of not returning to that Member Organization
2. **Limited Transfer.** To be used in the case of a student transferring to another Member Organization for an athletic, academic or fine arts opportunity not offered at the student's current Member Organization. Any student who is approved for a Limited Transfer must participate with the original Member Organization for all other athletic, academic or fine arts contests, events or activities or go through the regular TIAAO full transfer process.

C. **Transfer Procedures for Previous Participation.**

1. If a student participated in a TIAAO sponsored contest, event or activity during the previous season at either the sub-varsity (JV) or varsity level **at another Member Organization**, and that student wishes to transfer to a new Member Organization; that student must complete the appropriate TIAAO Transfer Form and have it approved by the Commissioner before the student can compete at the varsity level in at the new Member Organization. In the event the requested transfer is a full transfer, then the appropriate TIAAO Transfer Form shall be submitted to the Steering Committee for review.
2. Parents must sign the Parent Certification in the applicable Transfer Form.
3. The head coach or an administrator from both the former and receiving Member Organizations shall each sign the applicable Transfer Form. By signing the form, the head coach or administrator at the Member Organization from which the athlete is transferring is not acquiescing in, or agreeing to, the transfer; rather, by signing the transfer form the head coach or administrator is acknowledging and verifying the information on the form regarding the athlete

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requesting the transfer. A Member Organization shall not refuse a request by a sports committee, or the Steering Committee, for information regarding the requested transfer.

4. If either Member Organization raises an objection within 7 calendar days from the date they are notified of the transfer; the objecting Member Organization shall contact the Commissioner who is responsible for reviewing the transfer in question, or, if applicable, the Steering Committee, and a meeting will be held to determine the student's eligibility to participate.
5. In the event an objection is raised, the student will not be eligible to participate until the meeting is held and eligibility affirmed.
6. Denial of eligibility will be based on objective findings only. If there is not a violation of TAIIO requirements, eligibility will not be denied to preserve an athletic advantage over a Member Organization.
7. Appeals of a Committee's decision may be submitted to the TAIIO Steering Committee within 5 business days of the date of the prior committee's decision.
8. The decision of the Steering Committee is final.

D. **Home School Students.** Home school students, by nature, have more options to affiliate with multiple organizations in respect to their athletic and academic objectives. Home school students are strongly encouraged to NOT transfer from one Member Organization to another for the purpose of gaining a competitive advantage in any given contest, event or activity. An affiliation with another Member Organization involving any contest, event or activity shall be viewed as at least a "limited transfer" for that student. For example, if a student played baseball at Member Organization A and now desires to play football at Member Organization B; the student would need to submit a transfer request for Member Organization B from Member Organization A.

E. **Transfers from Non Member Organizations.** If the new student transferred from any school (public or private) or homeschool organization on or before the transfer deadline, the student shall be eligible to compete in Varsity contests upon satisfactory completion of the transfer form and approval by the appropriate TAIIO committee.

F. **Exemption.** If the new student did not compete at either the sub-varsity or varsity level during the current or the previous season, a transfer form is not required.

G. **Late Transfers.**

1. Students who are not enrolled and in attendance at the Member Organization prior to the transfer deadline may NOT participate in Varsity athletics, academic or fine arts contests, events or activities until the next TAIIO season. The student may practice and participate on the Sub-Varsity level during this time.
2. In the event of a "late transfer" (i.e. after transfer deadline), a Member Organization may petition the TAIIO Commissioner to request an exception to the general rule of no transfers after the deadline for Varsity competition. This request shall be completed in writing, submitted to the appropriate TAIIO Committee and a meeting will be held to present the student and the circumstances that would create such a need. The TAIIO Committee will review the request and make a recommendation to the TAIIO Commissioner. The TAIIO Commissioner shall make the final determination.

H. **Coach Transfers.**

1. When a coach transfers to a new Member Organization, formed from athletes in a current TAIIO Member Organization, a student who transfers to that Member Organization shall not be eligible for Varsity competition in a sport for a period of one year if any of the following are true:
 - a. The coach in that contest, event or activity coached or trained the student at the

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- previous Member Organization.
- b. The coach in that contest, event or activity coached or trained the student on an AAU, Select, Club or similar team during the previous 12 months.
 - c. The coach in that contest, event or activity at the new Member Organization was directly associated with the AAU, Select, Club or similar team on which the student participated as owner, manager, supervisor or similar position during the previous twelve months.
 - d. Exceptions:
 - i. Adopted or birth children are eligible if their parent or legal guardian is the coach or administrator who changes Member Organizations, subject to the limitation in Subsection H.1.e below.
 - ii. If the previous Member Organization of the student and coach has closed.
 - iii. For new Member Organizations formed from athletes in a current TAI AO Member Organization, only two coach-related athlete exemptions are permitted per organization. These exemptions apply to athletes who are adopted or birth children of coaches assisting in forming the new organization, as per Subsection H.1.d.i. Any additional related athletes transferring with the coach beyond the two exemptions shall be ineligible for Varsity competition for one year from the date of transfer, unless Subsection H.1.d.ii or H.1.d.iv applies. The new Member Organization must submit documentation verifying the relationship and exemption eligibility to the TAI AO Commissioner with the transfer form under Subsection C.
 - iv. Any athlete may transfer to the new Member Organization and be immediately eligible for Varsity competition if the previous Member Organization releases the athlete through a full transfer, as governed by TAI AO transfer rules under Subsection C, regardless of the coach relationship or exemption limits in Subsection H.1.d.iii. The full transfer must be approved by both the previous and new Member Organizations and the TAI AO Commissioner, as outlined in Subsection C.
2. The student may either;
 - a. Remain at the previous Member Organization for one year, retaining eligibility while there, and after one-year transfer to follow the coach and be eligible according to the transfer rule; or,
 - b. Transfer to the new Member Organization when the coach changes and be ineligible for varsity athletics for one year in the contests, events and activities coached by that coach.
- I. Ineligible at Previous Organization.**
1. If a student has been placed in an ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL for disciplinary reasons by the previous organization, school or school district, the student is not eligible to participate in TAI AO contests, events and activities until the length the alternative school placement has been served.
 2. If a student has been expelled from the previous organization, school or school district, the student is not eligible to participate in TAI AO contests, events and activities until the following school year.
 3. If a student has been removed from a team or a contest, event or activity by the previous organization, school or school district, the Member Organization to which the student wishes to transfer shall determine the student's eligibility to participate in varsity sports in accordance with its published guidelines and TAI AO transfer rules.
- J. Exceptional Appeals.** In the event a Member Organization has an exceptional case for a student and would request it be considered, that Member Organization may set up a meeting with the TAI AO Committee supervising the contests, events or activities in question to

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present its case (both written and verbal) as a matter of exception. The appropriate TAI AO Committee will originate a recommendation and forward it, along with supporting materials, to the Steering Committee for final determination if the student is allowed to participate in Varsity competition for the current season.

K. Participation Layout

1. A full transfer between Member Organizations shall require the agreement of both organizations for all students to avoid the mandatory (1) year layout. In the absence of an agreement between the organizations, all students who have had a full transfer approved shall be ineligible to participate in any athletic or academic competition for a period of one (1) year from the date the transfer request is approved.
2. A student may appeal the layout to the Steering Committee and must establish exceptional circumstances in order for the layout period to be rescinded or reduced. The decision of the Steering Committee is final.

L. Transfer Deadline

1. The term “transfer deadline” shall mean the date a roster is required to be submitted to TAI AO pursuant to any sports plan, or, if no such requirement exists, then twenty (20) days after the date the sport season begins, as concerns the first sport the student is transferring to participate in.
2. Unless otherwise specified in a sport-specific plan, the transfer deadline shall mean the following date:
 - a. Football – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - b. Volleyball – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - c. Cross Country – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - d. Basketball – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - e. Baseball – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - f. Softball – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - g. Track – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - h. Soccer – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - i. Powerlifting – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - j. Golf – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - k. Cheer – date roster is due to TAI AO
 - l. Academic and Fine Arts – 20th day following first Monday in January
3. Exceptions to the transfer deadlines stated above can be made by the League Commissioner on a case by case basis.

Sections 241 to 245 are reserved for expansion.

SUBCHAPTER I – Discipline, Protests & Appeals

SECTION 246 – VIOLATIONS AND DISCIPLINE

- A. **Compliance and Self-Reporting.** TAI AO expects each Member Organization to abide by the TAI AO rules, policies, procedures and guidelines. Each Member Organization is expected to act with integrity and to self-regulate in accordance with the TAI AO General Rules, policies and procedures.
- B. **Violations.** In the event of a violation of TAI AO General Rules, policies or procedures each Member Organization involved will file a report as follows:
 - 1. **Self-Reporting.** In the event that a Member Organization fails to abide by the TAI AO General Rules, policies, procedures or guidelines; it is expected to promptly self-report the incident to the Chairman of the appropriated TAI AO Committee or to the Chairman of the TAI AO Steering Committee.
 - 2. **Reporting from another Member Organization.** In the event that a Member Organization fails to abide by the TAI AO General Rules, policies, procedures or guidelines, including misuse of the Expanded Play Up rule under Section 236.F.4 (e.g., exceeding the maximum number of players, failing to return players to middle school when varsity players recover, or allowing dual participation in a single week); another Member Organization may report the incident to the Chairman of the appropriate TAI AO Committee or to the TAI AO Commissioner.
- C. **Investigation & Determination of Facts.** The involved TAI AO Committee shall work to review any reported violation and determine the appropriate record of facts. Upon completion of said review, a summary report of findings will be sent to the TAI AO Steering Committee.
- D. **Discipline.**
 - 1. Violations of TAI AO General Rules, policies, procedures and guidelines are subject to Association administered disciplinary action, including, but not limited to;
 - a. Game, contest or event forfeiture;
 - b. Disqualification of post-season play; and/or,
 - c. Probation and expulsion.
 - 2. Disciplinary action may be assigned to Member Organizations as appropriate. Individuals (e.g., staff, student athletes, or any individual associated with and/or representing a TAI AO Member Organization) are subject to penalties outlined in Section 247.
- E. **Assessment of Discipline.** The TAI AO Committee first reviewing the complaint shall determine a recommendation for the appropriate discipline(s) based on the facts of the specific incident and any history that would be applicable. The recommended discipline(s) shall be forwarded to the TAI AO Steering Committee for approval and subsequent execution.
- F. **Appeal.** Upon receipt of assessed discipline, the receiving party(s) shall have a period of 48 hours to submit an appeal to the TAI AO Steering Committee. The TAI AO Steering Committee will review any written appeal. The TAI AO Committee ruling on the complaint will be notified that an appeal has been initiated and is under assessment and will receive subsequent notification of the Steering Committee's final determination.
- G. **Final Decision.** Completion of the specified appeal process or failure to execute an appeal

within the mandated period renders the decision final.

- H. **Records.** The official record of the investigation and the resulting determination shall be kept on file in the TAI AO State office.

SECTION 247 – PENALTIES

- A. **Penalties a TAI AO Committee Can Impose.** Subject to provisions below, the following constitute the penalties that may be imposed by a TAI AO Committee following a determination of a violation of the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules, and policies and procedures, including automatic penalties for forfeits as outlined in Section 247.C.5.
- B. **For Student Representatives.** The penalties that may be imposed by a TAI AO Committee on a student representative of a participant Member Organization for violations of ethics, sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices are: reprimand, individual suspension, and disqualification of individual region and state honors.
1. **Reprimand.** A reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found, with one copy going to the Member Organization and one copy being attached to the minutes of the meeting. A reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.
 2. **Individual Suspension.** If the TAI AO Committee finds that a student has failed to comply with the rules it may suspend the participant student from competition, including practice, in all germane activities for one day to three years. Suspension may include a probationary period of up to three years and may include any reasonable conditions, which if not fulfilled may result in additional suspension.
 3. **Disqualification of Individual Region and State Honors.** The disqualification of individual honors shall deny the awarding of all-region and all-state honors for one year.
 4. **Appeal.** A student representative may appeal penalties imposed by the TAI AO Committee through the Member Organization of the student to the TAI AO Steering Committee.
- C. **For Member Organizations.** The penalties that may be imposed by the TAI AO Committee on a Member Organization for violations by its student representative, fans, patrons or personnel, of ethics, sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices are: private reprimand, public reprimand, probation, forfeiture of contest, disqualifications from germane activity, and suspension recommended.
1. **Probation.** A given period of time during which a Member Organization, its employee(s) or a specific program of the Member Organization is subject to critical examination and evaluation to determine if the subject on probation is in compliance with the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules, and policies and procedures. If the component, while on probation, is found to be in violation of the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules, or policies and procedures, that component will be subject to more stringent sanction.
 2. **Private Reprimand.** A private reprimand may be oral or in writing and shall not be published by TAI AO. A penalty stronger than private reprimand to the Member Organization should be strongly considered in cases involving patron or fan misconduct.
 3. **Public Reprimand.** A public reprimand shall be in writing, published by the TAI AO State Office and on its website, and state the violation found. A public reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three years, and may include any reasonable condition, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.

4. Forfeiture of Contest.

- a. **Minimum penalty for ineligible contestants.** The involved TAI AO Committee shall forfeit the contest won by the individual or Member Organization as a minimum penalty, if it finds that an individual contestant was not eligible to participate in the contest. In addition, if the percentage of contests forfeited by the Member Organization is 50% or more of the season in question, the minimum penalty shall also include disqualification by the Member Organization in TAI AO playoffs for the sport and year in question.
- b. **Mandatory forfeiture for participation of an ineligible student under court order.** If a student, who is determined to be ineligible, participates in a TAI AO contest under a temporary or other court order, the involved TAI AO Committee shall forfeit the contest.
- c. **Violations by personnel or participants.** The involved TAI AO Committee may order contests to be forfeited prior to or after the competition for violations of rules by covered Member Organization personnel and/or participants if an unfair advantage was gained.

5. Disqualification:

- a. **Disqualification from region honors.** Disqualification from region honors shall deny the awarding of regional championship honors and deny participation in any TAI AO contest beyond the regional level for a period of up to three years. Disqualification from regional honors may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in an extension of the disqualification or recommendation of suspension to the TAI AO Steering Committee.
- b. **Mandatory disqualification.** The involved TAI AO Committee shall disqualify a Member Organization from all germane activities if the Member Organization has failed materially and knowingly and intentionally permitted an ineligible individual to represent it in a TAI AO activity, event or contest.
- c. **Automatic Disqualification for Forfeits:** A Member Organization that forfeits any postseason game in a team sport (e.g., football, volleyball, basketball, soccer) shall be automatically ineligible for postseason play in that sport for the following season. The Member Organization may appeal to the TAI AO Steering Committee within 10 days of notification of the decision of the forfeit, following the appeal procedure in Section 226.

6. Suspension Recommended:

- a. If in the opinion of the involved TAI AO Committee the offense is of sufficient gravity to warrant suspension in the germane activity, the committee may impose suspension.
- b. The committee recommendation of suspension shall be automatically appealed to the Steering Committee for review and approval, modification, reversal or remand back to the committee.
- c. Suspension shall deny participation in specified TAI AO activities for a period of one to three years. Suspension may include a probationary period of one to three years, and may include any reasonable conditions, which if not fulfilled, may result in additional suspension.
- d. A suspended Member Organization may not play or scrimmage a TAI AO Member Organization at the varsity or sub-varsity level in grades nine through twelve in the activity from which it was suspended. A contract for a germane competition by the suspended Member Organization with another Member Organization shall be null and

void.

7. Expulsion Recommended.

- a. If in the opinion of the involved TIAO Committee the offense is of sufficient gravity to warrant a recommendation to the Steering Committee of expulsion from

- TAIAO, the committee shall provide a written report with the recommendation to the Steering Committee and provide a copy to the Member Organization.
- b. The committee recommendation of expulsion shall be automatically appealed to the Steering Committee for review and approval, modification, reversal or remand back to the committee.
 - c. From the point in time the committee recommends expulsion until a final decision is rendered by the Steering Committee, the Member Organization shall not be allowed to participate in any TAIAO sponsored events, contests or activities.
 - d. There shall be a two (2) year minimum penalty for expulsion imposed before a Member Organization may reapply for membership in TAIAO.
8. **Appeal.** A Member Organization may appeal penalties imposed by the involved TAIAO Committee to the TAIAO Steering Committee.
- D. **For Member Organization Personnel.** The penalties that may be imposed by the involved TAIAO Committee on Member Organization personnel found to have cause violations of ethics, sportsmanship codes, eligibility rules, contest plans or reporting practices are: probation, reprimand, public reprimand, game suspension, suspension recommended.
1. **Probation.** A given period of time during which an employee(s) or representative of the Member Organization is subject to critical examination and evaluation to determine if the subject on probation is in compliance with the TAIAO Constitution, General Rules and policies and procedures. If the employee or representative, while on probation, is found to be in violation of the TAIAO Constitution, General Rules or policies and procedures, the employee or representative will be subject to more stringent sanctions.
 2. **Reprimand.** A reprimand shall be in writing and shall state the violation found, with one copy going to the Member Organization and one copy being attached to the minutes of the meeting. A reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three years and may include any reasonable conditions, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.
 3. **Public reprimand.** A public reprimand shall be in writing, published by the TAIAO State Office and on its website, and state the violation found. A public reprimand may include a probationary period of up to three years, and may include any reasonable condition, which, if not fulfilled, may result in a more stringent penalty.
 4. **Game suspension.** The involved TAIAO Committee may issue an order of suspension to a covered Member Organization employee or representative suspending him or her from participating in any germane contest plan from one to ten games or events.
 5. **Suspension recommended.** If in the opinion of the involved TAIAO Committee the offense is of sufficient gravity to warrant suspension in the germane activity for up to three years, the committee may impose suspension. A committee recommendation of suspension shall be automatically appealed to the Steering Committee for review and approval, modification, reversal or remand back to the committee.
 6. **Honors and Office disqualification.** Any Member Organization personnel or representative receiving any of the above penalties are ineligible to receive individual TAIAO honors or hold regional or state office during the traditional school year in which the penalties are imposed or during a probationary period.
 7. **Appeal.** Member Organization personnel or representatives may appeal penalties imposed by the involved TAIAO Committee, through the Member Organization, to the TAIAO Executive Board.

Sections 248 to 250 are reserved for expansion.

SUBCHAPTER J – Classifications

SECTION 251 – DIVISIONS AND REGIONS

- A. Each year TAI AO shall:
 - 1. Establish division classifications for each sports related activity, event or contests. There will be no division assignments for Academic and Fine Arts; and,
 - 2. Where regional competition is provided, including sports, academic and fine arts activities, events and contests, assign each participating Member Organization to a regions.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules or policies and procedures, these division and region assignments shall be maintained for the one calendar year and are sport specific. For example, Member A can be in the North Region for volleyball and in the South Region for basketball..

SECTION 252 – DIVISION ALIGNMENT

- A. **Division Classifications.** Division classifications for divisions for each sport will be assigned based on the participating Official's official roster count, and select or club player participation, and the criteria outlined in Section 252.D below as established by the sport plan in the TAI AO General Rules.
- B. **Timing.** Each Member Organization shall report to the TAI AO State Office its official Rosters for each sport competition in the manner and by the date provided in the applicable sport plan
- C. **Requested Reclassification.** A member organization may request to be assigned to a larger or smaller classification after completion of competition in their assigned classification.
- D. **Select Competition Division.**
 - 1. A "Select Competition Division" shall be created for teams meeting either of the following criteria:
 - a. The team's season schedule contains 20% or more opposing teams that are classified in University Interscholastic League (UIL) Divisions 4 through 6 or Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) Divisions 4 through 6; or
 - b. The composition of the team includes more than 50% athletes who actively participate on club or select teams during the current Year of Participation, as defined in Section 201.U.
 - 2. Member Organizations meeting these criteria shall be assigned to the Select Competition Division unless they submit a written request to the supervising TAI AO Committee to remain in their originally assigned division, accompanied by evidence demonstrating that such assignment would not provide an unfair competitive advantage. The Committee's decision may be appealed to the TAI AO Commissioner under Section 253.C, but not to the Steering Committee.
 - 3. The Select Competition Division shall compete separately from other divisions in regional and state contests, with its own postseason structure as determined by the supervising TAI AO Committee.

SECTION 253 – REGION ASSIGNMENT

- A. **Region Assignment.** Region assignment shall be based on geographic location and division alignment. The supervising TAI AO Committee shall be responsible for assignment of each participating Member Organization to a region for each TAI AO activity, event and contest.
- B. **Division Assignment.** Where applicable, Member Organizations shall be assigned to a division classification by the sports committee based upon criteria contained in the respective sports plans.
- C. **Requested Reclassification.** A Member Organization may request to be assigned to a different region or division. In order to be moved to a new classification, the Member Organization must obtain approval from the sports committee and can appeal to the Commissioner. Region and division alignments can not be appealed to the Steering Committee.

SECTION 254 – TEAM COMPOSITION

A. Roster Numbers.

1. **Roster Numbers.** Official Roster numbers will determine all sport divisional alignments. The TAI AO Athletic Committee will establish rules for roster numbers, limits and deadlines for each sport. There will be no divisions for Academic and Fine Arts competition.
2. **“Blended” Teams of Member Organizations.**
 - a. Blended Teams” are allowed ONLY in the event a Member Organization does not have an active program in that sport, academic or fine art activity, event or contest.
 - b. Students enrolled in schools or homeschool cooperatives currently being governed by a state recognized organization including, but not limited to, University Interscholastic League (UIL), Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS), Texas Christian Athletic League (TCAL), and Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship (TCAF), are allowed to participate in TAI AO, if “Limited Transfer Forms” are approved by the supervising TAI AO Committee.
3. **Hardship Exceptions** - In the event a Member Organization’s official Roster count in a particular sport changes significantly, the Member Organization may petition the TAI AO Commissioner, for hardship recourse.
 - a. If official Roster numbers decrease – A Member Organization may request to be moved from the upper Division to the lower Division. Post Season eligibility will be considered based on the schedule played in the upcoming season.
 - b. If official Roster numbers increase – Any Member Organization experiencing a significant increase in official Roster count for any sport MUST declare this to the supervising TAI AO Committee so that appropriate adjustments can be considered. A significant increase is defined as one where the roster limits exceed the limit for each sport.
- 3.
4. **High School Roster Expectations.** TAI AO will post the dates by which rosters are to be submitted and the specific guidelines as to where they are to be posted (for example, MaxPreps). The figures shall be used to verify and determine the appropriate sport Division classification for the upcoming post season play. The TAI AO Athletic Committee will determine roster numbers for each sport.
 - a. **“No Cut” or “No Try Out” Requirement** - TAI AO Member schools and homeschool programs shall not implement or use a “try-out” system or “cut players” from their possible rosters.
 - b. Any “small” school/team may request to be elevated to a higher level.
 - c. Rosters for teams assigned to the Select Competition Division must include documentation of club or select team participation for each athlete, to be submitted with the official roster to the TAI AO State Office by the deadline specified in the applicable sport plan. Failure to provide this documentation may result in sanctions as determined by the supervising TAI AO Committee.
 - d. Rosters must reflect any middle school players temporarily played up under Section 236.F.4 due to injury, including their grade level and the duration of their varsity participation. Such players must be clearly designated as temporary additions and removed from the varsity roster once the injured varsity player(s) return, with updates submitted to the TAI AO Administration within 48 hours of the change.
5. **MaxPreps Roster and Schedule Requirements.**

SUBCHAPTER J – Classifications and Districts

- a. For all sports competing in team postseason events (e.g., football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, cross country, track & field, etc.), Member Organizations must enter their varsity team rosters and schedules into MaxPreps before the end of the second week of the season, as defined by the sport-specific plan. Organizations are required to update these schedules and rosters in MaxPreps throughout the season to reflect current team status.
- b. Rosters reported in MaxPreps will not satisfy the TAIIO roster submission requirement under Section 236.K.5 and will not be accepted as eligible for submitting to eligibility.
- c. Teams failing to submit roster and schedule requirements to MaxPreps may be excluded from participating in postseason play and/or placed in the highest division for that sport, as determined by the supervising TAIIO Committee.
- d. If a Member Organization has any varsity team (including a JV team) competing in a TAIIO tournament, that team must maintain a separate roster and schedule in MaxPreps. An athlete shall not be listed on more than one roster in a season at a given time. A player moved from a JV roster to a varsity roster must remain on the varsity roster for the remainder of the season, and approval from the TAIIO Commissioner is required for the player to move back to the JV roster.

Sections 255 to 260 are reserved for expansion.

SUBCHAPTER K – General Plan

SECTION 261 – CALENDAR

- A. **TAIAO Calendar.** The TAIAO Calendar shall provide information pertaining to TAIAO sponsored activities, events and contests.
- B. **Off-Season Calendar.** The TAIAO Off-Season calendar for each sponsored sport shall be as provided in each sport specific plan.
- C. **Summer Calendar.** The TAIAO Summer calendar shall be from June 1st until the following July 31st.
- D. **Pre-Season, Regular and Post Season Calendar.** The TAIAO Regular and Post Season Calendar for each sponsored sport shall be as provided in each sport specific plan.
- E. **No Sunday Activities.** No organized instruction or activities may be given on a Sunday.

SECTION 262 – FACILITY USE (OFF SEASON AND SUMMER)

- A. Students may attend Member Organization open gyms, facilities and weight rooms.
- B. Attendance records shall not be kept.
- C. Coaches and other authorized instructors may;
 - 1. Be present to supervise the facilities and equipment.
 - 2. Provide specific instruction in sport skills.
 - 3. Provide weight lifting instruction and maintain progress charts.
- D. Coaches are responsible for notifying student athletes in their sport that their participation is strictly voluntary, never required, and in no way shall be a prerequisite for making the team or getting more playing time.
- E. Facilities of a Member Organization may be made available to students under the following conditions:
 - 1. Recreational opportunities receive advance approval by the Member Organization,
 - 2. Dates and times of operation shall be announced, posted or publicized so that every student involved in that Member Organization is aware of the opportunity,
 - 3. Each activity is based on a first come, first served basis.
 - 4. The facilities will be closed on Sunday.
 - 5. An adult other than a Coach may be appointed to supervise the facilities.
 - 6. Use of the facilities may be restricted to that Member Organization's students.
 - a. Note: If only members of an athletic team are allowed to participate in their sport in an open recreational facility, it could be deemed a violation of off-season regulations.

SECTION 263 – FACILITY USE (PRE-SEASON, REGULAR SEASON AND POST SEASON)

- A. Rules related to facility use during pre-season, regular season and post season sport activities shall be as provided in each sport specific plan.

SECTION 264 – OFF SEASON ACTIVITIES**A. Authorized Activities.**

1. Between the dates provided in each sports specific plan, coaches may conduct approved off season programs.
2. Accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual skills, strength training and conditioning exercises may be conducted starting no earlier than 6:00 AM and concluding no later than 8:00 PM.
3. These activities shall not;
 - a. Exceed one continuous period of up to but not to exceed 90 minutes per day; and,
 - b. A total of 300 minutes per week.
4. Practice may include individual and full team drills without contact activities.
5. Allowed equipment is limited to balls, sport appropriate shoes, training equipment and machines and physical education attire.
 - a. Air or padded blocking dummies or devices, and other similar devices are prohibited.
 - b. No contact equipment or activities are allowed.
6. Coaches shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation in Off Season activities is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a football team or getting more playing time.

SECTION 265 – SUMMER ACTIVITIES**A. Student Participation.**

1. Summer Workouts and activity shall be an optional activity.
2. Coaches shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation in Summer Workout or attendance at Summer Camps is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a football team or getting more playing time.

B. Workout Schedule.

1. From June 1st until July 31st, TAI AO coaches may conduct approved Summer Workouts.
2. Summer Workouts Accelerated may be conducted starting no earlier than 6:00 AM and concluding no later than 9:00 PM.
3. These activities shall not;
 - a. Exceed 2 hours per day; and,
 - b. A total of 8 hours per week.
4. Student initiated or student led activities are allowed at any time.

C. Summer Workouts. Summer Workouts may include;

1. **Individual Workouts.** Accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual skills, strength training and conditioning exercises.
2. **Team Workouts.** Coaches and administrators may schedule and supervise Team Workouts without contact activities or equipment.
3. **Summer Tournaments.** Coaches and administrators may organize, supervise and schedule summer tournaments.
 - a. TAI AO Coaches are allowed to coach their players in these tournaments.

- D. **Summer Camps.** Participation in summer leagues or attendance at summer athletic camps are not considered school workouts even though there may be several members of a TIAIO school playing on one team in a summer league (or attending the same camp).
- a. TIAIO coaches are allowed to coach their players in these leagues or camps.

SECTION 266 – PRE-SEASON, REGULAR SEASON AND POST SEASON ACTIVITIES

- A. Rules related to practice and game schedules and activities during pre-season, regular season, and post season sport activities shall be as provided in each sport-specific plan, including compliance with the Expanded Play Up rule under Section 236.F.4. Member Organizations must ensure that middle school players played up due to injury do not participate in middle school games in the same week as varsity games, as verified by game schedules and post-game reporting.

SECTION 267 – GAME ADMINISTRATION

- A. **Game Rules.** Unless otherwise provided in the sport specific plan, rules of the University Interscholastic League (“UIL”) shall be used for all TIAIO sponsored activities, contests and events.
- B. **Post-Game Reporting.** Unless otherwise provided in the sport specific plan, posting of each game team and individual statistics shall be required no later than 48 hours following the end of the contest.
- C. **Pre and Post Game Activities.**
1. At each contest between TIAIO member organizations pre-game and post-game prayer is encouraged (not required).
 2. When a TIAIO member organization is playing a non TIAIO School, the TIAIO member organization is encouraged to offer to pray before or after the game with the non TIAIO School.
- D. **Tickets & Admissions – Regular Season Games.**
1. **Passes.** A Member Organization may create game and season passes for home games. These passes are applicable only to their regular season home games and are not applicable to another school’s game location. TIAIO administrative passes shall be honored.
 2. **Tickets.** Tickets for any regular season game shall not exceed the following:
 - a. ADULTS - \$10.00,
 - b. STUDENTS (High school and below and children) - \$5.00,
 - c. FAMILY - \$35.00.
 3. A member organization may charge less if desired.
 4. Coaches, players, officials and primary game personnel are exempt from paying admission. The minimum number of game personnel (excluding officials) that shall be exempt is five for any given sport. A member organization may grant more exemptions if desired.
- E. **Game Officials – Regular Season Games**
1. All Game officials shall be UIL Certified, TASO Certified and TIAIO approved.
 2. Unless otherwise provided in the specific sport plan, the number of officials is expected for a Varsity or Junior Varsity game shall be the TASO required minimum. If less than the required minimum of officials show up, it is at the discretion of the visiting coach

SUBCHAPTER K – General Plan

whether to play or not. If visiting coach elects to play the game, the game will count without forfeit; otherwise, a scrimmage can be played. **At a minimum, 1 official is necessary for the game to count towards regular or post season play. If no officials are present, the competition WILL be a scrimmage if played.**

SECTION 268 – Rules Governing Appeals for Completed Sports Contests

- A. Finality of Outcome: The outcome of all fully completed sports contests shall be deemed final. No member organization shall have the right to appeal the outcome of such contests to either a sports committee or the Steering Committee.
- B. Exclusion of Appeals for Completed Games: Member organizations are prohibited from appealing the results of fully completed games under any circumstances. Once a game has concluded, its outcome cannot be challenged or appealed.
- C. Exception for Incomplete Games: The only permissible petition for appeal directly to the respective sports committee shall be for games that were not completed due to inclement weather or acts of God. In such cases, member organizations may appeal to the respective sports committee for a decision on the handling of the incomplete game.
- D. Exclusion of Appeals for Officiating: The league will never entertain an appeal based on allegations of poor officiating. Member organizations are not permitted to appeal game outcomes or request reviews based on subjective judgments or opinions regarding officiating quality.
- E. Clarification of Terminology: For the purposes of these rules, "completed game" refers to any sports contest that has concluded according to the rules and regulations governing the respective sport, including the determination of a winner and loser based on the results of the game

SECTION 269 - TATTOOS

- A. Tattoos must be covered by tape or the student's uniform or clothing at all times. This includes while preparing for competition, during competition, for awards presentations and post competition while on a Member Organization's property.
- B. Exception in swimming. Students must have tattoos covered when not competing in the race and during out of water warm up/cool down.

SECTION 270 – PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- A. Live animal mascots, cannons, fireworks, etc. are prohibited at TAI AO contests, events, games and matches.
- B. No dogs or other animals are allowed at TAI AO contests, events, games and matches.
- C. Noisemakers, including megaphones, are prohibited at TAI AO contests, events, games and matches held at field houses, gymnasiums or other indoor facilities.
- D. Bands, when permitted, shall play only during time-outs and intermissions, individual instruments may not be used as noisemakers.
- E. At football games, bands and noisemakers may play between plays (stopping prior to the referee's whistle for "ready for play"), after a touchdown, field goal, extra point or safety.

SECTION 271 - EQUIPMENT

- A. **Jerseys – Home & Away.** Each Member Organization shall have a Home and an Away uniform jersey for each sport.
 - 1. All jerseys shall be readable. Dark numbers on dark jerseys and light numbers on light jerseys are not permitted. Opponents and officials must be able to read the number from a reasonable distance.
 - 2. Each student shall be issued a number at the beginning of the season which shall remain

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his/her number through the entire season (as it is listed in MaxPreps on the Team Roster). If a number change is required, the coach shall inform each future opponent of the change for the remainder of the season.

3. Acceptable reasons for a number change shall be:
 - a. In the event the original uniform is damaged and requires replacement.

- b. In the event a jersey is not available (forgotten, etc.) and a real time replacement is required.
- B. **Team Colors.** The Home team shall wear colored jerseys and the Visiting team shall wear white unless another arrangement is mutually agreed upon, prior to the competition.
- C. **Game Uniforms.**
 - 1. All coaches shall ensure all students are properly equipped to make the game or contest as safe as possible.
 - 2. The head coach or his designated representative shall certify to the umpire before each scrimmage or game that all students are equipped according to the equipment rules.
 - 3. Proper uniforms shall be worn at each scrimmage and game. A team or a student that is in violation is subject to penalties.
- D. Each sport plan shall provide more specific equipment and uniform specifications.

SECTION 272 – COACH TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

- A. All TAI AO head coaches are required to complete the following NFHS Courses by August 1st of the first year of participation in TAI AO:
 - 1. Core Courses:
 - a. *Fundamentals of Coaching*; and,
 - b. *First Aid, Health and Safety for Coaches*
 - 2. Additional Course:
 - a. *Concussion in Sports*
- B. All TAI AO coaches and other staff are strongly encouraged to complete at least every other year training courses or clinics related to the following:
 - 1. *Heat Acclimatization*: Education and training related to utilization of available professional development tools regarding proper approach to Heat Acclimatization.
 - 2. *Sportsmanship*: Education and training related to utilization of available professional development tools regarding proper approach to Sportsmanship, how it impacts the educational process and your specific role in promoting it at all interscholastic athletic events.
- C. Any coach will be deemed to have met the certification requirements of Subsection 272.A above upon successful completion of courses of a substantially similar nature required by that coach's Member Organization.
- D. A coach certified as having completed the requirements of Subsection 272.A above must be in attendance at all events, contests, games and matches of the Member Organization regardless of whether or not against a TAI AO opponent.
- E. All TAI AO organizations are required to keep a copy on file to be presented to the TAI AO Steering Committee when requested. The inability to present the requisite course certificates may result in disciplinary action included but not limited to the forfeit of game and exclusion from postseason play.

SECTION 273 – POST SEASON PLAY

- A. Rules related to qualification and participation in postseason playoffs shall be as provided in each sport-specific plan. Teams must comply with the MaxPreps roster and schedule requirements under Section 254.A.5 to be eligible for postseason play, with noncompliance potentially resulting in exclusion from postseason events or assignment to the highest division,

as determined by the TIAAO Commissioner. Teams that forfeit any postseason game in a team sport shall be subject to automatic disqualification from postseason play in the following season as outlined in Section 247.C.5.c, unless overturned on appeal to the Steering Committee.

SECTION 274 – POST SEASON HONORS AND ALL STAR GAMES

A. Post Season Honors.

1. TIAAO shall recognize All Region and All State individual honors for each TIAAO sponsored sport.
2. Determination of individual post season honors will be as provided in each sport specific plan.

B. All-Star Games.

1. **Purpose.** *All Star games are designed to bring together the most talented players in TIAAO at the end of the season in order for them to be recognized and to play on the same field as others of equal recognition. An All-Star game will be played for each division in a particular sport.*
2. **Location and Date.**
 - a. The All Star games shall occur at a time provided in the specific sport plan.
 - b. The All Star games shall be played at a “central” location so that individuals from various teams share the travel burden. TIAAO shall administer the game.
3. **Player Selection.**
 - a. One game shall be played for each Division where the matchup is between 2 super regions as determined by the TIAAO Committee supervising the sport of either a North/South or an East/West configuration.
 - b. Junior Varsity players shall not be eligible for All Star participation.
 - c. Player selections for each All Star game shall be from the players previously named and recognized as 1st Team All-State selections for each super regional team or as otherwise provided in the specific sport plan.
 - d. Players from the 2nd Team All-State selections may serve as substitutes for a 1st Team player that is not able to play in the game.
 - e. Selections from the 2nd Team All-State list shall be accomplished by the coach assigned to one of the All Star teams based on team need and with consideration to broaden team presentation if possible.
4. **Player Obligations.** Each player who wishes to attend/play in an All Star game must agree and will be required to;
 - a. Forward to the TIAAO office payment in advance (if required) for the All Star jersey; and,
 - b. Participate in the single practice for the All Star team prior to the game (located in the same area of the All Star game).
5. **Coach Selection and Guidelines.**
 - a. Coaches for each All Star team shall be selected from the top ranked MaxPreps team from each super region at the end of the Regular season in each Division.
 - b. Each All Star Coach accepting the invitation is expected to fulfill the following guidelines;
 1. Make it an enjoyable and fun event for each All Star.
 2. Ensure playing time is created for each All Star – not equal time but at least meaningful time (1 quarter minimum).
 3. Make every effort to adjust defense and personnel to keep the contest competitive.

4. Create at least one social time for the All Stars with a team dinner or breakfast (player participation is optional).
5. Invite the head coach of another team within the super region to assist during the All Star activities.
6. **Tickets & Admissions.**
 - a. The location for the All-Star game shall be chosen in a manner to appropriately “size” the location to the expected crowd and to create an admission fee that is reasonable as outlined below.
 - b. Tickets for games shall not exceed
 1. ADULTS - \$15.00
 2. STUDENTS (& children) - \$10.00
 3. FAMILY - \$45.00.
 4. Coaches, players, officials and primary game personnel are exempt from paying admission. The minimum number of game personnel (excluding officials) that shall be exempt is five for any given sport. A member organization may grant more exemptions if desired.

SECTION 275 – MEDIA, VIDEOTAPING AND FILMING

A. Media.

1. **Post Season.** The following rules related to media apply to post season play only.
2. **Credentialed Media Personnel.**
 - a. A *Media Request Form* must be submitted and approved prior to the activity, contest or event.
 - b. Media are limited to four (4) per Member Organization. This includes print, photography, digital and video media.
 - c. Passes grant admission to the event, contest or activity. Floor or field access shall be at the discretion of the host organization.
 - d. Passes may be revoked by a TAI AO representative.
3. **Member Organization Media.**
 - a. A *Media Request Form* must be submitted and approved prior to the activity, contest or event.
 - b. Media are limited to two (4) per Member Organization. This includes print, photography, digital and video media.
 - c. Passes do not grant admission to the event, contest or activity. Floor of field access shall be at the discretion of the host organization.
 - d. Passes may be revoked by a TAI AO representative.
4. **On Site Photography and Videography.**
 - a. TAI AO does not recognize on official photographer or videographer for TAI AO sponsored events, contests and activities. Those wishing to work an event, contests or activity shall:
 1. Complete the *Media Request Form* and submit the form to the TAI AO State Office prior to the event, contest or activity; and,
 2. Make payment to TAI AO of the per event fee required by TAI AO.
 - b. **Flash Photography.**
 1. The use of electronic flash equipment is prohibited at all indoor events, contests and activities.
 2. The use of a strobe flash is allowed.
 3. If either team head coach or the event, contest or activity director requests a strobe flash to be discontinued, the request will be honored.

5. Radio.

- a. Radio broadcasts, whether over air or internet, are limited to one per team per game.
- b. Each station or broadcaster will be limited to two (2) media passes per game.
- c. TAI AO does not guarantee power, phone or internet access at the event sites.
- d. Upon approval, broadcasters should contact the event host if additional resources are necessary.
- e. To broadcast a TAI AO sponsored event, contest or activity, the following shall apply;
 - 1. Complete the *Media Request Form* and submit the form to the TAI AO State Office prior to the event, contest or activity; and,
 - 2. Make payment to TAI AO of the per event fee required by TAI AO.

6. Internet Radio Broadcasts.

- a. Radio broadcasts, whether over air or internet, are limited to one per team per game.
- b. Each station or broadcaster will be limited to two (2) media passes per game.
- c. TAI AO does not guarantee power, phone or internet access at the event sites.
- d. Upon approval, broadcasters should contact the event host if additional resources are needed.
- e. To broadcast a TAI AO sponsored event, contest or activity, the following steps apply;
 - 1. Complete the *Media Request Form* and submit the form to the TAI AO State Office prior to the event, contest or activity; and,
 - 2. Make payment to TAI AO of the per event fee required by TAI AO.

7. Television and Internet Video Broadcasts.

- a. Television and Internet video broadcasts are limited to one (1) per team per game.
 - b. Each station or broadcaster will be limited to four (4) media passes per game.
 - c. TAI AO does not guarantee power, phone or internet access at the event sites.
 - d. Upon approval, broadcasters should contact the event host if additional resources are needed.
 - e. To broadcast a TAI AO sponsored event, contest or activity, the following steps apply;
 - 1. Complete the *Media Request Form* and submit the form to the TAI AO State Office prior to the event, contest or activity; and,
 - 2. Make payment to TAI AO of the per event fee required by TAI AO.
- 8. Notification to Media.** Member Organizations shall notify local media of these rules and requirements and shall work with TAI AO to insure timely payment of all required fees will be made to TAI AO.

B. Videotaping/Filming.

- 1. It is a violation to videotape or film an athletic activity, contest or event in which your Member Organization or team is not competing unless prior consent of ALL Member Organizations involved has been obtained.**
- 2. A Member Organization does not have to obtain permission to film or tape a contest in which it is competing. However, the film or videotape may not be utilized for coaching purposes during the contest or for any other reason until after the contest has been completed.
- 3. Films and videotapes become the property of the Member Organization doing the recording unless otherwise agreed to by consent of the Member Organizations involved in the contest.

E. Film/Video Exchange.**1. Regular Season.**

- a. TAI AO does not have a league-wide rule about exchanging film during the regular season. However, it is STRONGLY encouraged that a Member Organization would agree to exchange film/video with an upcoming opponent. Individual TAI AO sports

- committees may implement a mandatory regular season film exchange requirement, but it shall be clearly stated in the approved Sports Plan for each sport.
- b. Exchanging film/video with an opponent is a recognized, accepted and encouraged practice for scouting purposes. For example; team A is playing team B in game 3 of the season, the coach from A trades his film from game 1 and/or 2 with the coach from team B for his film from game 1 and/or 2. The films are the property of the member organization doing the filming and they do not have to get permission from anyone to exchange their own property.
 - c. It is permissible for a coach to contact a team that has played his opponent and arrange to borrow or trade for that film/video. The film/video is the property of the member organization or school that made it legally, since they were involved in the game.

2. Post Season.

- a. Member Organizations participating in Post Season play are REQUIRED to exchange 2 quality films/videos with their opponent as follows:
 - 1. The games to be exchanged shall be the recipient's choice,
 - 2. All film/video exchanged shall be received by the opponent no later than as provided in the specific sport plan or at least 4 days preceding the game,
 - 3. Film/video may be in the form of film, disc or electronic copy (all are acceptable). Hudl is an acceptable media of exchange; and,
 - 4. Each film/video must be deemed "viewable and usable" by the opponent. It shall contain clarity for general use for scouting purposes.
- F. **Filming/Videotaping by Individuals.** Any individual videotaping or filming shall have permission from the Member Organizations involved in the contest and may not obstruct the view of other spectators of the contest.
- G. **Commercial Uses.** Use of the films or videotapes for commercial purposes must be approved by all Member Organizations involved in the contest.

Sections 276 to 299 are reserved for expansion.

Sections 300 to 399 are reserved for expansion.

SUBCHAPTER L - Football

SECTIONS 400

SUBCHAPTER M - Basketball

SECTIONS 500

SUBCHAPTER N - Volleyball

SECTIONS 600

SUBCHAPTER O - Cross Country

SECTIONS 700

SUBCHAPTER P – Track and Field

SECTIONS 800

SUBCHAPTER Q - Soccer

SECTIONS 900

SUBCHAPTER R – Baseball

SECTIONS 1000

SUBCHAPTER S - Academic

SECTIONS 1100

SUBCHAPTER T – Fine Arts

SECTIONS 1200

SUBCHAPTER U – Softball

SECTIONS 1300