

## **6.1 GENERAL COMPETITION**

- 6.1.1** A member school shall be prohibited from participating in any interscholastic athletic event that is not sanctioned by the LHSAA.
- 6.1.2** Two or more member schools shall not unite to compete in an interscholastic athletic event.
- 6.1.3** LHSAA member schools shall not compete against the following teams:
1. High schools that do not meet the stipulations cited in 6.2.1 and 6.3.1.
  2. Independent teams
  3. Recreation teams
  4. Club teams
  5. Junior college or community college teams
  6. Four year college or university teams
  7. Individuals that compete “unattached” in high school events
  8. Professional or semi-professional teams
- 6.1.4** LHSAA schools shall not compete against high schools from foreign countries unless the event is approved by the Executive Committee.
- 6.1.5** Member schools shall not host or participate in an interscholastic athletic event at a facility that practices discrimination in the event.
- 6.1.6** Once a contest has started, it shall be played to completion, under the applicable playing rules of the sport and be considered an official contest. The results shall be final unless a school believes that an LHSAA rule has been violated. In such circumstances, the school should notify the referee in charge of the contest at the point the violation is discovered and report the possible violation, in writing, immediately to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall investigate the alleged violation and shall rule whether the contest is official or shall be replayed. If schools play an athletic contest on a court, field, track, track infield, or other facility that is not regulation, legally marked, or is in poor playing condition, the result of the contest shall stand.

## **6.2 IN-STATE COMPETITION**

- 6.2.1** LHSAA schools shall be allowed to compete against only the following schools in interscholastic athletic scrimmages, jamborees, invitational tournaments, regular, and/or postseason play contests:
1. LHSAA member schools
  2. Schools that have officially applied for membership in the LHSAA
  3. Registered and submitted 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders with the LHSAA, may compete against Junior High Schools in Classes 2A, 1A, B and C only.
- 6.2.2** All interscholastic contests played in Louisiana by member schools shall be conducted in accordance with LHSAA constitutional provisions, by-laws, and playing rules.

## **6.3 OUT-OF-STATE COMPETITION**

- 6.3.1** LHSAA schools shall be permitted to engage in interscholastic athletic competition against high schools from outside of Louisiana with the following stipulations:
1. The school shall be a member in good standing with its state high school association that is a member of the NFHS.
  2. The school is not a member of the state high school association but is permitted to compete against member schools of the association.

3. The school is not a member of the state high school association but is recognized and considered to be in good standing with the association.
4. The school is classified as a junior high school in that state.

**6.3.2** When LHSAA schools compete against schools in another state, the contest shall be played using the playing rules that have been adopted by the out-of-state school's state association.

**6.3.3** When LHSAA schools compete against schools in other states, LHSAA schools shall comply with all LHSAA constitutional rules and bylaws, excluding playing rules.

#### **6.4 SANCTIONING FOR OUT-OF-STATE COMPETITION**

**6.4.1** Sanctioning is not required by the LHSAA or the NFHS for competition against schools in bordering states, regardless of the number of competing schools, if the member school complies with the rules contained in the section.

**6.4.2** Each high school association that is a member of the NFHS shall sanction the following contests through the NFHS:

1. Non-bordering events if five or more states are involved.
2. Non-bordering events if more than eight schools are involved.
3. Any event involving two or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country.
4. Any interstate event involving two or more schools which is cosponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the high school community.

**6.4.3** All NFHS sanctioning is done online at [www.nfhs.org/sanctioning](http://www.nfhs.org/sanctioning). To sanction an event, member schools must register and create a login on this site to be able to complete and submit the online sanctioning form.

#### **6.5 POLICY ON SPORT RECOGNITION AND LHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP SPONSORSHIP**

**6.5.1** The following sports shall be recognized for boys only: boys' basketball, boys' football, boys' baseball, boys' golf, boys' cross country, boys' track, boys' gymnastics, boys' tennis, boys' soccer, boys' swimming, boys' wrestling, boys' bowling, and boys' powerlifting.

**6.5.2** The following sports shall be recognized for girls only: girls' basketball, girls' golf, girls' cross country, girls' track, girls' volleyball, girls' softball, girls' gymnastics, girls' tennis, girls' soccer, girls' swimming, girls' bowling, and girls' powerlifting.

**6.5.3** The Executive Committee shall have the authority to add or eliminate a sport. The Executive Committee may consider adding a new sport to the list of recognized sports at such time as 80 schools (20%) of the membership indicate an interest in LHSAA involvement in the sport. Any new sport that meets these requirements must successfully complete a two-year probationary period as a pilot program before final adoption as a recognized sport. The Executive Committee may consider dropping a sport from the list of recognized sports at such time that the number of schools participating in the sport drops below 40 schools. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to make an exception to this rule as necessary for the satisfactory sponsorship of a sport.

## **6.6 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDING A SPORT**

- 6.6.1** The principal shall submit, in writing, by August 15<sup>th</sup> to be eligible for postseason play, on the LHSAA Official Add/Drop a Sport Form, a request to field a team. In the request, the following information shall be included:
1. School name
  2. Sport being added
  3. If it is a boys' team and/or a girls' team being added
  4. The effective school year
  5. If the team is participating at the varsity and/or junior varsity level
  6. The district desiring to play in
  7. If the school will compete for district honors in the sport
  8. Any other information deemed necessary
- 6.6.2** The principal shall contact the district chairperson and notify him/her of his/her school's intent to participate in that sport and request to be included in the district scheduling.
- 6.6.3** The sports of varsity golf, gymnastics, and tennis will be dropped after each season if schools or individuals from those schools do not participate in postseason play. These sports may be added back each August 15<sup>th</sup> with no penalty for postseason play if student-athletes who wish to participate are identified by the school.

## **6.7 REQUIREMENTS FOR DROPPING A SPORT**

- 6.7.1** The principal shall submit, in writing, on the LHSAA Official Add/Drop a Sport Form, a notice that his/her school is dropping a sports team. In the notice, the following information shall be included:
1. School name
  2. Sport being dropped
  3. If it is a boys' team and/or a girls' team
  4. Effective school year
  5. Reason for dropping the sport
- 6.7.2** The principal shall contact the district chairperson with his/her school's decision to drop the sport. If the sport is dropped after schedules have been made, the school shall notify each opponent that it will not field a team.
- 6.7.3** Schools that voluntarily forfeit two or more scheduled games in the sports of baseball, boys' or girls' basketball, football, boys' or girls' soccer, softball or volleyball shall be ineligible to participate at the varsity level for the next two years. Member schools may compete against the sub-varsity team during the two year probationary period but will not earn power points. However, if the school forfeits two or more games during the probationary period, the school's team shall be dropped and not allowed to participate in that sport, at any level, for two additional years and must reapply per bylaw 6.6, Requirements for Adding a Sport.
- 6.7.4** A school that voluntarily discontinues baseball, boys' or girls' basketball, football, boys' or girls' soccer, softball, or volleyball shall be removed from district play and not eligible for postseason play in said sport for two calendar years from the date of discontinuance.

## **6.8 WEEKS DEFINED**

- 6.8.1** A school week shall extend from Monday through Friday when school is in session.
- 6.8.2** A calendar week shall extend from Sunday through Saturday.
- 6.8.3** A weekend shall be Saturday and Sunday.

6.8.4 A contest shall not be played on Sunday without mutual agreement of competing schools. This rule may be waived by the Executive Director if a state championship tournament, meet or contest has been postponed and must be rescheduled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

6.9 **SCRIMMAGES**

6.9.1 An LHSAA team may engage in two pre-season interschool scrimmages in all sports except football.

6.9.2 Football schools may engage in one fall pre-season interschool scrimmage.

6.9.3 Once a school participates in a jamboree or regular season contest, it shall not participate in an interschool scrimmage during that sports season.

6.9.4 No more than three schools shall participate in an interschool scrimmage at the same site, at the same time, and on the same day.

6.9.5 Only eligible students shall be allowed to participate in an interschool scrimmage.

6.10 **JAMBOREES**

6.10.1 A jamboree is abbreviated competition including at least three or more teams. The teams involved in a jamboree do not have to represent three different schools; three or more teams may be from two schools.

6.10.2 Only eligible students properly registered with the LHSAA shall be allowed to participate in a jamboree.

6.10.3 A team shall be allowed to participate in one interschool jamboree during the regular season. Once a team participates in a regular season contest, it shall not participate in a jamboree in that same sport.

6.10.4 Play in a jamboree contest is abbreviated for each team in the following manner:

<b><u>SPORT</u></b>	<b><u>LENGTH OF COMPETITION</u></b>
Baseball	6 total innings per team
Basketball	Two-10 minute halves or One-20 minute contest per team
Football	A total of 30 minutes per contest per team
Soccer	Two-20 minute quarters or One-40 minute contest per team
Softball	6 total innings per team
Volleyball	A maximum of three-25 point games - no cap rally scoring
Wrestling	One takedown tournament per team (as detailed under the sport of wrestling)

6.10.5 All jamborees shall be sponsored by a member school.

6.10.6 Written applications to conduct a jamboree in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, football, softball, and volleyball shall be made by the principal of the sponsoring school to the LHSAA by the deadline cited in the Important Dates section of each sport.

6.10.7 A jamboree approval application shall constitute an agreement between the sponsoring and participating schools indicating they shall comply with LHSAA rules and regulations.

- 6.10.8** The member school that is sponsoring the jamboree in the sports of baseball, boys' basketball and girls' basketball, softball, and volleyball shall pay the LHSAA a \$50, per jamboree, non-refundable sanctioning fee before the event will be sanctioned. Failure to timely request approval of a jamboree shall result in the school paying a \$50 late fee in addition to the \$50 sanctioning fee. A \$250 fine shall be assessed to any school hosting a non-sanctioned jamboree in any sport.
- 6.10.9** In the sport of football, the member school sponsoring the jamboree shall pay the LHSAA a non-refundable sanctioning fee before the event will be sanctioned. The sanctioning fee shall be based on the number of varsity and sub-varsity teams to participate in the jamboree. The host school shall pay the LHSAA \$200 for each varsity team and \$100 for each sub-varsity team that participates in the jamboree. Failure to timely request approval of a jamboree shall result in the school paying a \$50 late fee in addition to the non-refundable sanctioning fee. A school shall be fined \$250 for hosting a non-sanctioned jamboree in addition to the non-refundable sanctioning fee.
- 6.10.10** No live or delayed telecasts of a jamboree contest(s) in any sport shall be allowed unless all participating schools in the jamboree give written permission, signed by the principal at least seven days prior to the jamboree.

### **6.11 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS**

- 6.11.1** An invitational tournament and a district tournament shall be classified as regular season play.
- 6.11.2** Member schools shall be limited in the number of tournaments in which they may enter teams during the regular season. These limitations are addressed in the LHSAA by-laws under the articles pertaining to the individual sports.
- 6.11.3** A tournament is an event in which teams representing at least three different schools compete, and a team plays more than one game in the event.
1. A "multi-game" event is the competing by two or more teams on the same day at the same site and playing two or more games on the same day.
  2. A "multi-game" shall be classified as a tournament if a team plays more than one game in the event; in this case, the event shall be approved by the LHSAA as a tournament and shall be counted by all of the participating teams as a tournament.
  3. Tri-matches in volleyball must be on schedule but do not count towards tournament maximum.

#### **6.11.4 Restrictions**

1. A school shall not enter a team in more than one varsity tournament during the same week.
2. A school may enter one varsity and one sub-varsity tournament during the same week.
3. Sub-varsity teams are not allowed to participate in a varsity tournament in a sport that uses a power rating system. (Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball)

After a school has played its first game in a tournament, it shall not play a non-tournament game within the dates of the tournament. *Exception: If a tournament game(s) in baseball, soccer, or softball has been postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, or power failure, the game can be made up at the next available date without causing the school(s) to be in violation of this rule.*

#### **6.11.5 Approval**

1. All LHSAA invitational tournaments shall be sponsored by a member school.
2. A member school shall not participate in an invitational tournament in Louisiana that is not sponsored by a member school.
3. The sponsoring school shall not be held responsible for the eligibility of other schools' players participating in the event.
4. All invitational tournaments shall be conducted in compliance with the LHSAA constitutional rules and by-laws and all tournament games shall be played according to LHSAA rules. The application to sponsor a tournament

shall serve as agreement by the sponsoring school, other participating schools, and LHSAA that the tournament shall be conducted in compliance with all association constitutional rules and by-laws.

5. LHSAA invitational tournaments shall be approved by the Executive Director in all levels of competition in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, softball, and volleyball.

6. Applications for LHSAA tournament approval shall be made in writing, signed by the sponsoring school's principal, and submitted to the LHSAA at least 14 days prior to the deadline for submitting the online schedule in that sport to the LHSAA. Only approved tournaments shall be listed on the LHSAA online schedule system. If the principal of the sponsoring school fails to meet this 14-day deadline, he/she may request late approval for the tournament but no tournament shall be approved after the actual date to submit an online schedule in that sport.

7. Member schools shall request approval to participate in out-of-state invitational tournaments which shall meet the requirements that have been cited in this section.

**6.11.6 Tournament Finances:** The member school sponsoring an invitational basketball tournament shall pay the LHSAA a \$100 non-refundable sanctioning fee before the event will be sanctioned. Failure to timely request approval of a basketball tournament shall result in the school paying a \$50 late fee in addition to the \$100 sanctioning fee. A tournament sanctioning fee is not required in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' soccer, softball and volleyball but failure to timely request approval of a tournament in these sports shall result in a school being assessed a \$50 late fee. A \$250 fine shall be assessed to any school hosting a non-sanctioned tournament in any sport tournament.

## **6.12 REGULAR SEASON**

**6.12.1 Online Schedules:** In the sports of baseball, basketball, bowling, football, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball, schools shall submit to the LHSAA on the LHSAA Members' Only website an online version of their varsity schedule by the deadline cited in the Important Dates section of each sport. Failure to do so shall result in the school being fined \$100. Only contests shown on this schedule shall be counted as official contests for state championship team qualifying. If a school adds a varsity contest(s) to its schedule after the deadline cited in the Important Dates section of each sport, the additional contest(s) shall not be counted when determining power points for either school.

**6.12.2 Reporting Weekly Contest Results Online:** Beginning with the first playing date of the season in the sports of baseball, basketball, bowling, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball, the home team principal or his/her designee shall be required to enter the results of all contests, including tournament games, online no later than 12:00 a.m. on the day the contest is played. Additionally, in the sports of baseball, basketball, football and softball, the LHSAA member school principal or his/her designee shall report the results of an out-of-state contest or an open date by the established deadline. Unless disputed by 10:00 p.m. on each Monday of each week, the results will stand as posted. In the sport of football, on the tenth playing date, disputes shall be submitted by 10:00 p.m. on that Saturday, or the results will stand as posted. Failure by the home team to submit game results shall result in the home team being fined \$50 for each weekly report not submitted to the LHSAA by the established deadline.

**6.12.3** On the date that district representatives are named, the principal or his/her designee of every school in every district of every class shall report the results of any contest played during that week no later than 10:00 p.m. In the sport of football, any games played on Saturday shall be reported no later than 8:00 p.m.

**6.12.4** To decide a tie in district standings in the sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball, the limitations of total number of regular season games played shall be waived for a school. The fewest possible games shall be played to decide a district tie.

**6.12.5** If schools cannot mutually agree on the starting time of regular season games, including district games, the home team shall designate the game time as long as both schools day has ended.

**6.12.6** Unofficial Dispute Period for Playoff Pairings – In the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball, after the established deadline for reporting teams for playoff competition, schools shall have from 9:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. on the date selected to review, appeal, or dispute the school’s win-loss record and/or power rankings which shall be posted on the LHSAA website. An appeal request to correct a school’s win-loss record and/or to dispute the power ranking of an individual school, must be submitted in writing by the principal by the 11:00 a.m. deadline. After 11:00 a.m., when all requests, appeals and disputes have been addressed, the official brackets shall be posted. Once the brackets are posted on the LHSAA website, the plan becomes final and no changes shall be made.

### **6.13** STATE PLAYOFFS

**6.13.1** With the exception of Outdoor Track & Field and Golf, a playoff contest shall be classified as postseason play, excluding state championship competition, after district play has been completed and shall involve only those schools who have qualified for postseason play as the result of their regular season performances. For Outdoor Track & Field and Golf, playoff contests will be defined as district and regional meets/tournaments.

1. Schools are prohibited from participating in a regular season contest after the last date of the regular season in the sport.
2. Once postseason play begins in any sport, a forfeited game shall not affect the next round of the postseason unless it is applied 48 hours prior to the next scheduled contest.
3. If the forfeited game(s) cannot be timely applied, the team that is required to forfeit the game(s) shall be removed from the playoffs and its position on the bracket shall be replaced with a “bye.”

**6.13.2** If a bye on the bracket for all sports exists due to any qualifier not being represented from a district, the bye shall be filled using the remaining teams from those being considered for wild-card.

**6.13.3** The earliest date that a first round state playoff contest may be played in all classes/divisions shall be the day after the brackets are released. Schools found to be in violation of this rule shall be required to replay the contest provided the winner of the first round contest has not played its second round contest.

**6.13.4** If a qualifying school wishes to withdraw its team from the playoffs, the school’s principal shall submit a signed statement to the Executive Director requesting to not be placed on the bracket no later than 12:00 noon on the day prior to the deadline date to name district representatives as cited in the Important Dates section of the specific sport.

**6.13.5** If a school fails to withdraw its team from the playoffs and is placed on the bracket and the team withdraws or forfeits its first round playoff game, the game shall be counted as a forfeit and shall be considered as a home game for the team receiving the forfeit win and the non-participating school shall be fined as follows:

Baseball - \$250 (The offended team shall receive 100% of the fine.)

Basketball - \$1,000 (The offended team shall receive 90% of the fine and the LHSAA shall retain 10% of the fine.)

Football - \$1,000 (The offended team shall receive 90% of the fine and the LHSAA shall retain 10% of the fine.)

Soccer - \$250 (The offended team shall receive 90% of the fine and the LHSAA shall retain 10% of the fine.)

Softball - \$250 (The offended team shall receive 100% of the fine.)

Volleyball - \$500 (The offended team shall receive 90% of the fine and the LHSAA shall retain 10% of the fine.)

- 6.13.6** The LHSAA shall produce a state playoff bulletin that can be found on the LHSAA website. If applicable, the team roster form located in the bulletin shall be accurately completed and returned to the appropriate party indicated in the bulletin by the state deadline for inclusion in the official tournament program. Failure to timely return the team roster form may result in the school being fined.
- 6.13.7** In the sports of baseball, soccer, and softball, the home team in the playoff contest shall secure a legal and safe playable field that meets all NFHS playing rules and LHSAA rules. If the field is ruled unplayable or does not meet NFHS or LHSAA rules by the official, the home team will have one hour to secure another field or the contest will be rescheduled for the next day at the visiting team's field. (This does not apply to a field that has been ruled unplayable because of rain or inclement weather conditions.) The contest, if moved, will not count as a home game for the original visiting team. The original home team shall be paid travel expenses only and not share the gate receipts.
- 6.13.8** A school representative from the winning team is responsible for reporting the score online immediately after each playoff contest to report the results so that the next playoff contest can be arranged. In all team sports, if the winning team fails to report the outcome of a state playoff contest to the LHSAA by 11:00 p.m. on the day of the contest, the school shall be fined \$100.
- 6.13.9** **Determining the Home Team:** The home team for playoff games shall be determined as follows:
1. Bi-District Round of Play
    - A. In the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball in all classes/divisions, the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
    - B. A "bye" shall be counted as a home game.
  2. Regional Round of Play (Non-Select Football) / Quarterfinal Round of Play (Select Football)
    - A. In the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer and softball in all classes/divisions:
      1. Any team that drew a bye in the first round shall be the home team.
      2. The team that traveled in the first round shall be the home team.
      3. If both teams traveled or were home teams in the first round, the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
    - B. In the sport of volleyball, the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
  3. Quarterfinal Round of Play (If played on a home-away basis)
    - A. The team that has traveled more in the first and second rounds shall be the home team.
    - B. If both teams have traveled the same number of times in the first and second rounds, the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
    - C. In the sport of basketball, the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
  4. Semi-final Round of Play (If played on a home-away basis) - the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
  5. At the state championships (in all applicable rounds of play) - the higher seeded team shall be the home team.
  6. Opposing schools may, by mutual agreement, reverse a game site. A reversal of the home/away site for any reason shall not affect the criteria cited in the above rules.
- 6.13.10** **Postponement Of A Contest**
1. When a playoff contest is postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, mechanical problems, and/or any other valid reason as approved by the Executive Director, the contest shall be rescheduled for the next day unless that day falls on Sunday. The contest may be rescheduled on Sunday by mutual agreement of all affected schools. When problems of this nature occur in postseason play, the contest shall be rescheduled on a day-to-day basis, depending on the playing conditions at that time.
  2. When rescheduling of postseason events conflict with the next round of competition, the Executive Director shall have the authority to rule on the situation.
  3. If two teams are involved, failure to adhere to this rule shall result in the two affected schools being removed from postseason competition.

4. If three or more teams are involved, failure to adhere to this rule may result in these affected schools' being removed from postseason competition.
5. If a scheduled playoff contest is delayed because the host school's game management failed to secure contest officials and the visiting team arrives for the contest:
  - A. The visiting team may agree to delay the start of the contest until officials are secured and arrive.
  - B. The visiting team may choose to postpone the contest until the next day/night.
  - C. If the visiting team chooses to postpone the contest, it shall become the home team and contest host.
  - D. This change in home teams shall not affect the criteria used in determining the home team for that sport's playoff plan.

## 6.14 **PLAYOFF BRACKETS**

6.14.1 The seeding for a 32-team bracket shall be as follows:

1 vs. 32	5 vs. 28	9 vs. 24	13 vs. 20
2 vs. 31	6 vs. 27	10 vs. 23	14 vs. 19
3 vs. 30	7 vs. 26	11 vs. 22	15 vs. 18
4 vs. 29	8 vs. 25	12 vs. 21	16 vs. 17

6.14.2 The seeding for a 24-team bracket shall be as follows:

1 vs. Bye	5 vs. Bye	9 vs. 24	13 vs. 20
2 vs. Bye	6 vs. Bye	10 vs. 23	14 vs. 19
3 vs. Bye	7 vs. Bye	11 vs. 22	15 vs. 18
4 vs. Bye	8 vs. Bye	12 vs. 21	16 vs. 17

6.14.3 The seeding for a 16-team bracket shall be as follows:

1 vs. 16	3 vs. 14	5 vs. 12	7 vs. 10
2 vs. 15	4 vs. 13	6 vs. 11	8 vs. 9

## 6.15 **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

6.15.1 Championships shall mean a contest, match, game, event or tournament held to determine the best team or individual in a sport/competition.

6.15.2 **State Championship Contest Extension** - When an extenuating circumstance arises which may necessitate the postponement of a state championship contest, an extension may be granted if both schools' principal mutually agree and permission is granted by the Executive Director. This rule shall apply to those state championship events in which a single contest is involved and not tournament play. Extenuating circumstances may be, but are not limited to a death, graduation, state testing, a holiday, transportation and/or other situations. Both schools' principals and the Executive Director shall agree that the extension is in the best interest of the participants, school, and the sport.

6.15.3 **State Championship Souvenir Sales** - A school shall be prohibited from selling any shirts, caps, or other souvenir items connected with an LHSAA state championship event bearing the LHSAA's logo and/or the tournament name or logo without written permission from the Executive Director. A school found in violation of this rule shall be fined \$1,000.

6.16 **SPRING PRACTICE** - A school shall not conduct spring practice in any LHSAA sponsored sport with the exception of football. Refer to Section 14 for guidelines regarding spring practice in the sport of football.

- 6.17** **POSTSEASON BOWL GAMES** - A school shall not play in more than one postseason bowl game in the sport of football per season. Only schools failing to make the playoffs shall be bowl eligible. A bowl game conducted in Louisiana shall be sponsored by a member school and approved by the LHSAA. The sponsoring school's principal shall make a written request to the LHSAA for contest approval at least 14 days prior to the date of the contest. Approval application for such games shall constitute an agreement between the sponsoring and opposing schools indicating they shall comply with LHSAA rules and regulations. The sponsoring school shall pay the LHSAA ten percent (10%) of the gross ticket receipts before payment of officials within 30 calendar days of the event. In order for an LHSAA school to participate in an out-of-state bowl game, the school principal shall make a written request to the LHSAA for permission to play in the bowl game prior to the date of the contest.
- 6.18** **ALL-STAR CONTESTS**
- 6.18.1** Any All-Star events shall be sponsored by the LHSAA and LHSCA. This shall be sanctioned by the LHSAA and sponsored by the Louisiana High School Coaches' Association, with representation from all classifications as specified by the LHSCA constitution.
- 6.18.2** LHSAA member schools shall be prohibited from conducting an all-star game in an LHSAA sport without written approval by the Executive Director and/or the Executive Committee.
- 6.18.3** Without Executive Committee approval an athletic director, coach, principal, teacher, other official of a member school, or an athletic official registered with the LHSAA shall not assist either directly or indirectly, with the coaching, management, direction, player selection, promotion, or officiating of an all-star or similar contest in which one or more of the competing teams is composed of high school players or players who, during the preceding school year, were members of a high school team.
- 6.18.4** The LHSAA shall not sanction any all-star contests other than those played under the auspices of the LHSCA, unless the sponsoring organization agrees, in writing, to provide the association with a written, signed and notarized statement containing a "hold harmless" clause provided by the association's legal counsel indemnifying the LHSAA from any liability resulting from the contest. The sponsoring organization shall also agree, in writing, to pay the LHSAA \$500.00 before the LHSAA will sanction the event. The fee shall be paid in full 30 days prior to the event. The LHSAA shall not sanction any all-star event that conflicts with any LHSCA all-star event. Therefore, the event shall not be conducted during the same weekend of an LHSCA all-star event. The LHSAA shall not approve any all-star contests until the sponsoring organization provides the LHSAA with a written agreement to abide by the above rules.
- 6.19** **ATHLETIC SHOWCASES** - For the LHSAA to approve showcases in the sports of boys' and girls' basketball, baseball, football, girls' softball, or girls' volleyball, the requesting and sponsoring organization shall agree, in writing, to pay the Association a fee of \$1000.00 and provide the LHSAA with a signed and notarized "hold harmless" agreement from the Association's legal counsel, indemnifying the LHSAA from any liability resulting from the showcase. These requirements shall be met before the LHSAA will sanction the showcase. The LHSAA shall provide the requesting and sponsoring organization with a form to complete and return to the LHSAA for sanctioning purposes. The LHSAA shall not sanction any boys' or girls' soccer showcases.

**6.20 CONTRACTS**

- 6.20.1** Contracts shall be written, completed, and signed by the principals of both schools for all varsity football games. Contracts shall be exchanged by each school and kept on file in the school's office. If completed correctly and signed by the principals of both schools, the contract shall serve as a legal and binding agreement between the two schools for the game.
- 6.20.2** The following information shall be completed on all contracts for varsity football games:
1. Name of both schools
  2. Home team for each year
  3. Game site for each year
  4. Each game's date shall be specific not "corresponding date" on a contract. Exact playing date for each year (playing dates for football seasons are shown on the contract form)
  5. Financial arrangements for each year
  6. Signatures of both schools' principals
  7. Contracts should include information on the agreements reached about the officials to be used in game(s).
  8. Two-year contracts shall be made in classification years so that contracts shall expire in the same year.
  9. A one-year contract, however, shall be made for games played between classification years.
  10. If contracts conflict in scheduling district games, non-district games shall become null and void until the district schedule is prepared.
  11. Games may be played between Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A teams, but games played between schools in different classes shall have no bearing on the respective district championships.
- 6.20.3** Contract forms can be found on the LHSAA website.
- 6.20.4** Contracts should be completed and signed in a similar manner for all athletic contests between member schools in other sports. If contracts are completed and signed by both principals in other sports, they shall be recognized as legal and binding agreements between the schools. Copies of contract forms for other sports may be secured from the LHSAA.
- 6.20.5** District minutes listing the district schedule shall serve as a binding agreement between the schools involved when they are signed by a majority of the principals in the district.
- 6.20.6** Commitments to participate in a game/match, tournament or meet in all sports except football shall serve as a binding contract when confirmed with your online schedule, by both coaches beginning the first official contest date of that sport.
- 6.20.7** A contract between schools in all sports except football may be negated by written, mutual agreement between the head coaches, athletic directors or principal.
- 6.20.8** If a school's membership in the LHSAA is not renewed or lapses, the school's athletic contracts with other member schools in all sports become null and void and all games scheduled to be played under these contracts will not be counted in determining district and postseason play.

**6.20.9** If a member school fails to honor a contract that has been properly completed and signed by the schools' principals or a written agreement committing the school to the event that is signed by the schools' principals, it shall be subject to a "breach of contract" charge by the LHSAA. In breach of contract violations, the principal of the offending school shall be required to appear before the Executive Committee to defend his/her school's actions. For a breach of contract violation, the school shall be subject to being fined, suspended from the LHSAA in the sport in which the violation occurred, not to exceed one calendar year, suspended from the LHSAA in all sports not to exceed one calendar year, or penalized to a degree in keeping with the seriousness of the infraction. The school may be placed on administrative or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year; it may be charged with breach of contract and suspended from the association by the Executive Committee. After a suspension, a school shall be fined \$500 for re-admittance to the LHSAA. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.

## **6.21** **FORFEITURE OF CONTESTS**

**6.21.1** **Forfeiture of Contest at Site of Contest:** In order for a non-district contest to be forfeited by a school, the contest officials shall declare the contest a forfeit at the site, sign the official scorebook and send a written report to the LHSAA the same day. If the contest is forfeited by the visiting team, the visiting team shall be responsible for the officials' game pay and travel fee. If the contest is forfeited by the home team or the home team does not show up for the contest and the visiting team travels to the site, the home school shall pay the officials' game pay, travel fee, and the visiting team's expenses.

1. In the sports of baseball, basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball, regular season and "home and away" state playoff contests shall be forfeited to the offended team when a team, for any reason, arrives at the contest site more than 15 minutes late of the scheduled starting time. If a team appears within the 15-minute "grace" period, it shall have its players on the field/court ready to play within 15 minutes of their arrival. If two games are scheduled involving the same schools, this rule shall apply to the first game. If the second game has a scheduled time, the forfeiture shall also apply to that starting time. If the second contest has no scheduled start time, that contest shall be forfeited by the official to the offended team if a team fails to appear 30 minutes after the forfeiture time of the first contest.

2. At the state tournament, if a team notifies the LHSAA, the host organization, the tournament director or assistant director prior to contest time that it will be late for what the tournament director considers a valid reason, the tournament may be delayed up to 60 minutes from the scheduled contest time. If the team is not present by that time, the game shall be forfeited. Without prior notice, the 15-minute forfeiture in the above shall apply. If its game is not forfeited, a team shall be ready to play within 15 minutes after it arrives at the site.

**6.21.2** **Forfeiture of Contest Prior to Traveling to Site of Contest:** A school may elect to forfeit a scheduled game prior to arriving at the contest site if the LHSAA Official Contest Forfeiture Form (located on the Members Only website) is filled out in its entirety by the forfeiting school's principal, signed by both the principal and the head coach and submitted to the LHSAA and the opponent school's principal for acceptance as a forfeit. If accepted by the receiving school principal and the LHSAA Executive Director, or his/her designee, the form shall serve as official notice that the sending school is forfeiting the contest and acknowledges that the results of the contest will be posted on the school's record as a forfeit loss and the opponent's record shall reflect a forfeit win. Once the form is submitted, the results shall stand and the game cannot be played at a later date and if it is a district contest, the district shall honor the results as accepted by the LHSAA. A forfeit granted using this method shall count as a forfeit and any school which forfeits two (2) or more contest in a season shall be removed from district play and shall not be eligible for postseason play for two calendar years. The purpose of this method of forfeiting is designed to reduce the cost of travel and payment of officials when it is determined that a game shall be forfeited.

### 6.21.3 Effects of Forfeitures on Power Points

6.21.3.1 If a school forfeits two or more contests during the season, the following shall apply:

1. Results of all games played shall remain
2. Opponents remaining on the school's schedule shall have the choice to accept a forfeit or reschedule with another opponent with a written request to the LHSAA.

6.22 **REMOVAL OF A TEAM** - Any school whose coach or school official removes a team from the playing floor or field in protest of an official's decision or for any other reason prior to the completion of the contest shall be found in violation of the sportsmanship rule and penalized as outlined in Section 5 of the by-laws, "Penalty Code." If an emergency arises which makes it advisable to discontinue a contest, the applicable playing rules shall prevail.

6.23 **SHIRT AND SHOE POLICY** - Shirts and shoes are required attire for all indoor and outdoor LHSAA-sponsored athletic events.

### 6.24 **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

6.24.1 Artificial noisemakers, including, but not limited to, such items as bells, horns, drums, jam boxes, amplifiers, and/or megaphones, shall be prohibited in any indoor facility while an interscholastic contest is being played. Artificial noisemakers do not include items providing warm up music under the team(s) supervision or instruments used by an organized stage or pep band if approved by the host principal. Authorized pep bands shall not be permitted to play at any time and in any manner while the ball is "alive."

6.24.2 Laser beam light devices shall be prohibited at all LHSAA contests.

6.24.3 A coach, player, and/or bench personnel shall be prohibited from throwing/placing any foreign substances on the competitive surface and out-of-play areas (including locker rooms, hallways, press rooms, etc.) prior to, during, and/or after playing of any game. Substances to include but not limited to all liquids, powders, confetti, glitter, dirt, sand, grass, and streamers. Programs not adhering to the Prohibited Items Bylaw could be fined up to \$250.00 per incident.

6.25 **GAME BALL** - In all sports that require the use of a ball, all balls shall be legal by meeting the composition, size and weight requirements specified in the applicable playing rules of the sport; no other requirements shall apply.

### 6.26 **BROADCASTS**

6.26.1 During the regular season, the home team shall have the sole authority to allow a radio broadcast, a telecast or the transmission of a play-by-play account of a game over the internet.

6.26.2 During a state playoff game, both schools shall mutually agree before a play-by-play account of the game can be transmitted by a radio broadcast, a telecast or over the internet. This rule shall apply only to the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, football, and softball.

6.26.3 Only the LHSAA Executive Director shall negotiate and approve radio, television, and internet broadcasts for all state championships. Broadcast fees for all state championships shall be set by the Executive Director.

6.27 **CONTEST MANAGEMENT** - A school shall be prohibited from allowing unauthorized personnel on its sideline and/or its team bench area during any LHSAA contest at any level of play.

**6.28 FILMING/VIDEOTAPING**

**6.28.1** Member schools shall be prohibited from filming, videotaping, or duplicating in any manner, the athletic contests of other member schools without the express written consent of the principals or head coaches of the two schools involved. A violation shall result if a school representative videotapes or films a contest or solicits the services of a non-school representative to videotape or film a game for a school.

**6.28.2 The penalties for a school that is in violation of filming/videotaping an athletic contest(s):**

1. The school may be placed on administrative, disciplinary, or restrictive probation not to exceed one calendar year.
2. The school may be suspended from the association until the alleged violation can be addressed by the Executive Committee.
3. The school may be suspended not to exceed one calendar year in the sport in which the violation occurred.
4. The school shall be fined up to \$500 for each contest(s) that is videotaped.
5. The videotape shall be confiscated by the principal and immediately turned over to the LHSAA.
6. The offender may be reprimanded.
7. The offender may be placed on probation.
8. The coach shall be penalized under Rule 5.12.
9. Other penalties may be imposed on the school and/or individual(s) to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.