

SECTION 6: ATHLETIC CONTESTS

6.1 IN-STATE COMPETITION

- 6.1.1 LHSAA schools shall be allowed to compete against only the following schools in interscholastic athletic scrimmages, jamborees, invitational tournaments, and/or regular contests:
1. LHSAA member schools
 2. Schools that have officially applied for membership in the LHSAA
 3. Junior high schools (*schools that do not have a 12th grade*)
 4. Non-member Louisiana state recovery high schools operated under the jurisdiction of BESE.
- 6.1.2 All interscholastic contests played in Louisiana by member schools shall be conducted in accordance with LHSAA constitutional provisions, by-laws, and playing rules.

6.2 OUT-OF-STATE COMPETITION

- 6.2.1 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.
- 6.2.2 When an LHSAA school competes against a school 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.
- 6.2.3 When LHSAA schools compete against schools in other states, LHSAA schools shall comply with all LHSAA constitutional rules and by-laws, excluding the playing rules.

6.3 GENERAL COMPETITION

- 6.3.1 A member school shall be prohibited from participating in any interscholastic athletic event that is not sanctioned by the LHSAA.
- 6.3.2 Two or more member schools shall not unite to compete in an interscholastic athletic event.
- 6.3.3 LHSAA member schools shall not compete against the following teams:
1. High schools that do not meet the stipulations cited in 6.1.1 and 6.2.1.
 2. Independent teams
 3. Recreation teams
 4. Club teams
- Exception: In the sports of boys' and girls' indoor track and field, member schools shall be allowed to compete against individuals from club teams under the following restrictions. The meet shall be conducted without recording any team points and score and without awarding any team honors; all participants on the club team shall be high school age and shall meet the eligibility requirements of their respective state high school athletic association and of the high school that they attend; the uniform rules of the NFHS shall be strictly enforced.*
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
- 6.3.4 LHSAA schools shall not compete against high schools from foreign countries unless the event is approved by the Executive Committee.
- 6.3.5 Member schools shall not host or participate in an interscholastic athletic event at a facility that practices discrimination in the event.
- 6.3.6 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 and the results shall be final unless a school believes that an LHSAA rule has been violated, 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.

6.3.7 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.

6.3.8 FORFEITURE OF CONTESTS

1. *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.*
2. *If the contest is forfeited by the visiting team, the visiting team shall be responsible for the officials' game pay and travel fee.*
3. *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.*

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 co-sponsored 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. 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 LHSAA recognizes the following sports:*

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Boys</i> | <i>Girls</i> |
| <i>Baseball</i> | <i>Basketball</i> |
| <i>Basketball</i> | <i>Bowling</i> |
| <i>Bowling</i> | <i>Cross Country</i> |
| <i>Cross Country</i> | <i>Golf</i> |
| <i>Football</i> | <i>Gymnastics</i> |
| <i>Golf</i> | <i>Soccer</i> |
| <i>Gymnastics</i> | <i>Softball</i> |
| <i>Soccer</i> | <i>Swimming</i> |
| <i>Swimming</i> | <i>Tennis</i> |
| <i>Tennis</i> | <i>Track & Field, Indoor</i> |
| <i>Track & Field, Indoor</i> | <i>Track & Field, Outdoor</i> |
| <i>Track & Field, Outdoor</i> | <i>Volleyball</i> |
| <i>Wrestling</i> | <i>Powerlifting (Pilot Program)</i> |
| <i>Powerlifting (Pilot Program)</i> | |

6.5.2 *The Executive Committee shall have the authority to add or eliminate a sport.*

6.5.3 *The Executive Committee may consider adding a new sport to the list of recognized sports listed in Rule 6.5.1 at such time as 80 schools (20%) of the membership indicate an interest in LHSAA involvement in the sport.*

6.5.4 *Any new sport that meets the requirements of Rule 6.5.3 must successfully complete a two-year probationary period as a pilot program before final adoption as a recognized sport*

6.5.5 *The Executive Committee may consider dropping a sport from the list of recognized sports listed in Rule 6.5.1 at such time that the number of schools participating in the sport drops below 40 schools.*

6.5.6 *The Executive Committee shall have the authority to make an exception to Rules 6.5.3, 6.5.4, 6.5.5 as necessary for the satisfactory sponsorship of a sport.*

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6.6 REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDING A SPORT

- 6.6.1** The principal shall submit, in writing, on school stationary, 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.

6.7 REQUIREMENTS FOR DROPPING A SPORT

- 6.7.1** The principal shall submit, in writing, on school stationary, 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** If a school voluntarily forfeits two or more scheduled games in the sports of baseball, either boys' or girls' basketball, football, either boys' or girls' soccer, softball, or volleyball, it shall be considered as dropping the sport.
- 6.7.4** A school that voluntarily discontinues baseball, either boys' or girls' basketball, football, either boys' or girls' soccer, softball, or volleyball, shall not resume said sport at the varsity level for two calendar years from the date of discontinuance. The school may resume said sport at the junior varsity level and below no earlier than one calendar year from the date of discontinuance.

6.8 REMOVAL OF A TEAM

- 6.8.1** 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.

6.9 WEEKS DEFINED

- 6.9.1** A school week shall extend from Monday through Friday when school is in session.
- 6.9.2** A calendar week shall extend from Sunday through Saturday.
- 6.9.3** A weekend shall be Saturday and Sunday.
- 6.9.4** A contest shall not be played on Sunday without mutual agreement of competing schools. This rule may be waived by the Executive Committee if a state championship tournament or meet has been postponed and must be rescheduled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

6.10 SCRIMMAGES

- 6.10.1** An LHSAA team may engage in two pre-season interschool scrimmages in all sports except football.
- 6.10.2** Football schools may engage in one fall pre-season interschool scrimmage.
- 6.10.3** Once a school participates in a jamboree or regular-season contest, it shall not participate in an interschool scrimmage during that sports season.

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

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

6.11 JAMBOREES

6.11.1 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.

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

6.11.3 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.

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

| <u>SPORT</u> | <u>LENGTH OF COMPETITION</u> |
|--------------|--|
| 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 <i>(as detailed under the sport of wrestling)</i> |

6.11.5 All jamborees shall be sponsored by a member school.

6.11.6 Written applications to conduct a jamboree ***in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, football, boys' and girls' soccer, softball, and volleyball*** shall be made by the principal of the sponsoring school to the LHSAA at least 14 days prior to the date of the jamboree.

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

6.11.8 ***The member school that is sponsoring the jamboree in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, softball, and volleyball shall pay the LHSAA a \$50 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 school shall be fined \$250 for hosting a non-sanctioned jamboree. In the sport of football, the member school sponsoring the jamboree shall pay the LHSAA ten percent of gross ticket receipts after payment of officials' fees.***

6.11.9 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.

6.12 INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

6.12.1 An invitational tournament and a district tournament shall be classified as regular-season play.

6.12.2 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.

6.12.3 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.

6.12.4 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, **Softball**, and Volleyball)

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4. 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.*

6.12.5 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 and, if applicable, approved by the Executive Director.
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. Failure to timely request approval or failure to request approval for a tournament shall result in **the school being fined \$50.00**
8. 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.

6.12.6 Tournament Finances

1. From the revenue received from all invitational basketball tournaments the following payments shall be made to the LHSAA.
 - A. Five percent of the gross ticket receipts after the contest officials have been paid and before other expenses have been deducted, for tournaments that were granted regular approval by the LHSAA.
 - B. An additional 5 percent of the gross ticket receipts after the contest officials have been paid and before other expenses have been deducted for tournaments that were granted late approval by the LHSAA.
 - C. An additional 10 percent of the gross ticket receipts after the contest officials have been paid and before other expenses have been deducted for tournaments that were not approved by the LHSAA.
2. The sponsoring school's principal shall file a tournament financial report with the LHSAA within 30 days from the date of the tournament. The financial report can be found on the LHSAA website under the Forms and Downloads section.

6.13 STATE PLAYOFFS

6.13.1 A playoff contest shall be classified as state championship competition after district play has been completed and shall involve only those schools who have qualified for championship play as the result of their district performances.

1. Schools are prohibited from participating in a regular season contest in the sports of baseball, boys' and girls' basketball, football, boys' and girls' soccer, girls' softball, boys' and girls' indoor track and field, girls' volleyball, and wrestling after that last date of the regular season in the sport.
2. Once the state playoffs begin in any sport, a forfeited game shall not affect the next round of the playoffs 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 A school representative from the winning team is responsible for calling the LHSAA immediately after each playoff game to report the results so that the next playoff game can be arranged. Collect calls shall not be accepted. 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.

6.13.4 Postponement Of A Contest

1. When a playoff contest and/or regional state event 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 and/or event may be rescheduled on Sunday by mutual

agreement of all affected schools. When problems of this nature occur in post-season play, the contest and/or event shall be rescheduled on a day-to-day basis, depending on the playing conditions at that time.

2. When rescheduling of post-season events conflict with the next round of competition, the Executive Director shall have the authority to rule on the situation, and this ruling shall be subject to appeal as specified by the LHSAA constitution.
3. If two teams are involved, failure to adhere to this rule shall result in the two affected schools being removed from post-season competition.
4. If three or more teams are involved, failure to adhere to this rule may result in these affected schools' being removed from post-season 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.

6.13.5 State Championship Contest Extensions

1. 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.
2. 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..

6.13.6 When the "home" and "away" method is not used in determining state championships, the Executive Director and the Executive Committee shall be responsible for selecting and determining the sites for a state championship event.

6.14 POST SEASON BOWL GAMES

6.14.1 A school shall not play in more than one post-season bowl game in **the sport of football** per season.

6.14.2 ***Only schools failing to make the playoffs shall be bowl eligible.***

6.14.3 A bowl game conducted in Louisiana shall be sponsored by a member school and approved by the LHSAA.

6.14.4 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.

6.14.5 Approval application for such games shall constitute an agreement between the sponsoring and opposing schools indicating they shall comply with LHSAA rules and regulations.

6.14.6 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.

6.14.7 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.

6.15 ALL-STAR CONTESTS

6.15.1 The LHSAA and LHSCA shall sponsor only one all-star event per sport. This shall be sanctioned by the LHSAA and sponsored by the Louisiana High School Coaches' Association, with representation from all classifications being requested on the all-star team as specified by the LHSCA constitution.

6.15.2 LHSAA member school 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.

6.15.3 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.

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- 6.15.4** 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.
- 6.15.5** 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.
- 6.15.6** 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.
- 6.15.7** 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.
- 6.16** **ATHLETIC SHOWCASES**
- 6.16.1** For the LHSAA to approve showcases in the sports of boys’ and girls’ basketball, baseball, girls’ softball, boys’ and girls’ soccer 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.
- 6.17** **CONTRACTS**
- 6.17.1** Contracts shall be written, completed, and signed by the principals of both schools for all varsity football games.
- 6.17.2** 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. Exact playing date for each year
 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).
- 6.17.3** Contracts shall be exchanged by each school and kept on file in the school’s office.
- 6.17.4** Playing dates for football seasons are shown on the contract form.
- 6.17.5** The LHSAA shall mail contract forms to all schools playing football. Additional forms may be obtained from the LHSAA.
- 6.17.6** 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.
- 6.17.7** 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.
- 6.17.8** 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.
- 6.17.9** Contracts or written agreements to participate in an invitational tournament or meet shall serve as a binding agreement when signed by the principals of the schools that have committed to participate in the event.
- 6.17.10** A written agreement to participate in an athletic event shall not be binding if it is not signed by the school principals of the involved schools at the time it was consummated.
- 6.17.11** A contract between schools may be negated by written, mutual agreement signed by the involved schools’ principals.
- 6.17.12** 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 state championship honors.

6.17.13 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.

6.18 PROHIBITED ITEMS

6.18.1 Artificial noisemakers, including, but not limited to, such items as bells, horns, drums, jam boxes, amplifiers, and/or battery-operated megaphones, shall be prohibited in any athletic gymnasium 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."

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

6.18.3 A team shall be prohibited from depositing dirt, sand, grass, liquid, or any other foreign substance on the playing surface, to include the out-of-play area, prior to, during, and/or after the playing of any game except for field preparation and/or maintenance.

6.19 GAME BALL

6.19.1 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.

6.20 BROADCASTS

6.20.1 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.

6.20.2 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.

6.21 CONTEST MANAGEMENT

6.21.1 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.

6.22 FILMING/VIDEOTAPING

6.22.1 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. The penalty for violating this rule is specified in the by-laws Section 5.

6.22.2 The penalties for a school that illegally videotapes 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 illegal 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.

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6.23 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SOUVENIR SALES

6.23.1 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.

6.24 PLAYOFF BRACKETS

6.24.1 The seeding for the 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 |

6.24.2 The seeding for the 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 |

6.24.3 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 |