



The *Operations Manual* of the Christian Football Association provides the framework for sanctioned interscholastic athletic competition between participating CFA member schools. It is vitally important that the rules and procedures be respected and followed at all times. Your cooperation and support are appreciated.



J. Robin Mears, Commissioner

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CHRISTIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1.0 – NAME AND LOCATION

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Christian Football Association. Its principal place of business is 2534 Decatur Highway ♦ Gardendale ♦ AL ♦ 35071.

Telephone: (205) 631-3000 ♦ Second Line and Fax: (205) 631-3090

Web Site: www.alabamachristianathletics.com

Choose: CFA Football Link

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ARTICLE 2.0 – PURPOSE and MISSION

2.1 The purpose of the Christian Football Association is to provide a league where like-minded Christian schools can compete against each other in six-man and eight-man tackle football. The mission is to develop Christian character, promote school spirit, enhance Christian fellowship among member schools, and ultimately to glorify God. The mission of the Christian Football Association should always be the focus of member schools, coaches, players, faculty, staff, administrators, parents, and fans.

ARTICLE 3.0 - MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Every school which seeks membership in the Christian Football Association must be a Christian school that has consistently demonstrated a commitment to train its students in the ways of the Lord. Schools seeking membership in the Christian Football Association must be recommended by two current members and receive a majority vote of all members. New members must be in the league for one year before they can have voting privileges and play for a championship.

3.2 By signing the membership application, each administrator binds himself and the members of his faculty to familiarize themselves with these rules and standards as enumerated herein. Administrators, coaches, and athletic directors that are new to this Association must sign a statement verifying that they have read this manual. Also, they are obligated to instruct the student body in them, especially those who are candidates for interscholastic activities; to keep on file documents detailing scholastic achievement as well as medical, and attendance records of all students who participate in any sanctioned activity; to forward promptly to the Commissioner or his designee all eligibility lists, reports, and records required; and to enforce the rules and standards herein mentioned within his school.

3.3 Schools and administrators who wish to maintain membership in the Christian Football Association shall sign membership renewal applications each year and send their membership fee with the application to the Association office. Upon receipt of said information membership shall be reaffirmed.

3.4 Schedules are made on a two-year basis and schools must fulfill their obligation to the league both years. However, schedules can be changed to accommodate specific needs as approved by the commissioner when warranted (i.e. new schools added, dates not playable as originally scheduled, fields not available). However, schools not meeting their obligations are subject to penalties as adopted by the CFA.

ARTICLE 4.0 – GOVERNANCE

4.1 The Christian Football Association shall follow the rules as adopted by the National Federation of State High School Associations, unless otherwise determined by processes decided by the league.

4.2 League operation and policies will be addressed at a required meeting to be scheduled by the Commissioner or his designee in the spring of each year. Each school will have one vote if it has met all membership requirements. Schools owing money, under sanctions, or in its initial year of membership, will not be eligible to vote. Matters brought to a vote will carry with 50% of the vote plus one.

4.3 The Commissioner or his designee shall oversee league operation, call meetings as needed, work with member schools to set the annual agenda, appoint an executive committee to assist him, and represent the league as needed in his official capacity.

4.4 The Executive Committee shall consist of three persons other than the coach from three CFA schools. Two alternates meeting the same requirements will be appointed to serve in the event a dispute arises where one or two of the persons serving are from a school that is a party of a dispute that has been brought before the committee. The Executive Committee shall act as the final court of appeals on matters brought before it.

ARTICLE 5.0 – COMMISSIONERS ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

5.1 The Commissioner or his designee shall be responsible for fulfilling duties as enumerated herein:

- 1) To manage and direct the affairs of this Association.
- 2) To prepare an activities calendar for the school year on or before May 1 of each year.

- 3) To receive all funds of this Association; to disburse all funds within the budget fixed by the Executive Committee; to keep an accurate record of all funds received and disbursed; and to make such reports as may be required by the Executive Committee.
- 4) To issue memos, notes, or updates, as needed to keep member schools informed of matters pertaining to the league.
- 5) To prepare and issue to members necessary forms and other supplies.
- 6) To receive and check all reports from members.
- 7) To pass upon eligibility of all students whose activities fall within the scope of the authority of this Association.
- 8) To form a committee to investigate all alleged violations of the rules which come to his attention and assess penalties for violations.
- 9) To review all controversies between members and render decisions subject to approval of the Executive Committee in case of appeal.
- 10) To approve all schedules and to have general supervision over all games played under rules and regulations of this Association.

ARTICLE 6.0 - MEETINGS

6.1 The Christian Football Association shall meet a minimum of once a year to conduct business, and at other times as determined by the Commissioner or the Executive Committee. The agenda will be developed by the Commissioner in consultation with league members. The Commissioner shall notify all members at least ten (10) days in advance as to the exact time and place of the annual meeting. Other called meetings will be announced with as much advance notice as possible. Representation at the meetings shall be the administrator, athletic director, or their appointed representative. Each school shall have one vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. Association business cannot be conducted unless a quorum is present at any legally constituted meeting. A quorum shall consist of one-half of the members present. No action can be taken at called meetings except on items designated either by the Commissioner or the Executive Committee.

6.2 The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary to consider undue hardship appeals and other business as may be necessary. The Commissioner may call meetings as needed.

ARTICLE 7.0 - DUES

7.1 The cost of annual dues shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Annual dues for continuing membership are due by the spring meeting date each year. Membership dues shall not be less than \$300 and shall not exceed \$500 unless this constitution is amended.

7.2 Any member administrator who fails to pay his annual dues within two weeks following the annual meeting shall be dropped from membership until the dues are paid and the

published late fee paid. Renewal of membership shall not be without additional penalty if the school of which he is the administrator has violated any of the provisions of these by-laws during the lapse of his membership. For purpose of this Association, the membership of the administrator and the school are synonymous.

ARTICLE 8.0 - AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ADMINISTRATOR

8.1 The term administrator as used in these by-laws refers to the chief executive officer of the school, the one who signs the membership renewal application, regardless of the title. He is held responsible by this Association for the enforcement of its rules and regulations in his school.

8.2 All funds received from the sale of tickets to any regular season athletic event shall go to the host school.

8.3 Disbursements of funds derived from hosting Association sponsored championship events shall be the responsibility of the Commissioner or his designee. Trophies, awards, and game officials constitute legitimate expense. Funds that remain after all expenses shall be placed in the CFA account. Host schools will keep monies derived from the sale of tournament paraphernalia (shirts, programs, etc.) and concession. The host school shall be responsible for submitting the Financial Summary Form and proceeds to the CFA office within 7 business days of the event. Extensions may be granted by the Commissioner if requested by the school.

8.4 The administrator shall sign all contracts for interscholastic athletic competition and shall be responsible for compliance with contracts signed by him or his predecessor.

8.5 The administrator shall sign all eligibility lists and correspondence concerning eligibility and be responsible for their accuracy, regardless of who compiles the information.

NOTE: The assistant administrator may sign eligibility lists or correspondence if the administrator is ill or out of town, provided that a statement to that effect appears on the eligibility list or correspondence.

8.6 The administrator shall keep on file all records required to be kept by members of this Association.

8.7 Any administrator, pastor, or school official who is guilty of gross unsportsman like conduct or who fails to control the conduct of his student body, faculty and/or followers within reasonable bounds shall be subject to a penalty not to exceed suspension from membership in this Association. However, it shall be the goal of CFA, the Commissioner, and the Executive Committee to pursue strategies that solve and prevent problems.

NOTE: Removing a team from a contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating or other game management issues will be considered as gross unsportsman like conduct. However, the host school will be held accountable if league policy is not followed.

8.8 All phases of interscholastic competition shall be under the administrator's careful supervision.

8.9 Recruiting of student athletes shall be considered a violation of the spirit and philosophy of the rules and regulations of this Association. Each member administrator shall be held accountable for recruiting infractions by any member of his faculty or athletic support group. This does not hinder any athlete from having financial assistance which is a normal policy of the school and offered in like manner to all other needy or qualifying students. Any school offering financial assistance shall be required to complete a reporting form for each sport played. This provision is not applicable to students attending school on a scholarship paid by a legally operated Scholarship Granting Organization as defined by the Alabama Accountability Act.

ARTICLE 9.0 - ORGANIZATION OF SCHOOLS

9.1 A high school may be a four-year high school, a three-year senior high school or a six-year junior-senior high school. A junior high school may be a two-year junior high school (seventh and eighth grades), a three-year junior high school (seventh, eighth, and ninth grades), but not a junior high extending through the tenth grade.

ARTICLE 10.0 - CONTRACTS

10.1 Contracts are recommended for all interscholastic athletic contests between schools whose administrators are members of this Association. CFA regularly scheduled league games are considered to be binding on each school. Contracts shall be executed by competing CFA schools to specify game times, playing dates, or other details. Mutual consent of both parties is required to validate or cancel a contract. Failure to play a duly scheduled league game will result in forfeiture and a \$500 fine plus other documented expenses to be paid to the effected school. The forfeiting school will not be eligible for any post-season play or any other CFA sanctioned competitions until the fine is paid. An appeal can be brought to the Commissioner and Executive Committee within three days following the scheduled game. The decision of the Executive Director and Executive Committee is final. (Schools choosing not to use contracts may limit the appeals process by not having documentation available to settle disputes).

10.2 Contracts between member administrators of schools shall be subject to cancellation whenever either party to the contract shall propose to use, or shall propose to allow to be

used, as a member of his competing team any student whose eligibility has not been approved by the Commissioner or the Executive Committee.

10.3 When a member school is suspended from athletic play all contracts which he has signed shall be null and void. However, other schools who are parties to contracts with him may hold the dates for games contracted open and renew the contracts when the suspended school has been re-instated. No game played with a suspended school shall count in a school's win-loss record and may result in sanctions against the member school.

10.4 No contract may be entered into by member schools which purport to bind them for interscholastic competition longer than two years from the date on which the contract is signed.

10.5 Details of contracts must be specific. Definite dates, sites, financial arrangements, arrangements regarding the selection of officials and other items of interest to both parties should be specified. Indefinite terms, such as "corresponding dates" are not binding on either party.

ARTICLE 11.0 - OFFICIALS

11.1 Officials used in games sanctioned by the Christian Football Association must be members of a bona-fide officials' organization and may not have any personal connections with either team. No parent, near relative, or near friends may be engaged by the home team as officials. Schools must make every effort to ensure that officials are neutral. The names of officials and their association must be submitted to the Commissioner or his designee for a permanent record at the beginning of each season. (Failure to send this information will limit the appeals process should a problem occur).

11.2 The arranging for approved officials for each contest is the responsibility of the home team. A minimum of three officials must be requested by the home team for regular season games. Post season home teams must request five, but no less than four will be required. Schools unable to have access to the right number of officials for either regular season or post season games may be required to either move their games or use another officiating group. Schools showing good faith to solve officiating problems will be given the benefit of the doubt when problems occur.

11.3 The arranging of officials for Association sponsored championships and all-star contests shall be the responsibility of the Commissioner or his designee in consultation with the Executive Committee and schools hosting such events. Participating schools will be assessed a fee to cover the costs in the event that gate receipts do not cover costs incurred.

ARTICLE 12.0 – TEAM ELIGIBILITY LISTS AND REPORTS

12.1 It shall be the duty of each member administrator to file annually with the Commissioner or his designee information concerning the status of each prospective athlete. The information shall be furnished on a form prepared by this Association. Each list shall contain all information required, including the legal names of the students written exactly as they appear on their birth certificates.

12.2 All requirements as to forms and eligibility apply to all athletes.

12.3 No student is eligible, regardless of his eligibility in other respects, until his name, transcript and a copy of his birth certificate has been submitted and approved by the CFA office.

12.4 Eligibility is by semester. When a student has been reported for a semester and declared eligible, he may participate in any games during that semester.

12.5 Additions to the original eligibility list submitted to the Commissioner or his designee must be approved before eligibility is declared. Failure to comply with this requirement shall subject a member to a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fine for each instance and may result in forfeiture of games in which the name appeared on the eligibility list before eligibility is declared. Chronic failure shall result in more stringent penalties not to exceed suspension of the school and administrator from the Association.

ARTICLE 13.0 - ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES

13.1 A bona-fide student is one who is regularly enrolled, taking a minimum class load that includes the core four subjects (Mathematics, Social Studies, English, and Science) plus Bible, and is in regular attendance - who meets, in addition, the requirements as set forth in other sections of this article. To represent a school in any branch of athletics or academic activities, a student must be a bona-fide student at that school.

13.2 All students that participate for member schools must be an undergraduate.

13.3 Students enrolled in the home school division of any member CFA school are not eligible for CFA sanctioned competition.

13.4 Any student who becomes nineteen years of age on or before August 1 shall be ineligible for further participation. For junior high school age limit, substitute 16 for 19 years of age.

13.5 The first time a student's name is submitted to the Commissioner for eligibility, it shall be accompanied by a copy of his birth certificate, issued by an authorized agency, which shall

not be based upon a recent delayed registration, and a copy of his/her official transcript for all work done from grade six to the present. A copy of the students' birth certificate will be kept on file in the CFA office. Copies of transcripts for work done from grade six to present must be submitted the first time a student is listed on a Team Eligibility List. Each semester following, updated grades must be submitted for each student participating in CFA sanctioned play.

13.6 When no birth certificate is available, as evidenced by a statement from the authorities of the state in which he/she was born that there is no record of the date of his/her birth on file, age shall be established by:

- 1) Attending physician's affidavit properly notarized.
- 2) Submission to the Commissioner of original school records, which records shall be of long standing and accompanied by such affidavits as may be required.
- 3) Other old records sufficient for the purpose of establishing date of birth.
- 4) And, if applicable a valid driver's license.

NOTE: The school is totally responsible for the accuracy of all information submitted to the CFA office, including such information to affirm an athlete's age or status.

13.7 The Commissioner may extend the time for filing complete information for establishing date of birth, when in his judgment such extension is justified; and provided, the administrator submitting the information shall be held strictly accountable for the accuracy of the date of birth given as it may affect his eligibility because of age.

13.8 The limit of opportunity for eligibility for each student shall be six consecutive years from the time he/she enters the seventh grade. Four years from the date he/she enters ninth grade he/she shall become ineligible for further interscholastic competition of any sort. A student shall be considered a ninth grader when three of his unit subjects are on the ninth-grade level, provided that he shall be considered as having entered the ninth grade only if he attended twenty days during the school year.

13.9 A student must pass four full unit subjects per semester. Subjects passed must include three of the core-four subjects (Mathematics, Social Studies, English, and Science). Of the four full unit subjects three must have been passed with the class on first impulse and requirements for credit in the fourth shall have been met before the opening of the current school year. A student who failed to meet the above requirement shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition for the first semester. All students participating in CFA activities must be enrolled in a Bible course offered as a regular part of the school's curriculum. If full credit is given for Bible, then it may satisfy the unit requirement mentioned above. The requirements for the fourth full unit must be met under one of the following conditions: 1) attendance in a regularly organized summer school under the direction of or approved by the students' school; or 2) through the extension division of a university; 3) through a program of instruction approved by the Commissioner.

NOTE: A unit subject, as the term is used in eligibility requirements consists of a subject for which a full unit's credit toward graduation is regularly given by the school for 180 days of successful work, or a half unit's credit for 90 days, whether consecutive or not, of successful schoolwork.

NOTE: The term "first impulse", as used in eligibility requirements, means completion of the work required for credit before the last day of school, without any extension of time. Exceptions to this rule are for courses like agriculture which have projects which cannot be completed until late summer. Such projects must be completed before the first day of the following school year. Other exceptions, such as family or personal illness, or problems that impact the student's academic performance during the previous semester that he no control over may be considered a hardship can be brought to the Commissioner for a decision toward helping the student regain academic eligibility.

NOTE: Students earning non-traditional credits may meet academic requirements for athletic participation if the credit earned is comparable to the Carnegie unit. Credits earned via video, satellite link, on-line, or through programs of individualized instruction or other alternative systems of instruction must meet comparable time and content requirements. A Carnegie unit consists of 140 hours of classroom instruction. Content of the subject must be that which is ordinarily considered as sufficient to meet high school graduation requirements.

13.10 A student who was ineligible because of his previous second semester record at the beginning of the school year may not become eligible until the end of the first semester of school. His eligibility for the first grading period of the second semester shall depend upon the student passing four full unit subjects from the first semester (Three of the subjects passed must be a part of the core-four requirement). That is, he must have earned $\frac{1}{2}$ credit in four subjects and be taking Bible to regain athletic eligibility for the second semester of the school year.

13.11 A student who was eligible at the beginning of the school year because of his second semester record shall be eligible during the first marking period except for lack of attendance, improper conduct, or other valid reasons which may cause his administrator to declare him ineligible before the end of the grading period. To be eligible during any subsequent grading period, he must have a passing grade in each of four full unit subjects (three of the subjects must be a part of the core-four requirement) for the grading period just closed. Removing a player from the team for academic purposes must be a last resort. The school working with the family and student should look for other methods of punishment before removing a player from his team.

13.12 It shall be the duty of the administrator to have each athletic participant's record checked at the end of each grading period and declare him eligible or ineligible for the following grading period upon the basis of the record as originally reported by the student's teachers.

13.13 A student participant must maintain a conduct record satisfactory to his/her administrator and in accordance with the standards of the Christian Football Association at all times. An athlete must realize that representing his school and competing in the CFA is a right and not a privilege. The CFA expects member schools to hold its athletes to a high standard of conduct.

NOTE: A student who is ineligible at the time of transfer, because of disciplinary problems or an unsatisfactory conduct record shall not be considered for eligibility at the school to which he transfers until he has been in that school one full marking period not to exceed six weeks. A student who has been convicted or adjudged guilty of a crime by a Juvenile Court, or the judge of any other Court, shall be declared ineligible for the duration of his sentence or the period of his probation.

13.14 A student who was not in attendance during any part of the last four weeks of the previous school year, or who was in attendance during part or all of the last four weeks but failed to pass three full unit subjects with his class, on first impulse, may not make up the deficiency (for eligibility purposes) under any circumstances. He is ineligible for the first semester of the current school year, regardless of the cause of his absence, or failure to pass the required three units.

13.15 No student who is fifteen years of age, and entering the seventh grade for the first time, may represent his school in junior high sports.

13.16 A student must reside with his parents, or with the same one parent or other designated guardian with whom he has continuously resided for a full calendar year in his school community. However, circumstances may exist that would allow the Commissioner to waive this requirement. Divorce, separation, or death of one or more parents or other reasons ruled to not be for the purpose of gaining an athletic advantage would be acceptable reasons. However, this residence requirement is in effect until an appropriate appeal is filed and decision rendered by the Commissioner.

13.17 The fact that guardianship papers have been issued, placing a student under the control of a person or persons other than his parents, does not establish eligibility. Residence with and support by any individual or individuals for a period of one calendar year does establish the residence of the individual or individuals as the residence of the student. However, this stipulation can be waived under the same circumstances as stated in Article 13.16.

13.18 A student who moves into a school community with his parents, or with the same one parent or individual with whom he has been living continuously for one year, shall be eligible the following week so far as residence is concerned.

13.19 Exception to the Residence Rule: A SENIOR may continue to represent the school which he attended a full year as a junior under the following conditions:

- 1) His parents move their residence during the senior year.
- 2) His parents move their residence during the summer preceding his senior year, provided they were residents of the school community at the end of the previous year, and he was living with them.
- 3) He is receiving no compensation to play for his school, such as free room and board, etc.

13.20 A transfer student may represent the school to which he transfers six school days following the date of his entry into that school, provided his transfer has been recorded by the Commissioner and the administrator so informed.

13.21 A student who transfers his attendance from one school to another school who has been reported to this Association on a team eligibility list during the current or previous school year shall be ineligible to represent the new school he is attending until he has been in attendance a full year. This rule shall not apply if the change of attendance from one school to another is accompanied by corresponding change in residence as stated in Article 13.16 and 13.17. However, it must be determined that a bona-fide change of residence occurred without intent of gaining athletic privileges. Families may not maintain the previous residence as a means of utilizing a loophole.

13.22 A student who changes residence from the home of one parent to that of another parent but within the same community shall be eligible to continue to represent the school which he previously represented but shall not be eligible to represent a different school because of the change of residence.

13.23 A student, eligible at the beginning of the school year, who is ineligible at the time of transfer according to the records of the school from which he transfers shall be ineligible in the school to which he transfers until he has been in that school a full nine week grading period. He must not be allowed to participate in interscholastic athletic competition until the record has been filed and approved by the Commissioner and the administrator so informed.

13.24 Junior High Eligibility: A seventh grade student in an independent junior high school, or in the junior high of an 8-4, 3-3, or six-year high school, is eligible under the following conditions.

- 1) He must be regularly promoted from the sixth grade.
- 2) He must be in regular attendance.
- 3) He must be carrying a normal class load and doing satisfactory classroom work, with a satisfactory conduct record as determined by the faculty of the school, and the standards of the CFA.
- 4) He may participate as a seventh-grade student one year only.

13.25 An eighth-grade student shall be eligible under the following conditions:

- 1) He must be regularly promoted from the seventh grade.
- 2) He must be in regular attendance.
- 3) He must be carrying a normal class load and doing satisfactory classroom work with a satisfactory conduct record as determined by the faculty of the school, and the standards of the CFA.
- 4) He may participate as an eighth-grade student one year only.

13.26 A ninth grade student shall be eligible under the following conditions:

- 1) He must be regularly promoted from the eighth grade.
- 2) He must be in regular attendance.
- 3) He must be carrying a normal class load and doing satisfactory classroom work, with a satisfactory conduct record as determined by the faculty of the school, and the standards of the CFA.
- 4) He may participate as a ninth-grade student one year only.

13.27 Participation or non-participation in the seventh grade or eighth grade shall not affect a student's eligibility after entering the ninth grade.

NOTE: Junior high school teams will not be allowed to compete in senior high school events.

13.28 Any student who fails his work and must repeat the seventh or eighth grade may be eligible during the second semester of the second year he is in one of these grades, if he passes the required work during the first semester of the second year. However, his six years of athletic eligibility begins when he would have been regularly promoted to the seventh grade for the first time.

13.29 Any student who becomes sixteen years of age on or before August 1, shall be ineligible for further participation in junior high school.

NOTE: A student that has academically advanced beyond the grade that he would otherwise be in can for athletic purposes compete in his/her chronological grade. For instance, a student that would ordinarily be in the ninth grade but has completed or is working to complete tenth grade subjects can compete as a ninth grader. The administrator must bear the responsibility of reporting athletic eligibility to reflect the athlete's playing status. If a student is working in tenth grade subjects and is reported for athletic purposes as a tenth grader, then he can only play as a tenth grader.

Once a student has graduated, completed subjects for graduation, or ceased to be a full-time student – taking a minimum of four credits – he/she has no more athletic eligibility.

13.30 Parental Consent: Each player shall have a statement of parental consent on file in the school office each year before participation in any interscholastic athletic event.

13.31 Health and Physical Form: Each player must secure each school year and file in the school office a health and physical form prior to the beginning of practice to the effect that he is physically fit for interscholastic athletic competition.

NOTE: While only one certificate is required each school year, additional examinations should be required by the administrator and/or coach for their own protection, as well as that of the student, immediately upon detection of the slightest indication of undue fatigue or other ill effects during competition.

13.32 Ineligible Participant: A student who participates in interscholastic athletic competition after being ruled ineligible to participate shall be subject to the following penalty: 1) if he is a senior, he shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year; 2) if he is not a senior he shall be ineligible for the remainder of that sport's season and its corresponding season for the following school year.

13.33 Amateur Status: A student may not participate in any athletic activity of this Association unless he is an amateur. A student who has accepted remuneration, gift, or donation for participation in a sport or participates under an assumed name becomes a professional and is thereafter disqualified for further participation in any sport in high school for a period of one year. Reference to "gift or donation" is not intended to preclude the acceptance of medals, trophies, pins, or ribbons of small intrinsic value, if presented by the sponsoring organization. Sweaters or jackets may be accepted by students provided they are presented by the school which they represent.

13.34 Willful Violations: A school that knowingly and willfully violates the eligibility provisions of these by-laws shall be subject to sanctions deemed appropriate by the CFA Executive Committee, not to exceed permanent loss of athletic privileges.

13.35 The CFA reserves the right to restrict, suspend, or bar athletes from competing if a pattern of unsportsmanlike conduct is evident, or if an athlete is responsible for an incident that is a threat to the integrity of the game.

13.36 Ineligible Student at Game: An ineligible student shall not be allowed on the player's bench, or on the field of play, in athletic uniform during an athletic contest.

13.37 Any school which is determined to have played an ineligible player as set forth in these rules shall:

- 1) Forfeit all conference and non-conference games played against CFA member teams in which the ineligible student played.
- 2) Return any awards received in the event the violation is discovered after

tournament play is concluded, so long as such violation(s) is/are reported prior to conclusion of that sport in the next year.

13.38 A school that has a subsequent eligibility violation within a two-year period will be fined \$100 for each instance plus the sanctions of Article 13.37.

ARTICLE 14.0 - SPORTSMANSHIP

14.1 It is the responsibility of the administrator of each CFA member school to promote sportsmanship using the guidelines adopted and published by the National Federation of State High School Associations. At least one hour of instruction is required to parents of athletes, students, faculty, and other persons as determined by the administration of the school.

14.2 The CFA considers it unethical for coaches, players, parents of athletes, and school officials to publicly criticize another school, officials, players, fans, coaches, and other persons association with any member school through news interviews, social media, parent gatherings, or any other public means. Administrators, coaches, and school leaders are expected to adhere to the highest level of ethical standards.

14.3 It is the responsibility of all CFA coaches and administrators to follow all league adopted policies as published on the CFA website as linked from the Alabama Christian Athletic website at www.alabamachristianathletics.com.

Coaches ~ Code of Ethics

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and the student's welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors and the ACAA.

- **Coaches** shall be aware that they have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.
- **Coaches** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the ACEA/ACAA, the media, and the public, coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.
- **Coaches** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse.
- **Coaches** shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products.
- **Coaches** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.
- **Coaches** shall master the contest rules and shall teach them the rules to their team members. Coaches shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.
- **Coaches** shall exert their influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.
- **Coaches** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.
- **Coaches** should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.
- **Coaches** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student special consideration.
- **Coaches** shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/state association.

CFA Rules of Conduct for Athletic Events

- Each school shall respect the posted and stated rules of his opponent when visiting.
- The rules governing each event shall always be followed and respected. With little exception, the rules published by the *National Federation of State High School Associations* shall be followed.
- CFA regulations regarding game officials shall be followed to ensure compliance with Federation and CFA rules. This includes the clock operator.
- Coaches must comply with the "Code of Ethics" as adopted by the *National Federation of State High School Associations*.
- Administrators, faculty, staff, parents, or other fans must take great care not to indulge in conduct that can conceivably incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical and cannot be tolerated by CFA.

Unchristian, adverse, untruthful, or inappropriate remarks made through standard media sources including social media by any person(s) representing an CFA member school that is known by any member school must be reported to the CFA office. It shall be the responsibility of the school administrator of the offending school to address and correct the problem to the satisfaction of the CFA Commissioner.

Such problems will be solved between member schools in conjunction with the CFA office and the Athletic Committee.

Note: This statement will be posted in gyms and as appropriate in other areas where athletic competition occurs.

Game Management Procedures

- An administrative person or his designee, other than the coach, should attend every athletic event to assure appropriate Game Management. The designee will have complete responsibility and authority to deal with any problem that may arise.
- Each school should have a stated and posted "Rules of Conduct." A copy should be sent to the CFA office and to each member opponent at least seven days prior to the opening of each athletic season.
- The Administration of each school should send a letter to the parents that state their rules and expectations for fans. The CFA "Rules of Conduct for Athletic Events" should be sent as well.
- If a parent or a fan has a complaint, it should be made to the administrator of his/her child's school, not to the administration of the other team.
- Guest should graciously and willingly comply with the expectations of their host. The administration of each school should emphasize this.
- Every school should fill out CFA-furnished game reports for at least 2 games during the season.
- The CFA "Rules of Conduct for Athletic Events" will be followed at all times.

Recruitment and Scholarshipping of Athletes Explained and Defined

Recruiting

Initiating contact with or seeking to influence a student's enrollment for the purpose of improving your school's athletic program or to advance a student primarily for athletic purposes is prohibited. Athletic recruiting is not allowed by any school/church employee, volunteer, parent, or any other person associated with or representing your school.

School administration and athletic departments are responsible to carefully monitor the enrollment of new students to ensure that no student enrolls in any CFA school as an athletic "recruit."

School administration and athletic departments are responsible to educate their people regarding the unethical practice of athletic recruitment in high school amateur sports.

Penalty – minimum – player ineligible; maximum – player ineligible and school forfeits games where ineligible players participated.

Scholarships

Any incentive offered to any student athlete, monetary or otherwise, that is based on participation or performance in any athletic program is clear violation of the CFA athletic policy. This includes, but is not limited to, cash or monetary payments, reduced or free tuition, stipends for travel or performance, or other enticements to enroll in school, participate in school's athletic program, or perform at a certain performance level in an athletic contest.

In cases where schools provide some form of tuition assistance, all students should be considered on an equal basis. No preference shall be given to athletes or athletic students. Schools will be asked to apprise the CFA of its policy and adherence to said policy.

No parent, alumni, church member, or any party with an interest in a member school may provide any tuition assistance, monetary gifts, or incentives for athletes. The school should monitor who is paying for a student's tuition and fees.

School administration is responsible to educate their people regarding the unethical practice of providing athletic scholarships to amateur athletes participating in sanctioned play.

Penalty – minimum – player ineligible and school forfeit any games where ineligible players participate; maximum – same as minimum with school potentially being sanctioned. These provisions are not applicable to students attending school on a scholarship paid by a legally operated Scholarship Granting Organization as defined by the Alabama Accountability Act.

Adopted June 2004

The Case for Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity in High School Athletics

“Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities that are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all athletic disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in athletics, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.”

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### **Who Is Responsible?**

Ten target groups have been identified within the high school communities that are responsible for conducting themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Following are expectations of these groups:

#### **Expectations of COACHES, DIRECTORS, AND SPONSORS**

- Always set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship and ethics No. 1 priority.
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the event, and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Treat opposing coaches, directors, participants, and fans with respect. Shake hands with officials, opposing coach in public.
- Develop and enforce penalties for participants who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

#### **Expectations of STUDENT PARTICIPANTS**

- Treat teammates with respect.
- Treat opponents with respect: shake hands prior to and after contests.
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the contest, and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Cooperate with officials, coaches, directors, and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing school and community; always display positive public action.
- Live up to a high standard of sportsmanship established by coach or director.

**Expectations of PARENTS, STUDENTS AND OTHER FANS**

- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school athletics, not a license to verbally assault others or to be generally obnoxious.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- Respect fans, coaches, directors, and participants
- BE A FAN ... NOT A FANATIC

**Expectations of SPIRIT GROUPS**

- Stimulate desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs, and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents.
- Treat opposing spirit groups and fans with respect.
- Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing field or court.
- Know rules and strategies of the contest to cheer at proper times.
- Maintain enthusiasm and composure, serving as a role model.

**Expectations of MEDIA**

- Promote ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship.
- Report acts of sportsmanlike behavior without giving undue publicity to unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Refrain from making negative comments toward participants, coaches, officials, or judges.
- Recognize efforts of all who participate in the contest.
- Report facts without demonstrating partiality to any team or school.

**Expectations of CONTEST OFFICIALS**

- Accept role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over-officiating are not acceptable.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling contest from start to finish.
- Know rules thoroughly and abide by established Code of Ethics.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before a contest.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.

**Expectations of SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS**

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school, the league, conference, and state.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Support participants, coaches and directors, and fans and spectators who teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible.

### **Expectations of STATE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE**

- Provide leadership and information to member schools.
- Act as a liaison to other educational associations within the state.
- Use statewide visibility to actively promote good sportsmanship.
- Interact with leaders of non-school activity programs to enhance good sportsmanship.
- Acknowledge commendable displays of good sportsmanship.

### **Expectations of BOARDS**

- Adopt policies that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity.
- Serve as a positive role model and expect the same for parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel.
- Support participants, coaches, directors, school administrators and fans who display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize the value of school athletics as a vital part of education.
- Attend and enjoy school athletic events.

### **Expectations of PUBLIC-ADDRESS ANNOUNCERS**

- Treat visiting and home teams comparably.
- Consistently display neutrality during contest.
- Offer no personal comments or criticism of players, officials, or coaches.

### **Suggestions for TICKET WINDOW-ADMISSION GATE DISPLAY**

- In the game or in the stands, BE A GOOD SPORT.
- At today's contest, BE A FAN, NOT A FANATIC.
- Be a good audience member.

### **ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Players shaking hands with opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in positive school yells in positive manner.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches, players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.
- During the National Anthem, students, participants, and fans should remove any hats, face the flag, not talk, place right hand on the heart, and remain still until the end of the anthem.
- During the National Anthem, when singing, follow the music and lyrics precisely.

- **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR**

- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming losses on contest officials, coaches, or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game or activity.
- Doing own yells instead of following lead of cheerleaders.

**WAYS TO PROMOTE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

- Develop code of conduct and enforce it.
- Develop sportsmanship awards program and honor those individuals who exhibit outstanding sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity.
- Hold preseason meeting and assemblies before contest to encourage students to exhibit proper conduct.
- Work with local radio and television stations to air public-service announcements on sportsmanship.
- Display message on good sportsmanship throughout school hallways and in gymnasium or on playing field.
- Have coaches, players and administrators speak to local clubs and organizations to stress need for good sportsmanship in the community.
- Conduct clinics for parents and others to discuss playing and contest rules, ethics, and good sportsmanship.
- Formulate a committee to work toward improvement of conduct at contest.