AAC Handbook

The rules and regulations of inter-school competition for the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools

2016-17 School Year
Version 2.0

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Section I - Foreword To AAC Handbook

The Academy Athletic Conference was formed in 1969 with fourteen charter members. It sponsored athletic competition in football, basketball, and baseball. By November 1970, there were approximately sixty member schools. At a meeting on November 21, 1970, the Executive Committee of the Academy Athletic Conference was formed to conduct the business of the conference. Member schools felt that a small representative body of people could conduct the business more efficiently than the entire membership.

The Academy Athletic Conference merged with the Mississippi Private School Association during the summer of 1971. In August of 1971, the name of the governing body for athletic activities was changed from the Executive Committee to the Academy Activities Commission. The purpose of this change was to avoid confusion with the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Private School Association, and to indicate that all activities would come under the jurisdiction of this body.

In the summer of 2009, the name of the association was changed to the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools.

Section II - Academy Activities Commission

A. Election of Members

Each district shall elect a representative to the Academy Activities Commission, prior to the July AAC meeting, to serve a two-year term. A member may be elected for one (1) additional term for a total of four (4) years. A member must be off the AAC for two (2) years before he/she can be re-elected. Newly elected members will take office at the July AAC meeting. A representative elected to the AAC shall be the head of school from that athletic district.

The representative elected in each district will serve as chairman of that district during his/her term of office. It shall be his/her duty to call and conduct all district meetings, to chair and preside at these meetings, and see that accurate records of all decisions are recorded. These recorded decisions shall be duplicated and sent to all district members as official minutes, with a copy of said minutes also being emailed to the MAIS Office. (ltriplett@msais.org / amanda@msais.org / ddrake@msais.org)

If re-alignment or other factors cause a current member to move out of his/her present district, this position will be considered vacant and that member will cease to be a member of the Academy Activities Commission unless he/she is elected back to the Academy Activities Commission by the new district into which he/she moves.

Academy Activities Commission members are required to attend all regular meetings. When an AAC member misses two (2) consecutive meetings, this can be grounds for expulsion by the AAC. Should expulsion occur, the district represented will be empowered to elect a new representative to take his/her place.

B. Election of Officers

At the July meeting each year, the Academy Activities Commission shall elect from its membership a president, and a vice-president. This shall be done by nomination, and by secret ballot. Neither the president, nor the vice-president, may succeed himself (or herself) in that office.

The secret ballot election shall be held using the following guidelines:

1. A ballot listing all AAC members shall be given to each member. Note: Members will be allowed to remove their names from consideration before the first vote is taken.
2. After the first ballot, should any member receive more than 50% of the votes, said member will be declared the winner.
3. After the first ballot, if no member receives a majority of the votes, the top two (2) finishers will be placed on a ballot, and voted on again. In the case that:
   a) there is a tie for first, all of the names of the individuals involved in the tie shall be placed on the ballot.
   b) one individual receives more votes than the rest of the members, and there is a tie for second, all of the names of the individuals tied for second will be placed on the ballot with the individual receiving the top number of votes.
4. After the president is elected, the same guidelines will be used to elect the Vice-President. Once these two (2) officers are elected, control of the meeting shall be handed over to the President.

   The President shall:
   a) Preside at all regular and special called meetings of the AAC.
   b) Make appointments of standing and special committees during his term.
   c) Be familiar with and abide by all policies and procedures set forth in this handbook.
   d) Vote only when his vote will either pass or defeat a measure.

   Vice-President: The Vice-President shall act in place of the President when he is absent or unavailable.

C. AAC Meetings

1. Order - Each meeting of the Academy Activities Commission shall be presided over by the President or the Vice President in his absence.

2. The AAC Secretary - The Associate Director of Activities shall serve as secretary of the AAC. He shall be responsible for the taking and distribution of the minutes. In addition, the secretary shall call the roll of members at each meeting. Absences shall be recorded in the minutes.

3. Regular Meetings - Regular meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the President of the AAC and the Director of Activities based on necessity and urgency or upon recommendation from the membership.

4. Conflict Of Interest Policy - An AAC member involved in and/or reporting an incident referred to any committee shall be excused during discussion of said incident.

5. Establishing a quorum and conducting business:
   a. Regular Business: A simple majority of the AAC members must be present, and voting, to establish a quorum to conduct business.
   b. AAC Handbook Change – Any handbook change must receive a favorable vote at two (2) consecutive meetings. The first vote must receive a simple majority of all of the AAC members present and voting (proxies accepted). The second vote must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of all of the AAC members present and voting in order for the change to become effective (proxies accepted).
   c. Waiver of 2nd Vote: When it is in the opinion of a ¾ majority of the AAC Members present that it is necessary, and in the best interest of all member schools, the second (2nd) vote requirement for an AAC Handbook change may be waived (proxies accepted).
      NOTE: Proxy Votes - No AAC representative may hold more than one (1) proxy vote. The proxy vote may NOT be used to establish a quorum.
   d. Voting By Electronic Means - The AAC President has the authority to instruct the Director of Activities to obtain an official vote on time-sensitive issues from AAC members using electronic means. The recommendation voted on, and the

resulting vote, will be recorded in the AAC minutes. It is noted that this procedure is intended to allow the committee to deal with time-sensitive issues without the president having to call a special meeting, and is not to be used if any member objects.

For 2016-2017 School Year	
Number of AAC members on committee	18
Number of members required to establish a quorum	10
Number of votes required for 1st vote item to pass	10*†
Number of votes required for 2nd vote items to pass	12*†
Number of votes required for waiver of 2nd vote	14*†
* Assuming all members are present and voting † Calculations will be rounded up	

6. Meetings Procedure - The AAC usually will meet at least five (5) times during the school year. During these meetings, all of the athletics and activities business is conducted. The Academy Activities Commission representatives should come to each meeting prepared to discuss, and vote, on issues affecting the association. Prior to these meetings, member schools should contact their AAC representative to inform them of their preferences toward the issues that will be voted on.

   Member schools should pay particular attention to items that have had a “first vote.” These items are voted on at the next AAC meeting, so input before that next meeting is needed.

7. Meeting Dates - There are five regular meetings of the AAC each year, unless it is a re-alignment year. Member schools should contact their AAC representative prior to an AAC meeting to give input/opinions on any issues that have come up.

Scheduled Meeting Dates For 2016-2017
Tuesday, July 26, 2016
Thursday, October 13, 2016
Thursday, November 3, 2016 (Alignment Appeals)
Thursday, January 24, 2017
Wednesday, April 13, 2017

8. Reimbursement For Expenses
   a. All Academy Activities Commission members will be reimbursed for their expenses incurred for regular monthly meetings, and special meetings called by the President.
   b. Committees appointed by the President will be reimbursed when their duties necessitate a meeting.
   c. AAC members will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of all duties assigned to them by the Academy Activities Commission, or by the President with the approval of the AAC.

D. AAC Responsibilities

The AAC shall be responsible for conducting the business of all extra-curricular activities within the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools. This responsibility may be delegated to the Director of Activities, the Associate Director of Activities, and/or to committees appointed by the president of the AAC.

E. Committees

1. General Information - All committees functioning within the responsibility of the Academy Activities Commission shall operate with the full authority of the AAC, being limited only by the guidelines established. All committee decisions may be appealed to the AAC.

2. Standing Committees - The mission of the AAC Standing Committees is one of fact finding, and making recommendations to the AAC. Once a recommendation has been made to the AAC, and the AAC acts, the only appeals that can be made are to the AAC. Any such appeal must be made in writing by the headmaster of the school. The headmaster, or his/her designee, may appear before the committee to make the appeal. No AAC decision can be appealed at the same meeting at which a decision is made, unless two-thirds of the AAC members feel that allowing such an appeal is warranted.

    a. Affairs Committee: The Affairs Committee shall be responsible for investigating any breach of rule or policy of the Academy Activities Commission.
    b. Eligibility Committee: The Eligibility Committee shall be responsible for applying the eligibility rules to all situations where rules may not be completely clear. It is also their responsibility to interpret the eligibility rules where there is any question as to their intent.
    c. Rules Committee: The Rules Committee shall be responsible for drafting proposed rules concerning any new activity established by the AAC and for proposing clarification for which it may be deemed necessary. This committee is available for consultation with the Director of Activities concerning interpretation of existing rules.

    The Eligibility Committee and the Affairs Committee shall operate with the full authority of the AAC, being limited only by the guidelines established. All Affairs Committee and/or Eligibility Committee decisions shall go into effect immediately. Decisions rendered by the Affairs and Eligibility Committees can be appealed to the full body of the AAC.

    All standing committees must be composed of currently serving AAC members.

3. Special Committees - From time to time, it may be necessary for the President to appoint special committees for specific purposes, which are not within the jurisdiction of the standing committees.

4. Appeal To Executive Committee - The Executive Committee serves as the final appellant body for all issues unresolved by any MAIS commission and/or group under its direction. Note: The Executive Committee will only hear appeals pertaining to inter-school athletic competition after all appeals to the AAC have been exhausted.

Section III - Duties of Director Of Activities

A. Activities Commission

1. Administrate and enforce the rules and regulations adopted by the Commission and the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools.

2. Prepare the agenda, and make all necessary arrangements for each meeting of the Activities Commission.

3. Be responsible for dispersing all information concerning inter-school activities to member schools.

4. Provide the proper number of athletic passes to each school.

5. Oversee gathering of eligibility information, and maintain a central eligibility file.

B. Athletic Playoffs

1. Be responsible for the coordination and supervision of all playoffs.

2. Assign officials for playoffs.

3. Assign starters for track meets.

C. All-Star Games

1. The MAIS shall sponsor all-star games for the following sports: football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer.

2. Work with Activities Commission in promoting and making arrangements for the games.

3. Serve as the coordinator of the All-Star Selection process.

D. Awards and Trophies

1. The Director of Activities shall purchase and arrange for the delivery of trophies according to the following:

   a. Football
      Jr. High District – Championship Only
      Varsity District – Championship Only
      Regional (when applicable) – Championship and Runner-up
      Class – Championship and Runner-up
   b. Basketball
      Jr. High District – Championship and Runner-up
      Varsity District – Championship and Runner-up
      Regional (when applicable) – Championship and Runner-up
      Class – Championship and Runner-up
      Overall – Championship and Runner-up
   c. Baseball
      Varsity District – Championship Only
      Regional (when applicable) – Championship and Runner-up
      Class – Championship and Runner-up
   d. Track
      Jr. High District – Championship Only
      Varsity District – Championship Only
      Regional (when applicable) – Championship and Runner-up
      Class – Championship and Runner-up
   e. Fast-Pitch Softball
      Varsity District – Championship Only
      Regional (when applicable) – Championship and Runner-up
      Class – Championship and Runner-up
      Overall– Championship and Runner-up
   f. Golf
      Regional (when applicable) – Championship and Runner-up
      Class – Championship and Runner-up
      Overall– Championship and Runner-up

g. Tennis
   Regional (when applicable) – Championship and Runner-up
   Class – Championship and Runner-up
   Overall– Championship and Runner-up
h. Soccer
   Division I – Championship and Runner-up
   Division II – Championship and Runner-up
   Division III – Championship and Runner-up
i. Swimming
   Overall– Championship and Runner-up
j. Cross Country
   Overall– Championship and Runner-up

2. Purchase and arrange delivery of all ribbons for North, South, and Overall track meets.

3. Purchase and arrange delivery of all-tournament awards for tournaments past the district level.

E. Master Football Schedule

1. Publish the final master football schedules and send them to schools, news media, and major colleges.

2. Oversee any updates due to member school closings, or the failure of a member school to field a team.

F. MAISOA (Officials' Association)

1. Register all MAIS athletic officials.
2. Maintain roster and permanent records of all registered MAIS athletic officials.
3. Provide best training possible for athletic officials.
4. Coordinate training clinics in each district.
5. Provide rulebooks, patches, etc.
6. Interpret rules for officials and coaches.
7. Appoint and supervise district secretaries in organization of district associations as necessary.

8. Intervene in and resolve disputes between athletic officials and school officials as the chief representative of the Academy Activities Commission.

G. Band

Supervise Band Division officers in making arrangements and disseminating information for the following events:

1. Band Clinic
2. Solo and Ensemble
3. Band Festival
4. All-Star Football Game (Seek bands to perform)
5. Fall Marching Contest

NOTE: The expenses for the above events are the responsibility of the Band Division. The MAIS office assumes the expense of disseminating information.

H. Choral Music - Choral Festival

Same procedure as band.

I . News Media

Contact and work with news media in an effort to promote better coverage of Academy Conference activities.

J. Other Duties As Assigned By The AAC

K. Associate Director Of Activities

The Director of Activities shall be assisted by the Associate Director of Activities in all of his duties and responsibilities. At the discretion of the Director, the Associate Director shall act on his behalf.

Section IV - Membership & Classification

A. Conference Membership

All member schools of the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools are eligible to be members of the Academy Athletic Conference.

It is the responsibility of members to familiarize themselves with all rules and regulations of the Academy Athletic Conference.

Membership in good standing in the Academy Athletic Conference entitles a school to compete in inter-school activities with other member schools. The AAC guarantees a member school the opportunity to make an athletic schedule to qualify for a district, class, or overall championship in all sports so long as that member school is in full compliance with AAC regulations and the provisions of their division.

B. Athletic Realignment

Every two (2) years the Academy Activities Commission will re-align member schools for athletic competition.

C. Alignment Criteria

The Commission shall consider the following criteria when re-aligning member schools for athletic competition.

1. Enrollment figures for grades 8-11 (would be next year's 9-12) shall be used for classification.

2. Consider any sizable or substantial increase or decrease in enrollment of member schools.

3. Consider survey results directed to member schools.

D. Executive Committee Mandate

The Executive Committee of the MAIS has mandated that the realignment of member schools for the purpose of athletics and activities, be the responsibility of the Academy Activities Commission, with the stipulation that the realignment of schools into competitive classes be based on a pre-determined number of member schools in each classification.

E. Alignment Timetable

1. During the January meeting of the first year of an alignment cycle, the AAC shall pass a proposal providing the number of athletic classifications that will be used in the upcoming alignment. As part of the proposal, the commission will determine the number of schools that will be placed in each class. This proposal will be passed as a first vote item. At the April meeting the AAC will have a second vote on the alignment proposal. Should the proposal fail to gain the two-thirds majority vote needed to pass a second vote, a new proposal with the aforementioned requirements shall be submitted. Any new proposal must pass a first vote and a second vote. It is noted that the commission must approve a new alignment proposal at the April meeting.

2. Once the October 1 enrollment figures for the following year have been obtained, the Director of Activities and Associate Director of Activities will develop a realignment plan. This plan will include the number of districts in each class, the number of schools in each district, and the schools in each district. This plan will be submitted as a starting point for the AAC at the October meeting. The AAC will then review the plan, making any desired modifications. The AAC is required to pass an alignment proposal as a first vote item at this meeting.

3. After the AAC has approved an alignment proposal as a first vote item, member schools will have the right to appeal their position in the proposed alignment at a special called meeting. No school, or group of schools, will be allowed to appeal the position of another member school.

4. The AAC, after hearing appeals, should take a second vote on the proposed alignment. If the proposed alignment fails to pass a second vote, the AAC will establish a new timetable and criteria and make it known to member schools in a

timely manner.

Note: If multiple schools are tied for the last position in a class, all schools tied will be assigned to that class even though it will increase the originally agreed upon number of schools for that class. In addition, if a school that has been placed in a lower class, petitions the AAC to move up in classification, the granting of this

request will not cause any other school to be displaced from the class into which it was originally placed.

F. Participating "Up" In Classification

Member schools may choose to participate in a higher classification. They cannot, however, participate in a lower classification* unless both of the following qualifications are met:

1. The member school must be 150 miles (or more) away from the majority of schools in their district.

2. The member school must be within five (5) students of the largest school(s) in the lower classification.

*It is noted that the AAC has the authority to combine schools of different classes into a district / division when, in their opinion, there are not enough teams in that sport to justify competing for a championship otherwise (current sports in this category: girls' soccer, boys' soccer, 8-man football, Class A-AA 11-man football, volleyball, Class A-AA golf).

G. Current Alignment Regulations

For the 2015-16 and 2016-17 alignments, the pre-determined numbers set by the AAC are:

a. The largest fourteen (14) schools shall be considered Class AAAA (Top 6 D1)
b. The next twenty-four (24) schools shall be Class AAA
c. The next thirty-two (32) schools shall be Class AA
d. The remaining schools will be considered Class A

For the 2017-18 and 2018-19 alignment, the pre-determined numbers set by the AAC are:

a. The largest fourteen (14) schools shall be considered Class AAAA (Top 6 D1)
b. The next twenty-four (24) schools shall be Class AAA
c. The next twenty-four (24) schools shall be Class AA
d. The remaining schools shall be considered Class A

H. Participation in Major Sports

Member schools must compete for the championship in the major sports (football, basketball, baseball). Failure to compete for the championship in any one of the major sports would automatically disqualify a member school from competing for the championship in any MAIS sanctioned sport. Note: The Director of Activities shall have the authority to grant an exemption to schools with startup programs, or schools that have other extenuating circumstances.**

** Park Place Christian Academy was granted a request to play 8-man football for the current alignment cycle.

I. 2015-17 Athletic Alignment

Class AA 11-Man Football Alignment (Class A* & AA Schools Competing In Same Division)	
District 1AA	**District 4AA**
Desoto School*	Newton Academy
Lee Academy - AR	Sylva-Bay Academy
Marshall Academy	Prentiss Christian School
Tunica Academy*	Wayne Academy
West Memphis Christian School	
District 2AA	**District 5AA**
Carroll Academy Columbus	Amite School Center
Christian School	Porter's Chapel Academy
Deer Creek School*	Trinity Episcopal School
Oak Hill Academy	Wilkinson County Christian Academy
Winona Christian School	
District 3AA	**District 6AA**
Benton Academy	Claiborne Academy
Canton Academy	Glenbrook School
Central Holmes Christian School	Prairie View Academy
Clinton Christian Academy	River Oaks School
Greenville Christian School	Union Christian Academy
Tri-County Academy	

8-Man Football Alignment (Class A & AA* Schools Competing In Same Division)	
District E1 Delta Academy Delta Streets Academy Marvell Academy North Sunflower Academy Strider Academy	**District E3** Calvary Christian School Christian Collegiate Academy Mt. Salus Christian School Rebul Academy
District E2 Calhoun Academy Central Academy Hebron Christian School Kemper Academy	**District E4** Briarfield Academy Franklin Academy Humphreys Academy Tallulah Academy Tensas Academy

Class A Alignment All Sports Except Football / Soccer / Volleyball	
District 1A (North) Deer Creek School Delta Streets Academy Desoto School Marvell Academy North Sunflower Academy Strider Academy Tunica Academy	**District 3A (South)** Christ Covenant School Discovery Christian School Humphreys Academy Mt. Salus Christian School Rebul Academy Sharkey-Issaquena Academy
District 2A (North) Calhoun Academy Calvary Christian School Central Academy Hebron Christian School Kemper Academy	**District 4A (South)** Briarfield Academy Central School Riverdale Academy Tensas Academy

Class AA Alignment All Sports Except Football / Soccer / Volleyball	
District 1AA (North) Delta Academy Lee Academy - AR Marshall Academy West Memphis Christian School	**District 2AA (North)** Carroll Academy Columbus Christian Academy Oak Hill Academy Winona Christian School
District 3AA (North) Benton Academy Canton Academy Central Holmes Christian School Greenville Christian School Tri-County Academy	

Class AA Alignment All Sports Except Football / Soccer / Volleyball	
District 4AA (South) Benedict Day School Christian Collegiate Academy Lamar Christian School Newton Academy Prentiss Christian School Sylva-Bay Academy Wayne Academy	**District 5AA (South)** Amite School Center Clinton Christian Academy Franklin Academy Porter's Chapel Academy Trinity Episcopal School Wilkinson County Christian Academy
District 6AA (South) Claiborne Academy Glenbrook School Prairie View Academy River Oaks School Tallulah Academy Union Academy	

Class AAA Alignment All Sports Except Soccer / Volleyball	
District 1AAA (North)	**District 4AAA (South)**
Bayou Academy	Adams County Christian Academy
Kirk Academy	Brookhaven Academy
Indianola Academy	Columbia Academy
Lee Academy - MS	Laurel Christian School
North Delta School	Simpson Academy
District 2AAA (North)	**District 5AAA (South)**
Heritage Academy	Ben's Ford Christian School
Leake Academy	Bowling Green School
Starkville Academy	Centreville Academy
Winston Academy	Central Private School
	Silliman Institute
District 3AAA (North)	
Central Hinds Academy	
Hartfield Academy	
Manchester Academy	
Park Place Christian Academy	
Riverfield Academy	

Class AAAA Alignment (6 Division I Schools / 8 Division II Schools)	
District 1AAA (North) Jackson Academy (D1) Madison-Ridgeland Academy (D1) Magnolia Hts. School (D2) Pillow Academy (D2) Washington School (D2)	**District 3AAA (Southeast)** East Rankin Academy (D2) Jackson Preparatory School (D1) Lamar School (D2) Presbyterian Christian School (D1)
District 2AAA (Southwest) Copiah Academy (D1) Hillcrest Christian School (D2) Oak Forest Academy (D2) Parklane Academy (D1)	

Separate Division I & Division II Championships will be held in football, basketball, track, cross-country, tennis, baseball, fast-pitch and soccer.

Section V - General Information

A. Definition Of Terms

1. BONA FIDE MOVE - Sometimes it is very difficult to determine what constitutes a bona fide move. Family and home conditions differ and must be considered. The following factors may be used as a guide in determining a bona fide move:

a. The household furniture of the family must be moved into an unoccupied house or apartment.
b. All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence. Grandparents and children that have graduated from high school (or the equivalent) are not considered principal members of the family.
c. The original residence should be closed, rented, or disposed of and not used by the family.
d. One (1) year (twelve months) at the new residence will be required to make a move bona fide. If a family moves into a new residence and remains there for less than twelve (12) months, the move will not be considered bona fide and the student(s) enrolled and participating in athletics will become ineligible for one (1) year from the date the family moved out of the new residence. However, if the student did not participate in athletics, the period of ineligibility would be twelve (12) months from the date of the student's enrollment.

2. CORRESPONDENCE AND ONLINE COURSES - Correspondence and/or online courses taken to meet eligibility requirements must be taken through an accredited institution, and must be acceptable toward graduation in that school.

3. DISTRICT - Each class shall be divided into districts consisting of schools in the same class.

*It is noted that the AAC has the authority to combine schools of different classes into a district / division when, in their opinion, there are not enough teams in that sport to justify competing for a championship otherwise (current sports in this category: girls' soccer, boys' soccer, 8-man football, Class AA 11-man football, volleyball).

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION - A financial consideration is any contribution, donation, or assistance (monetary or job) given to a student to increase his personal income or to defray his educational expenses, by a school, or school official, or school related organization. Any student-athlete who is receiving financial consideration from a school must be so noted on the athletic eligibility form.

5. GUARDIAN - The adult person or persons (a married couple) who have the responsibility of caring for a minor. In reference to athletic eligibility, this term denotes legal responsibility in practically all instances. If a guardian does not possess legal custody of a minor, then eligibility shall be determined by the AAC.

6. HARDSHIP CASE - When extenuating circumstances in a case concerning eligibility of a student warrants a review by the Eligibility Committee.

7. MAJOR SPORTS – Football, basketball and baseball are recognized as the major sports.

8. JUNIOR HIGH ATHLETICS - Any contest that is restricted to players in the 9th grade and below. Note: Some sports* (basketball, cross-country, fast-pitch softball, golf, swimming, tennis, track, and volleyball) allow the use of sixth (6th) graders. No student below the sixth grade may participate at the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

   *Sixth graders are allowed to participate in 6th-7th grade football games. They cannot, however, compete against any football player above the 7th grade. Sixth graders are NOT allowed to play baseball or soccer.

9. MAJOR SUBJECT - A major subject is one that meets at least five class periods per week, or the equivalent of minimum accrediting standards, and carries at least one (1) full unit of credit for the session, or at least 1/2 unit credit for the semester. Physical education, debating, oratory, newspaper staff, yearbook staff, driver education, 4-H Club, and other such activities shall NOT be considered as major subjects.

10. RESIDENCE - The permanent housing occupied by both parents (unless there is only one parent involved).

11. VARSITY ATHLETICS - Any contest in which a 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student is eligible to participate shall be termed varsity athletics.

B. Discipline

The concept of the MAIS is that member schools will make every effort to conduct all of their athletic contests on the basis of good sportsmanship, fair play and ethical conduct. It is the duty of every school board member, administrator, faculty member and coach to uphold and promote this concept.

The administrator, or his/her designated representative at each athletic contest, is responsible for the conduct and control of players, students and fans of their school. The administrator of the host school has the overall responsibility for crowd control and behavior (availability of police, general rules and arrangements, etc.); however, this, in no way, relieves the representative of each school of the responsibility for the direct control of their players, students and fans.

All unsportsmanlike incidents must be reported to the MAIS Office within a 72-hour period by all parties involved (both schools and officials). Failure to do so will result in a mandatory $100 fine to any party in violation of non-compliance of this rule.

Regardless of the best intentions and plans, it is understood that, at times, there may be a breakdown in discipline and an incident may occur. In this event, the following rules and procedures apply: All major incidents on the field of play and those involving officials must be reported to the Commission for action. This report is to be made online through the MAIS website. Copies of the report shall be sent to the chairman of the Affairs Committee and the Director of Activities.

The Chairman of the Affairs Committee, on receipt of a report of a complaint, will make, or cause to be made, such investigation as he considers necessary. In some cases, reports from parties concerned may suffice, or a complete investigation including a hearing may be considered necessary in other cases.

1. Penalties - Penalties will include but will not be limited to warnings, probation, probation with additional penalty, and suspension depending on the circumstances involved in the case. All of these infractions carry a fine payable to the MAIS within 30 days of notification. Failure to pay shall result in suspension.

    a. Warning: A letter to a school or individual calling attention to a violation of the rules or minor misconduct and requesting that it not recur. In addition, a fine in the amount of $100.00 will be administered.
    b. Probation: This puts the school on notice that a second offense during the period of probation could result in suspension and/or additional action. Probation will carry a minimum fine of $300.00 and may result in a school not being eligible for the championship, or could result in suspension from all activities and/or activities programs.
    c. Suspension: A school will not be allowed to participate in the MAIS athletic and/or activities programs for a specified period of time. Suspension will carry a minimum of $500.00 fine payable upon resumption of participation. Under suspension, athletes from said school would be ineligible at any other MAIS member school during the period of suspension. In the event that a school on suspension withdraws from the MAIS, athletes from the suspended school would immediately become eligible to transfer to transfer to a MAIS school. Said transfers would be treated as non-member school transfers.

2. Appeal Hearings - The AAC will not be bound by common law, or statutory rules of evidence, or by technical or formal rules of procedure, provided however, hearsay evidence, if admitted, will not be the sole basis for the determination of facts by the AAC. The president of the AAC, or his/her designee, will preside at appeals hearings.

    a. A written request from the headmaster for such an appeal shall be presented for placement on the agenda no later than 48 hours preceding the regular AAC meeting.
    b. The written request should include the sanction(s) that are being appealed, and the relief requested.
    c. There shall be a thirty (30) minute time limit for the appeal.
    d. There shall be no financial obligation for any appeal conducted during a regular scheduled meeting. The expenses of any special called meeting shall

be the responsibility of the school(s) making the appeal. The party making the appeal will pay the expense fee to the MAIS Office prior to the meeting being held.

It should be noted that any special called meeting of the AAC must be called by the president of the AAC with the approval of the majority of the AAC. Only school officials (this would include board members) will be allowed at appeals hearings.

C. Presentation of Awards

1. Basketball, Track, Golf, Tennis, Swimming, Softball, Cross Country, Soccer - The presentation of awards for the district, regional, class, and overall tournaments (meets) will be the responsibility of the tournament (or meet) director, or their appointees.

2. Football and Baseball - The presentation for district championships will be the responsibility of the representative of the respective district or his appointee. The presentation of class and overall awards for championships will be the responsibility of the Director of Activities, or his appointee.

D. Athletic Passes

Credit-Card Type Passes - The headmaster of each school will be issued a special "credit card" type pass that will serve as an all access pass. This pass will allow the headmaster, plus one, to gain access to ANY MAIS athletic event. Each school will also receive an all access pass to be used by a designated game administrator for those games when the headmaster is unable to travel with a team.

Regular Athletic Passes - At the beginning of each alignment cycle, each school will be given a specified number of passes according to its athletic classification.

Class A & AA schools will receive 13 passes.
Class AAA schools will receive 19 passes.
Class AAAA schools will receive 25 passes.

The regular athletic passes have a unique number on them. These passes can be given to any ADULT that the administration sees fit, and will entitle the bearer, plus one, admittance.

Regular athletic passes are intended to be used by the school for two years, as no new passes will be sent out during the second year of the alignment cycle.

No additional passes may be purchased.

Sign-In Sheets - Each school will have access to the identification numbers issued to a member school. This access will come via the MAIS website. The info posted will be in a format that can be used as a "sign in" sheet.

MAIS athletic passes must be honored by member schools at all athletic events except for class championships, overall tournaments or all-star games.

MAISCA Membership Cards - In addition, the membership card of the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Coaches' Association (MAISCA) will be treated the same as the administrator / game administrator cards. This "credit card" type pass entitles MAISCA members, plus one, to gain access to ANY MAIS athletic event.

Section VI-Eligibility Rules For Inter-School Competition

Member schools shall make available a copy of MAIS eligibility rules to a new and/or transfer student upon his or her entering school. The following eligibility rules apply only to students who participate in activities on an inter-school competitive basis. This would mean, for example, that a student who was in a school band, would not be subject to these eligibility rules until his school's band participated in a competitive function with another school or schools.

The purpose of all of the following rules is to promote and encourage well-regulated, ethical, and sportsmanlike conduct in inter-school competition. It is realized that it is impossible to cover every possible contingency; therefore, the Academy Activities Commission Affairs Committee, or Eligibility Committee is empowered to review and consider any act or practice by a member school in this regard, even though this act or practice is not specifically covered in these regulations.

In order to be eligible to participate in all inter-school activities, a student is subject to the eligibility requirements that follow.

A. Must Be A Bona-Fide Student

A student shall be enrolled in school and taking at least four (4) major academic subjects, and a member in good standing according to the school's and/or conference regulations. If a participant represents a school in an inter-school competitive event before the start of that school's opening session, he or she must enroll in that member school at the opening of that school's session in the same year. If a participant who has represented a school in a competitive event before the opening of that school's session fails to enroll in that school at the start of that school's session, MAIS transfer rules will apply to said participant, and the school will be subject to disciplinary action by the Affairs Committee.

Should the participant (student-athlete) be a new transfer student from a member school, a copy of the cumulative record / insert / transcript must be complete and on file. If the former school is withholding any part of the cumulative folder for reasons of indebtedness incurred at the previous school, said student shall be ineligible until his/her financial obligation is met at the former school. The administrator of the

previous school shall inform the administrator of the new school of such indebtedness. No student may practice at any member school unless he has registered at said school.

Note: Registering for school is deemed to include those requirements any new student must complete to secure a place in that school. These activities generally include such things as meeting with the school administrator, paying a registration fee, signing an educational contract, etc.

B. Date Of Birth

A student athlete shall not have reached his/her 19th birthday before August 1 in the school year in which he/she wishes to participate. For the 2016-17 school year, this means anyone born before August 1, 1997, would be ineligible.

C. Student Must Be A Non-Graduate

A student athlete shall not be a graduate of a high school (foreign or domestic).

D. Level Of Participation

A student athlete shall not have participated in athletics above the high school level. This does not mean that a student cannot attend sports camps that are held on college campuses and often instructed by college coaches and/or professional players and coaches. Said sports camps shall be approved by the Director of Activities.

E. Four Consecutive Years of Participation

Upon entering the 9th grade, a student will have four (4) consecutive years of eligibility in inter-school contests. This is interpreted to mean that a student is eligible for four (4) consecutive years after entering the 9th grade, regardless of when he/she began to participate.

F. First and Second Semester Eligibility

1. To be eligible for the first semester of a school year: A student must have accumulated four (4) major units (credits) the previous academic year. (Previous academic year is interpreted to be a complete year or any part of a school year in which a student is enrolled at either a member school or a non-member school).

2. Students Eligible At Beginning of School Year - Any student athlete eligible at the beginning of the new school year, shall be eligible for the entire school year.

3. To be eligible for the second semester of a school year: A student-athlete who is ineligible the first semester could become eligible the second semester if he or she passed four (4) major subjects during the first semester of that same academic year.

G. Summer School / Correspondence Courses

Courses taken in summer school shall be considered as an extension of the school year, and credits earned this way may be used in determining scholastic eligibility of students. Accredited correspondence courses started in the spring or summer may be accepted for establishing athletic eligibility for the first semester of the school year. Eligibility would begin upon written verification from the accredited institution that the course has been successfully completed, and credit has been awarded. The last date that a correspondence course could be started, and still be used for first semester eligibility, is the day before the first day of school.

H. Financial Consideration

No student may be eligible to participate in inter-school athletics if he has been shown financial consideration by a school, or any of its associated organizations, on the basis of his value to the activity program of the school. A student shown financial consideration of any kind shall be so noted on the eligibility lists that are submitted to the Director of Activities. (If the ownership of stock is a requirement for entrance to a school, the gift of such stock to a student who enters into school on someone else's share of stock is considered to be receiving financial aid, and must be so noted.)

An acceptable school supported financial aid plan should:

1. Be in writing and on file in the school office
2. Be approved by the school board
3. Be controlled and supervised by the school board
4. Contain details of the qualifying criteria for aid
5. Include all students in the grade structure of the school
6. Demonstrate through documentation, the application and approval process
7. Comply with MAIS athletic eligibility reporting, i.e., mark “yes” on online Eligibility Form for students receiving financial aid
8. Show evidence of including non-athletes

Signs of Misguided and Faulty Financial Aid

1. A pattern of transfers into an athletic program receiving financial aid, especially at the senior high level
2. Shear numbers of athletes receiving financial aid
3. Involvement of Boosters’ Clubs with financial aid
4. Discovery of transfers receiving aid, but not listed on the MAIS Eligibility Report
5. Aid to athletes coming from one source, or benefactor, over an extended period of time
6. No evidence of inclusion of non-athletes
7. Consistent reports from other member schools that a problem exists with the competitions financial aid as it relates to recruiting.

I. Physical Examinations

Before participating in athletics, a student must present a physician's certification stating that he or she is physically fit for competition. A statement is included on the eligibility checklist submitted to the MAIS Office certifying that physical examination certificates are on file with the school. This statement must be signed by the school administrator.

J. Parental Consent

It is recommended that, prior to each year of inter-scholastic athletic participation, a student shall furnish a statement signed by the parents (or other persons with whom the student resides and have legal custody), which grants permission for the student to participate in interscholastic athletics, and said parental permission statement be recorded, and on file, with the school.

K. Player Ejections

Schools will be responsible for disciplining an athlete after his/her first ejection. Any player that is ejected for the second time during a school year will not be allowed to participate in athletics for two (2) weeks.

Example: An athlete receiving his second ejection on a Monday, would not be allowed to play until the Tuesday two weeks later.

Any player ejected for the third time during a school year will be banned from participating in athletics for the remainder of that school year.

It is the responsibility of both schools involved in the contest, and that of the officials, to report the ejection via the incident report form on the MAIS website.

L. Amateur Standing

A student must be an amateur in order to represent his school in athletic competition. For a student-athlete to lose his amateur standing, he must commit one of the following acts:

1. Enter competition for a money guarantee.
2. Enter competition for a share of gate receipts.
3. Accept a purse of money.
4. Teach or coach an athletic sport for money. An amateur high school athlete may referee or coach a YMCA or Girls / Boys Club team and accept necessary expenses.
5. Accept payment of excessive expense allowances. It shall be permissible for an eligible athlete to accept only actual and necessary expenses on athletic trips.

This applies to American Legion Baseball and to other summer amateur baseball and to bowling.

6. Sign a contract to play professional athletics for a money consideration or play on a professional team and receive any form of financial assistance from a professional sports program.
7. Compete under a false name.

A student may:

1. A student may play as an amateur on any team not under the jurisdiction of a professional sport, providing he / she does not receive any pay for participation.
2. Accept meals, travel or lodging expenses.
3. Give swimming and lifesaving instruction and receive pay for the service.
4. Serve as a lifeguard at swimming pools and receive reasonable pay.
5. Accept the usual athletic jackets, letters, medals, ribbons and trophies from the school and the AAC as well as trophies given by outside parties with the approval of the school.

M. Residence and Transfer

1. Students Who Have Completed A Season
   A student shall not have completed a season in any sport, and then transfer to a member school, and represent that school in the same sport, during the same school year.

2. Expelled Students

   If a student is expelled from a member school, or non-member school, he/she will not be eligible to participate at another member school for a period of one year. Students are considered to be expelled when documentation of such is provided on the student's cumulative folder.

   Note: A case may be appealed to the Eligibility Committee by a member school providing the school feels it warrants further consideration as a result of unusual circumstances.

3. Transfers From Non-Member Schools
    a. Student-Athletes Must Be Enrolled - A student transferring from a non-member school to a member school will be eligible when he/she enrolls provided he meets all other eligibility requirements.
    b. One School Year "Sit Out" Period - A student who transfers from a member school to a non-member school, and then to another member school, will not be eligible to participate in inter-school activities until one school year has lapsed from the time he/she left the first member school.
    c. One Week "Sit Out" Period - There is a one (1) calendar week waiting period before any transfer can participate in inter-school competition. This waiting period only applies to students who transfer in after the first day of school. The waiting period begins on the first day that the transfer student attends classes at his/her new school.

Example 1: A student transfers to School A (registers and attends classes) on Tuesday of the second week of October. Said student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be eligible to compete in inter-school activities on the following Tuesday. It is permissible, however, for the transfer student to practice with the team during the one-week waiting period.

Example 2: A student transfers to School A (registers and attends classes) on Monday of the second week of December. Said student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be eligible to compete in inter-school activities on the following Monday. The transfer student would NOT be eligible to play in a basketball game on the Saturday following his/her first day of school.

Example 3: A student transfers to School A (registers) during the first Monday of the Christmas break. Said student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be eligible on the following Monday. In this scenario, the fact that the student has not attended any classes would not prohibit the athlete from playing after the one-week waiting period. Should the athlete play, however, and fail to attend class when the second semester begins, all games the transfer student participated in would be forfeited.

4. Transfers From MAIS Member Schools
    a. One School-Year "Sit Out" Period - Any student-athlete who transfers from one member school to another member school shall be ineligible to participate for a period of one (1) year. The Director of Activities must approve any hardship case.
    b. Eligibility Rulings - The Director of Activities has full authority to rule on the eligibility cases, and the AAC will be the investigative arm.
    c. Change of Residence - When a student's parents' legal residence is changed due to a bona fide move (see definition of bona fide move under section V-A-1 of definition of terms) and approved by the Director of Activities, he may choose to attend that member school which is closer to his new residence, or he may continue to attend the school that he has been attending prior to his change of residence. If he continues to attend his former school, he shall be eligible for the remainder of that school year. Then he will make a final choice. If he changes residence during months school is not in regular session, his choice is final. However, if a student moves closer to the school that he is presently attending, he must return to that school to maintain his athletic eligibility. When a change of residence results in making a student eligible, the parents must occupy the residence for one year following the move in order for the change in eligibility to be permanent. (See definition of residence under Section V-A-10 - Definition of Terms).

        When there is any possibility of doubt about a move being bona fide, the Headmaster shall present the facts in writing to the Director of Activities for a decision. The Director of Activities will review the facts submitted, and may conduct an investigation if necessary.
    d. No Change of Residence - A student who transfers from one member school to another member school, and whose parents' residence has not changed, shall not be eligible for competition until the corresponding date one year later.
        Exception: The maximum time of ineligibility after one (1) change back to school A is one (1) year.

        Example: Student 1 leaves School A in December to go to School B - no change of residence involved. Ruling: Student 1 is ineligible for one year from the corresponding date (December); however, after two months (February) Student 1 desires to transfer back to School A - no change of residence. Ruling: Ineligible until corresponding transfer date to School B (December), as the maximum time of ineligibility after (1) change back to School A is one (1) year.

e. Dropping Football, Basketball or Baseball - A student transferring from one member school to another member school, for the purpose of participation in a major sport discontinued at his/her former school, shall be eligible to participate in all sports. The AAC has defined football, basketball and baseball to be the three major sports.

   Note: Only those players who are going out for the major sport at the time it is dropped will be allowed to transfer to another member school without having to sit out a year from the date of transfer. The school dropping the major sport shall provide the MAIS Office with a list of said players.

f. Children of Staff Members - Children of school staff members, who have assigned responsibilities at the school for the majority of the instructional day, and are under contract to the school, are eligible for athletic participation at the school where said parent teaches even though there is no change in residence. The same is true for the administrator. (This excludes: as outlined in accreditation, all non-professional positions such as secretaries, bookkeepers, custodians, bus drivers, public relations, food service personnel, etc.)

   A student may continue to attend the school he or she has been attending prior to the parent changing positions, if such a change is during the regular school year. Said child or children would be eligible immediately (no one-week waiting period) if the move is made at the same time the parent moves. If the child continues to attend the former school, said student shall be eligible for the remainder of that school year. Then the student will make his or her final choice.

g. Establishing Eligibility At A Member School - The first member school that a student attends after reaching the 9th grade will be considered the student's home school, regardless of the distance that school may be from the student's residence.

h. Transfer From School That Loses MAIS Accreditation - Any student attending a member school that loses MAIS accreditation, shall be allowed to transfer to another MAIS member school, and become eligible for participation in inter-school activities. The student's choice shall be made prior to the start of the next school year.

i. Transfer Occurring During School Year - During the same school year, if a student athlete transfers from one member school to another member school with a legal change of residence, said student will not be eligible at his/her new school in the sport in which he/she was, or had been, participating at the former school.

   Exception: Should a student make a bona fide move of 60 miles or more, said student would be allowed to participate, assuming the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

j. One-Week Waiting Period - There is a one (1) week waiting period before any transfer can participate in inter-school competition. This is interpreted to mean seven (7) calendar days.

   Example 1: A student transfers to School A on Tuesday of the second week of October. Said student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be eligible to compete in inter-school activities on the following Tuesday. It is permissible, however, for the transfer student to practice with the team during the one-week waiting period.

   Example 2: A student transfers to School A on Monday of the second week of December. Said student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be eligible to compete in inter-school activities on the following Monday. The transfer student would NOT be eligible to play in a basketball game on the Saturday following his/her first day of school.

   Example 3: A student transfers to School A during the first Monday of the Christmas break. Said student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be eligible on the following Monday. In this scenario, the fact that the student had not attended any classes would not prohibit the athlete from playing after the one-week waiting period. Should the athlete play, however, and fail to attend class when the second semester begins, all games the transfer student participated in would be forfeited.

N. Last Date Transfers Can Join A Team

Athletes who transfer to a member school after the dates listed below, will not be allowed to compete in the indicated sport during the same school year. This is true regardless of whether the transfer is coming from a member school, or a non-member school.

Exception: Should a student make a bona fide move of 60 miles or more after the dates indicated below, said student would be allowed to participate, assuming the student meets all other eligibility requirements.

Last Date Transfers Can Join Team	
Swimming	Last Friday In August
Girls' Soccer	Last Friday In August
Volleyball	Last Friday In August
Fast-Pitch	Last Friday In August
Football	3rd Friday In September
Cross Country	3rd Friday In September
Boys' Soccer	2nd Friday In January
Basketball	2nd Friday In January
Baseball	Last Friday In March
Track and Field	Last Friday In March
Golf	Last Friday In March
Tennis	Last Friday In March
Slow-Pitch	Last Friday In March

Note: A student is considered to have "transferred" when he / she has registered and attended class.

O. Guardianship and/or Legal Custody

1. Legal Custody - If the parents are living and a legal guardian or legal custodian is appointed, the student-athlete must live with the legal guardian or legal custodian twelve (12) months before he or she become eligible (if transferring from a member school).

2. Special Circumstances - In situations involving the loss of one or both parents by a student-athlete that result in a change of guardianship, a change of legal custody, or an adoption, such cases may be considered under the hardship rule by the Director of Activities and/or the Eligibility Committee.

3. Joint Custody - In the case of "joint custody," the student athlete will establish eligibility and be eligible with the parent that has primary custody (begins with the 9th grade year).

   Any changes of custody that are ordered by the courts will be honored.

4. Parent A to B - Once a student athlete establishes eligibility (9th grade year), said student may be allowed to move from Parent A to Parent B and be eligible at another member school. Neither the location of parent B's house, nor the member school Parent B wants to send his/her child to, will be factors in declaring eligibility in this situation. If at any point, the student chooses to move back to Parent A, the student will be eligible to participate in athletics. The student, however, would not be allowed to move again without sitting out a year from the date of the last move.

P. Recruiting

The recruiting and/or undue influence of a student-athlete of a MAIS member school by anyone directly or indirectly associated with another member school shall result in said school being placed on probation, and not being eligible for the championship in all sports for a period of one (1) year. In addition, a fine in the amount of $500.00 shall be assessed the school in violation. Further, such recruiting and/or undue influence shall cause the student-athlete to be ineligible for one (1) year if he or she transfers. Recruiting and/or undue influence would include (but not be limited to) a

student-athlete receiving merchandise such as clothing and equipment and/or moneys for the individual's expenditures.

Q. Reporting Eligible Athletes

All eligibility lists will be submitted on-line through the MAIS website.

A $200.00 fine will be assessed to any member school whose eligibility lists are not submitted to the MAIS office prior to the prescribed time.

The deadline for submitting eligibility data is the Thursday before the first varsity football game.

R. Foreign Exchange Students

1. Foreign Exchange Programs - In order to be eligible to participate in MAIS athletic contests, a foreign exchange student must be in a foreign exchange program which has been approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) or the Director of Activities. Approved programs can be found at the following website: www.csiet.org

2. Years of Eligibility - Foreign exchange students will only be allowed one year of athletic eligibility. This would include participation in athletics at a non-MAIS school.

3. Team Participation - Member schools may have as many eligible foreign exchange students participate in athletics as they want, with the following restriction: No school may have more than one (1) foreign exchange student participate in any given sport.

4. A Foreign Exchange Student shall not be a graduate of a high school (foreign or domestic).

Note: Any student that is not an American citizen and whose parent(s) do not live in the United States will be treated as a Foreign Exchange student.

S. Use Of Ineligible Participants

Any member school that is found to be using an ineligible player in inter-school competition shall have all games won while the ineligible player was participating, forfeited to their opponents. The ineligible player shall be immediately dropped from the team, and the member school placed on probation for a minimum of one (1) semester. The school shall also be subject to any further disciplinary action deemed necessary by the Affairs Committee and/or the Eligibility Committee.

T. Interpretation of Eligibility Rules

1. Any interpretation of the eligibility rules is subject to the Director of Activities of the MAIS in coordination with the proper committee chairman, or by the AAC. The Eligibility Committee will hear hardship cases.

2. All requests for an appeal or ruling on eligibility must be submitted to the Director of Activities by the administrator (regular mail, fax, or preferably email). Requests should be received a minimum of 48 hours before the case is to be heard.

3. All requests for interpretation of rules shall be submitted in writing, and signed by the administrator of the requesting school. All replies shall likewise be in writing. Note: Email from the administrator making an official request will suffice.

U. Hardship

1. The Eligibility Committee will hear hardship cases.

2. The following criteria will NOT be considered as grounds for an appeal on a hardship case:
   a. The eight-semester rule
   b. Age
   c. Distance and transportation
   d. Curriculum
   e. Financial

   The above criterion does not include hardships of an extreme or unusual nature.

V. Junior High Division

1. Eligibility - Age

In order to participate in junior high athletics, a student shall not have reached their 16th birthday before August 1* of the school year in which they wish to participate. In 7th and 8th grade competition only, no participant shall have reached their 15th birthday before August 1** of the school year in which they wish to participate.

*For the 2016-17 school year, this means anyone born before August 1, 2000, would be ineligible.

**For the 2016-17 school year, this means anyone born before August 1, 2001, would be ineligible.

2. Eligibility - Participation

a. Students Entering Seventh Grade - Students entering the 7th grade shall have three (3) consecutive years of eligibility in junior high. Any student who repeated the 7th or 8th grade would not be eligible as a 9th grader on the junior high level - only the varsity level.

b. Jr. High Status / Up-and-Down Rule - A student who participates in a varsity game shall not be allowed to participate on a junior high or grade school team during the same school session in the same sport. However, if an 8th grader participates in varsity athletics, he will still be eligible to participate in junior high sports his 9th grade year, assuming he does not participate in a varsity game the same session in the same sport. The same would be true for a 6th grader, or 7th grader.

In an attempt to help schools that have insufficient varsity numbers in football and basketball, the AAC has adopted the following exceptions:

Football Exception: Eighth and ninth grade football players can be used on both the junior high football team and varsity football team in the same week without penalty, as long as the players do not exceed the six (6) quarter per week rule. Playing any part of a quarter counts as a quarter.

The penalty for violating the "up and down" rule by a member school shall result in a $300.00 fine assessment, and six (6) months probation.

Basketball Exception: Seventh, eighth and ninth grade basketball players can be used on both the junior high basketball team and varsity basketball team in the same day without penalty, as long as the players do not violate the six (6) quarter per day rule. A district that wants to enforce a limit other than the 6 quarter per day rule, is allowed to do so for district games only. Playing any part of a quarter counts as a quarter.

The penalty for violating the "up and down" rule by a member school shall result in a $300.00 fine assessment, and six (6) months probation.

Track Exception: During the regular season, jr. high athletes may be used in jr. high competition and also to fill out a varsity relay team in the same day, without the jr. high athlete losing his/her jr. high eligibility. Any points earned by a varsity relay team in this circumstance would count toward the team total for the day.

Also, since there is no jr. high girls' 3200 meter run, jr. high girls are permitted to run in the varsity girls' 3200 meter run during the regular season as unattached runners without losing their jr. high eligibility.

Such participation by a jr. high athlete in either of the above cases would count against the athlete's participation limit for the day.

c. Sixth Grade Participation In Varsity Sports - A sixth (6th) grader who is a student of a MAIS member high school, may participate on a varsity level in golf, track, cross-country, tennis, volleyball and softball.
d. Sixth Grade Participation In Junior High Sports - A sixth (6th) grader may participate on a junior high level in basketball, track, cross-country, golf, softball, volleyball and tennis.
e. Students Below The Sixth Grade - No student below the sixth grade may participate at either the jr. high or varsity level in any sport.

3. Junior High Academic Eligibility
   a. First Semester

      Seventh graders repeating the seventh grade must have passed four (4) major subjects the previous year. (see "Special Promotion" exception below)

Eighth (8th) graders must pass four (4) major subjects the previous school year. (see "Special Promotion" exception below)
Ninth (9th) graders must pass four (4) major subjects the previous school year. (see "Special Promotion" exception below)

b. Students Eligible At Beginning of School Year - Any student athlete eligible at the beginning of a school year, shall be eligible for the entire school year.
c. Special Promotion - Special promotions are permissible if school policy provides same, and if the student participant meets age and other eligibility requirements.

   Students who are eligible for special promotion, but are being held back at the request of the parents or guardians, will be treated as if they were in fact specially promoted.
d. Second Semester - A student-athlete who was ineligible the first semester, could become eligible the second semester, if he or she passed four (4) major subjects during the first semester of the same academic year.
   If a school is not on a semester basis, the student must be passing four (4) major subjects when the school breaks for Christmas Holidays.

4. Residence
   When a 7th or 8th grader transfers from one member school to another member school, said student will not be eligible at his/her new school in the sport in which he/she was, or had been, participating at the former school.

   Exception: In lengthy moves of 60 or more miles, the student would be allowed to play a sport in which he/she had been participating.

Example 1: During football season, a 7th (or 8th) grade student leaves School A and enrolls in School B (no change of residence). The student had been playing football at School A. Said student would be ineligible to participate in football at School B. He would, however, be eligible to play basketball at School B after sitting out the required one week.

Example 2: During football season, a 7th (or 8th) grade student leaves School A and moves 65 miles to his new residence. He then enrolls in School B. The student had been playing football at School A. Said student would be eligible to participate in football at School B since the move was 60+ miles in length. He would, however, have to sit out the required one week.

5. Ninth Grade Transfers - A 9th grader who is participating on the varsity or junior high team at one member school, must meet the rules involving change of residence if he/she transfers to another member school.

W. Transfers From New Member Schools

For athletic eligibility purposes, a new member school shall fall under the student transfer restrictions and protection afforded member schools as of the date that they are approved by the Executive Committee for acceptance into our association.

Section VII - Rules Governing Athletic Contests

A. General Rules

1. Sports Sanctioned By MAIS - The MAIS will sanction eighteen (19) different sports during the school year. The sports sanctioned for boys are archery, football, basketball, baseball, track, golf, soccer, cross-country, tennis and swimming. The sports sanctioned for girls are archery, fast-pitch softball, basketball, cross-country, track, soccer, tennis, golf and swimming.

2. National Federation Rules - National Federation Rules will apply to these sports. There are a few exceptions. These exceptions and/or clarifications are so noted in the sections below describing the rules that govern each individual sport.

3. Minimum Number Of Officials Required To Play A Contest - There will be at least four (4) certified officials to officiate a varsity football game, two (2) officiating a basketball game, two (2) officiating a soccer match and two (2) umpires to call a baseball or softball game. All officials must be registered with the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Athletic Officials Association. It is noted that the Director can approve NFHS officials from other associations to work MAIS games.

4. Playing Non-MAIS Schools - No athletic contest shall be held with any school not belonging to the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools, unless permission has been granted from the MAIS Office. Schools must request (by email) permission to participate against any non-member school.

5. Penalty For Removing A Team From Play - Any school whose coach removes a team from the playing floor, or field, in protest of an official's decision, or for any other reason, shall be subject to automatic probation, and any other penalty deemed necessary by the AAC. The removal of a team in protest is considered to be a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct. If an emergency arises which makes it advisable to discontinue a contest, it should be done by mutual consent of the teams involved through the referee.

6. Ejection Procedure - Removal of individuals from the premises (game site) as a result of behavior:

a. Coach: The referee shall suspend the contest until the coach has left the premises and coaching duties are assumed by another faculty member of the school. Failure of the coach to leave the premises and be replaced by another faculty member in a reasonable period of time shall cause that team to forfeit the game.
b. Player: The referee shall suspend the contest until the player has left the premises under the supervision of a coach or other faculty member of that school. Failure of a player to leave the premises under supervision in a reasonable period of time shall cause that team to forfeit the game. (Note: This section does not refer to the player ejections that result from receiving two technical fouls in basketball, receiving a red card in soccer, etc. It refers to those times when bench personnel act in a way that disrupts the game.)
c. Spectator: The referee shall suspend the contest until the home management removes the spectator from the premises. Failure to remove the spectator in a reasonable period of time shall cause that team to forfeit the game. (Game administrators should be cognizant of the problem in games held at neutral sites.)

The National Federation recommends these procedures by combining a little law with a little common sense, as well as experience in rules writing, for use by State Associations in dealing with the removal of individuals from the game site.

Should fans become abusive at an athletic contest, the following procedure should be followed:

i. The official should notify the host school administrator to warn the fan, that if the abusive behavior continues, he/she will be ejected from the contest. It is strongly recommended that if the fan is from the visiting team, the host administrator communicate this through the visiting headmaster (or his/her representative).
ii. Following the warning, if the abuse continues, the official should notify the host school administrator to eject the fan. The host school administrator is responsible for removing the fan, not the official.

Note: If an unsportsmanlike incident occurs at a sporting event, and the game administrator is directed by an official to inform a fan(s) that their behavior must cease, verbal abuse from the offending party may occur. In

such a case, should the incident be reported to the Affairs Committee, the fan(s) will be subject to a minimum $250 fine, and the school will be placed on probation for a period of one year. This will be the case regardless of whether or not the fan is ejected.

Also, it is noted that there are some types of behavior (using profanity, throwing objects, extreme cases of disrespect towards the officials and/or game administration) that will not be tolerated, and will result in immediate removal.

MAIS officials should NEVER become engaged in any type of confrontation with fans.

7. Coaching Ejections - The ejection of a coach from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically result in the following minimum disciplinary action:

   a. Coach will be placed on probation for at least one (1) year.
   b. Coach will be fined a minimum of $250.00; maximum of $1000.00.
   c. Coach will be suspended for the next game; he/she will not be allowed to attend.
      For further clarification, the Affairs Committee has interpreted this to mean the next regularly scheduled game at the time of the ejection. For example, if an additional game is scheduled, said game cannot be used to satisfy the “sit out” portion of this sanction. In addition, a suspended coach is not to have ANY kind of input (cell phone, text message, etc.) in the game.
   d. Case will be reviewed by the AAC, with possibility of coach being excluded from coaching all-star game.
   e. School will be placed on probation for at least one (1) year.
   f. School will be fined a minimum fine of $300.00.

8. Fan Ejections - Any fan ejection from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically result in the following minimum disciplinary action:

   a. Fan will be fined a minimum of $250.00 and will not be allowed to attend any further MAIS athletic events. Note: Upon payment of the fine, and receiving a letter of apology to the MAIS, the attendance ban will be lifted.

b. School will be placed on probation for at least one (1) year. Upon appeal, the AAC has the authority to waive the probationary period for the school involved if said school can show that all institutional control security steps were taken.
c. School will be fined a minimum fine of $300.00.

9. Player Ejections

Rule As It Pertains To Players

a. First Ejection - Schools will be responsible for disciplining an athlete after his/her first ejection.
b. Second Ejection - Any player that is ejected from an athletic contest for the second time in a school year will not be allowed to participate in athletics for two (2) weeks. Note: This is interpreted to mean that an athlete receiving his/her second ejection on a Monday, would be eligible to play on the Tuesday two weeks later.
c. Third Ejection - Any player ejected from an athletic contest for the third time in a school year will be banned from participating in athletics for the remainder of the school year.

Rule As It Pertains To Schools

a. Fines - The fine for schools receiving their first, second, third, fourth and fifth ejections during a school year will be as follows: $0, $100, $300, $500 and $1000 respectively. Note: Fines of $100 and $300 carry a sanction of “warning” and “probation” respectively.
   No school shall be fined more than $1000 for any one incident involving multiple player ejections.
b. Third Player Ejection - Schools that have a third player ejected will be required to appear before the Affairs Committee.
c. Fourth Player Ejection - Schools that have a fourth player ejected in a school year will be required to appear before the Affairs Committee. The right to participate in post-season play could be taken away should a fourth ejection occur.

10. Member Schools / Officials' Association - It is mandatory that each member school be serviced by the football, basketball, soccer, softball and baseball officials' associations formed in their area.
    a. An assessment fee shall be paid to the Secretary of the local Officials' Association for assigning varsity games.
    b. Attendance at MAIS rules clinics is mandatory for the varsity and jr. high head coach. Failure to comply shall result in a $100.00 penalty assessment against the school.

11. Proper And Improper Cheers - No cheers or yells shall include profanity. Any member school guilty of this violation shall automatically be placed on probation for one (1) year. In addition, administrators shall remind their cheerleaders and pep squads that they should cheer for their teams, and not against the other teams. (Derogatory remarks and unsportsmanlike language should be discouraged, and in no way condoned.)

12. Participation Rule For Girls - Girls shall be permitted to participate in any sport unless a comparable sport is offered to girls during that particular school year. When a school has a boys' and girls' team in a particular sport, or a COMPARABLE sport (ex. – baseball and softball), participation by girls is limited to girls' teams.

    At no time will boys be allowed to participate in girls' sports.

13. Employment Status Of A Coach - Coaches in all sports (during a regular season game or any playoff series) must be on the faculty or be an employee of the member school they serve. It is permissible for a coach to have a letter of understanding regarding employment with said member school.

14. Protests - The MAIS does not recognize protests in any sport.

15. Improper Filming Of A Contest - No individual and/or member school shall be allowed to film or tape games in which they are not directly participating. The Affairs Committee will investigate any violation of this rule.

16. Sub-Standard Facilities – Any school reported to have sub-standard facilities will be investigated by at least two (2) AAC members who will recommend whatever

actions necessary. Schools found to have sub-standard facilities may not be allowed to host playoffs.

17. Safety Training Courses – The athletic director and his/her staff are encouraged to take appropriate safety courses that will help in recognizing a wide range of health issues that can arise at an athletic practice and/or during competition.

18. Early Dismissals - Students are allowed only one (1) early dismissal per week per sport. An early dismissal would include academic classes only.

19. No Play Dates - The AAC removed all no-play dates from the calendar.

20. MAISCA Coaches' Clinic - There shall be no practices, games, workouts, or meetings on the day(s) of the MAISCA Clinic. (Exception: Sports that have no speaker on a day(s) of the clinic will not be subject to this rule for that day.)

21. Junior High Team Participation Rule - Any school that fields a jr. high team in an assigned conference, must compete for the jr. high championship in that conference, or forfeit the privilege to compete for the championship in that varsity sport.

22. P.A. Announcer Policy - The announcer on a public address system has a primary responsibility to inform fans and supporters of the host and visiting schools regarding the starting line-ups, participants involved in plays that are occurring on the field, and in general, to be as IMPARTIAL as possible. It is extremely important that a PA announcer's remarks be conducive to good sportsmanship and in the best interest of the interscholastic athletic program within the MAIS. Schools are responsible for the actions of their public address announcers.

23. Case Book / Rules Book Distribution - Member schools are required to have at least one (1) copy of a rules book and case book for each sport offered at their school.

24. Print Media, Photographers, Radio Announcers - Ethics Policy
    a. Concerning Game Officials - There shall be no negative remarks made toward or about game officials.
    b. Showing Partiality - No partiality shall be shown by any on-field media

personnel during the game(s) they are working.

c. Professionalism - True professionalism shall be exhibited at all times.
d. Radio Announcers - Any "on air" blatant criticism of the game officials or the officiating of the game will not be tolerated.
e. Violations - Any violation of the above shall result in said person(s) having their media credentials confiscated and said person(s) shall not be allowed to work the remainder of the games from the field area or press area.

25. Student-Athlete / Law Enforcement Policy - The MAIS strongly recommends that any student participating in extracurricular activities, who has been indicted for a felony, not be allowed to participate during the time of indictment and/or conviction.

26. Steroids And Other Performance Enhancing Supplements - The MAIS strongly discourages the use of performance-enhancing supplements to include (but not be limited to) steroids. Any violations may result in some type of disciplinary action.

27. Tobacco And Tobacco Related Products Prohibited - Any coach or player who uses tobacco, or tobacco related products, within the confines of the playing area shall be immediately ejected from the contest. Failure to comply with this ejection shall result in the contest being forfeited.

28. School Officials And Negative Comments To Media - There will be a minimum fine of $100 levied against any coach, or school official, who makes negative remarks to any media about officiating, the opposing school or its student athletes.

29. All-Star Player Requirement - In order for a player to be eligible for all-star competition, he/she must be enrolled in their MAIS member school no later than the first playing date for the respective sport. Note: This is interpreted to mean the first game played by the individual school involved.

30. Failure Of All-Star Player To Participate - Coaches should make sure that any player that they nominate for an all-star team will be able to participate. This includes being able to report at the proper time, and staying with the team until the conclusion of the all-star game.

    Schools will be responsible for paying the entire all-star fee for players that make the team, regardless of whether or not they attend.

31. All-Star Coaching Requirement - Coaches are not eligible to coach in an all-star game unless they are members of the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Coaches' Association.

32. Post-Game Interaction With Officials - No coach, player or fan should interact (verbally or physically) with officials after an athletic contest. Any such violations of this rule will be handled by the AAC Affairs Committee.

33. Security Plan / Host School Responsibilities - Every member school that participates in activities and athletics is required to properly fill out and return to the MAIS office a security plan by the Thursday before the 1st varsity football game.

    Failure to comply will result in a fine of $100.

    Security For Athletic Events - The following people should be included in a member schools safety and security plan: administrators, coaches, cheerleader sponsors, band directors, security personnel, game announcers and any other personnel that will be directly involved with the event. The security plan will be for all sports, realizing that the major sports (i.e., football and basketball) will require more supervision. Plans must be signed by the Headmaster and the Athletic Director.

    Copies of the security plan should be given to all personnel involved in any way with the conduct of the game.

    The plan should include security precautions:
    a. before the contest
    b. during the contest and
    c. after the contest.

    Responsibilities of Host School
    Before the game:
    a. Discuss with the student body in an assembly the need for showing good sportsmanship to visitors. It is suggested that all schools have a sportsmanship campaign at the beginning of each school year and promote sportsmanship throughout the year.
    b. Provide necessary game information to visiting schools; include directions to the game site and parking, location of ticket booths, seating arrangements, ticket prices, and game time.

c. Arrange for adequate police supervision and keep them visible inside, as well as outside the stadium. Indicate on a chart where they will be located before, during and after the game. Make sure that you have proper security in areas that you know could be trouble spots. You will need to send in charts for football and basketball.
d. Courtesy and protection of game officials - Arrange for someone to meet the officials. Provide escort on and off the field. Ensure that officials are treated well after the game and escorted to their car. The host school should provide a private area for the officials to dress, conference, etc. Any other amenities such as food, drink, etc. are not mandatory, but would certainly be appreciated by the officiating crew.
e. Have the game announcer read the statements on sportsmanship, alcohol and drug use, as well as throwing objects and unruly behavior. Any of these violations will lead to expulsion from the game. (This should also be read during the game.)
f. When possible, designate special seating for students, bands, adults and visitors. Student bodies should be kept separated at all times.
g. Provide supervised parking. Use of service clubs or youth organizations are suggested. This will free your law enforcement officials to be in other possible trouble spots.
h. Identify all supervising or "on duty" faculty members or personnel (examples - special T-shirts, arm bands, caps, etc.).

During the Game:

a. Station personnel in key areas. They will remain at their station throughout the contest until the areas have cleared.

b. Bands need to provide an interesting half-time program. (For those schools that do not have bands, an interesting half-time program should be planned. Work with PTA groups and get others involved with ideas.)

c. A doctor should be in attendance at all athletic contests when possible. (We know that it is difficult for some of our schools to obtain the services of a doctor for all athletic contests, but feel that, if possible, we need one in attendance at football games.)

d. P.A. announcer should give instructions concerning concession stands, restrooms, and any information that will assist the visiting fans. He/she should show no partiality when announcing the athletic contest.

After the Game:

Post-game planning is probably the most important of the three stages in crowd control. Most incidents and encounters occur after the game when the fans are leaving the playing area, and students are leaving in cars and buses. Each school should:

a. Develop a procedural plan for the exit of teams, officials, and spectators. You will need to keep personnel on duty in the trouble spots until the area clears. Usual Problem - Security is usually released near end of game to direct traffic. It is suggested that security be kept in problem areas.
b. Direct the route for movement of all visiting school buses and all home team buses. (Include band, pep buses, spectator buses, etc.) Whenever possible provide an escort for these buses for several blocks as they leave the site. Communicate with police or security.
c. Use the PA. system to:
    i. Caution spectators about not walking on the floor or field*
    ii. Give directions for leaving the area
    iii. Encourage fans to drive safely

* The AAC continues to be concerned about incidents (involving spectators) that occur on the field/floor following a game. Please emphasize this point before, during and after the game.

d. To facilitate orderly movement of traffic, provide direction supervision (local police may assist) for cars exiting the parking area. You may want to use faculty members or a service club in order that you can better utilize police or security.

Responsibilities of Visiting School

The visiting school game administrator (headmaster or his/her representative) should alert the host school's game administrator when he/she arrives at an athletic contest. In addition, the home school administrator and visiting school administrator should communicate with each other as to their approximate location during the athletic contest.

When possible, the host school game administrator should make an effort to find the visiting school game administrator anytime a problem occurs with a visiting school patron, coach or player.

The AAC recommends that the visiting game administrator communicate with individuals from their school any time an incident occurs (warning from official, fan ejections, etc.). It is, however, the ultimate responsibility of the host school administrator to make sure that an official's instructions are carried out.

It is the hope of the Academy Activities Commission, that the game administrators of both schools will be pro-active in their efforts to control their fans, coaches and players. Many of the unsportsmanlike incidents that occur each year could easily be avoided if a game administrator would take steps to address a fan or coach who is obviously frustrated.

General Information About Game Administrators

Game administrators should meet the following criteria:

a. Be the headmaster (or his/her designee)
b. Be non-bench personnel. Game administrators should locate themselves in a position where they can see as much of their crowd, the bench and the playing area as possible.
c. Be a person who is willing to head off problems by making an effort to identify individuals who are becoming increasingly irritated, and warn such individuals of the possible negative consequences of their actions.
d. Be willing to stay after a contest has ended to help ensure that no problems arise between fans and/or players.
e. Have an understanding that the game officials are the authority on the field / court, and as such, are to be treated in a professional manner at all times.

34. Sportsmanship Creed To Be Read Before Each Contest - The AAC has mandated that the following Sportsmanship Creed be read before every athletic contest.

    "The MAIS recognizes that the spirit of the game of _____ lives in skilled offense, effective defense, and a well-planned strategy. The spirit of this game cannot be maintained unless sportsmanship, ethics and integrity are our number one priority. Good sportsmanship will be expected from all groups associated with MAIS activities."

35. Reporting Unsportsmanlike Incidents - When an incident occurs at an athletic contest, both schools and the head official must file a report with the MAIS office within 72 hours. Schools involved in an incident will be notified a minimum of 72 hours prior to an Affairs Committee meeting. The schools involved may, or may not, be requested to attend this meeting.

    Once a decision is made, any schools affected will be notified within 72 hours of the committee's decision. Should any party involved in the decision wish to appeal, the appeal will be heard at the next assigned, or special called, meeting of the AAC

36. All-Sports Award - Each year, the MAIS shall present an all-sports award to the school that receives the most all-sports points. All-sports points will be awarded to any school that finishes fourth or better in Class competition. The table below will be used for assigning points:

Sport	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Football	10	7	5	5
Cross Country	6	4	2	1
Swimming	0	0	0	0
Fast-Pitch	10	7	5	3
Soccer	6	4	2	2
Basketball	10	7	5	3
Baseball	10	7	5	5
Archery	6	4	2	1
Track	10	7	5	3
Golf (G)	0	0	0	0
Golf (B)	6	4	2	1
Tennis	6	4	2	1
Slow-Pitch	0	0	0	0
Volleyball	6	4	2	1

37. Last Game Of The Season For Any Sport - The last game of the season for any sport shall be the final game of the playoffs. No further inter-school competition can be played until the next school year unless approved by the Director of Activities.

38. Penalty For Canceling Athletic Contest After Season Begins - Any member school that cancels an athletic contest after the beginning of the season for that sport shall be fined $1000. If the host school cancels, the fine shall be awarded to the visiting school. If the visiting school cancels, the fine shall be awarded to the host school.

    No fine will be levied in cases where there is mutual agreement between the headmasters of each school involved. In such cases, an email must be sent to the MAIS office by both headmasters verifying consent. Said email should contain the name of the sport, along with the date and location of the contest in question.

    Should the headmaster of a school fail to obtain mutual consent for a cancellation that he/she feels is justified, said headmaster may appeal the fine to the Affairs Committee.

    Note: The forfeiture fee in varsity football for an away game is $2500.00. The forfeiture fee for a varsity home game is $1250.00.

39. Latest Possible Starting Time For MAIS Athletic Events - No MAIS athletic events shall start after 11:00 p.m.

40. Mandatory Week of Inactivity - The Academy Activities Commission has mandated that each school set aside one week each summer during which no athletic workouts can occur. This period of inactivity can be any time from the last day of the previous school year, to the beginning of the next school year. This period of athletic inactivity can be the same for both female and male athletes, or these two groups can have different weeks of inactivity.

41. Concussion Issues - A completed concussion form is required to be kept on file by the school for every athlete participating in sports. In addition, all coaches and game officials are required to take the free NFHS concussion education course (or its equivalent).

B. Football

1. National Federation - All football play is governed by National Federation Football Rules unless modified by the AAC with permission.

2. Playing Dates - The AAC will set the starting date and the playoff dates for the football season. A varsity team may play as many games as they wish during the time between the starting date and the last playoff date, provided they play only one regularly scheduled varsity game per week. The first football game playing date will be set each year by the AAC. (see long range football calendar)

3. Notifying MAIS Office Of Program Cancellation - The deadline for a member school canceling a football schedule shall not be later than five (5) days after the first official day of practice. Failure to comply with the deadline shall result in the school in violation paying the full contract fee, or cancellation by mutual agreement between the two schools involved.

   Note: Should a school in the eleven-man football alignment not be able to field a team, possible solutions could include:

   a. Playing the opponent in an eight-man game so neither team will have an open date.
   b. Allowing such schools to forfeit to their opponents, giving their opponents the option of finding another team that will play them an eleven (11) man game.

4. First Five (5) Days Of Practice - During the first three (3) days of practice, players shall not wear pads (shoulder pads, hip pads, pants with pads of any kind with the exception that shoulder pads can be worn for sled work only). Helmets may be worn. The next two (2) days, shoulder pads may be worn in addition to helmets. Following the fifth day of practice, full pads may be worn.

The first possible day for team practice for the 2016-17 school year is July 25th. Schools do not have to start this early. From the time of their start date, however, they must adhere to the following schedule:

1st Day - Practice in Helmets, Shorts and Shirts Only (shoulder pads can be used for sled work only)
2nd Day - Practice in Helmets, Shorts and Shirts Only (shoulder pads can be used for sled work only)
3rd Day - Practice in Helmets, Shorts and Shirts Only (shoulder pads can be used for sled work only)
4th Day - Practice in Helmet, Shorts and Shirts; Shoulder pads can be worn throughout practice
5th Day - Practice in Helmet, Shorts and Shirts; Shoulder pads can be worn throughout practice
6th Day - Full Pads (1st day live scrimmage allowed - must be intrasquad)
7th Day - Full Pads (2nd day live scrimmage allowed- must be intrasquad)
8th Day (and beyond) - Full Pads (scrimmages with other schools allowed)

5. Regular Practice - Regular football practice is interpreted to mean team practice under the supervision of an authorized individual (this means coach, faculty member, part-time coach, or any individual not enrolled in that school).

6. Admission Policy - The only individuals who will be admitted to football games free will be the team, the coaches, the managers, the bus driver, the cheerleaders, the drill team, the dance team and the band. NOTE: A pep squad will NOT be admitted free.

7. Proper Field Markings - A fifteen (15) yard penalty will be assessed against the home team at the beginning of the game if the field is not marked properly,

including five-yard markers from G to G. If lines are erased or altered by inclement weather immediately preceding the game, this will be taken into consideration.

8. Chain Crew Responsibilities - The chain crew for a football game will meet with the head linesman twenty (20) minutes before game time. The chain crew will wear vests of contrasting color. The home team shall have the option as to chain crews in football games being placed on the home side of the field.

   NOTE: The Director of Activities has the authority to instruct the officials assigned to playoff games to place the chain crew on the side of the field deemed necessary to avoid possible problems.

9. Mouth and Tooth Protectors - The use of mouth and tooth protectors shall be mandatory in all football games.

10. NFHS Rules Exception - An exception to the National Federation rules regarding numbering is as follows: Only on obvious punting situations, try for extra point, and field goal attempts, it shall not be mandatory or required that the five (5) men on the line be numbered 50-79. On pass situations that may result from any of the aforementioned kicking situations, eligible receivers shall be determined and recognized by virtue of their being lined up offensively in an eligible receivers position. (Position, not number they wear, determines their eligibility as a receiver). On all other downs during the series, offensive players shall be numbered in accordance with the rules.

11. Football Specifications - National Federation Football Rules govern the use of footballs for each game.

12. Determining District Champion - Each district will choose its own method of determining its champion, and the teams that will advance to the MAIS playoffs. Only Class A and Class AA schools will be allowed to participate in the MAIS 8-man league and compete for a championship. Class A and Class AA eleven-man schools will compete for the Class A-AA Championship.

13. Game Limitations

    A junior high football team shall be permitted to play during any scholastic year a maximum of eight (8) football games (including bowl game). A varsity division team shall be permitted to play the number of games as approved by the Director of Activities and/or the AAC.

14. Number Of Officials Required

    There will be at least four (4) certified officials to officiate a varsity football game. There will be a minimum of three (3) registered officials in full uniform to work Junior High (grades 7-9) and B-team games. All officials must be registered with the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Athletic Officials Association.

15. Tobacco Prohibited

    Any coach, official or player who uses tobacco, or tobacco related products, within the confines of the playing area shall be immediately ejected from the contest. Failure to comply with this rule shall result in the contest being forfeited.

16. MAIS Football Tiebreaker

    The following tiebreaker will be used for districts that do not have their own:

    a. Head-to-head competition
    b. Record against other teams in the district (from best to worst)
    c. Point differential* among the teams involved in the tie
    d. Point differential* among the other teams in the district (from best to worst)
    e. Coin Flip

    *There is a cap of 18 points per game placed on the point differential.

    Note: The AAC has determined that the process of implementing this tiebreaker is continuous. Once the teams that are tied start with step 1, the steps will be followed in succession until all the teams involved have been awarded a place.

17. Football Playoff Structure

a. Eight-Man Playoffs

The district champion from each of the 4 eight-man districts will advance to the playoffs and will host a first round game. These 4 champions will be ranked according to their power point average, and placed appropriately in the first 4 spots of a standard 8-team bracket. The remaining schools will be ranked according to their power point average and will be placed appropriately in the remaining spots (positions 5 through 8). It is noted that the district runner-up is not guaranteed a position in the playoffs.

b. Class AA Playoffs - For Class A & AA Teams Playing 11-Man Football

The district champion from each of the 6 Class AA districts will advance to the playoffs and will host a first round game. These 6 champions will be ranked according to their power point average, and placed appropriately in the first 6 spots of a standard 16-team bracket. The remaining schools will be ranked according to their power point average and will be placed appropriately in the remaining spots (positions 7 through 16). It is noted that the district runner-up is not guaranteed a position in the playoffs.

c. Class AAA Playoffs

The district champion from each of the 5 Class AAA districts will advance to the playoffs and will host a first round game. These 5 champions will be ranked according to their power point average, and placed appropriately in the first 5 spots of a standard 16-team bracket. The remaining schools will be ranked according to their power point average and will be placed appropriately in the remaining spots (positions 6 through 16). It is noted that the district runner-up is not guaranteed a position in the playoffs.

d. Class AAAA Division II Playoffs

The Division II district champion from each of the 3 Class AAAA districts will advance to the playoffs and will host their first game. These 3 champions will be ranked according to their power point average, and placed appropriately in

the first 3 spots of a standard 6-team bracket. The remaining schools will be ranked according to their power point average, and the top three will be placed appropriately in the remaining spots (positions 4 through 6). It is noted that the results of all district games, both Division I & Division II, will be used to determine each Division II district champion.

e. Class AAAA Division I Playoffs

The Division I district champion from each of the 3 Class AAAA districts will advance to the playoffs and will host their first game. These 3 champions will be ranked according to their power point average, and placed appropriately in the first 3 spots of a standard 6-team bracket. The remaining schools will be ranked according to their power point average, and the top three will be placed appropriately in the remaining spots (positions 4 through 6). It is noted that the results of all district games, both Division I & Division II, will be used to determine each Division II district champion.

18. Power Point Average

The power point rating is defined to be the average of power points earned.

The formula for calculating this rating will be:

$$\text{Power Point Rating} = \frac{\text{Power Points Earned}}{\text{Number of Games Played}}$$

The reason that the rating is an average is because every team will not play the same number of ball games. Some teams will play eleven games, while others will play ten or less.

Competition between 11-man schools and 8-man schools will not result in any power points being earned.

All football games, regardless of class, will be played until a winner is determined. Should the score be tied at the end of regulation play, the MAIS

tiebreaker will be used. The power point rating set forth by the committee is based on awarding points for wins and losses, not ties.

In games where power points are awarded, teams will receive power points for every win, and every loss.

Power points shall be awarded as follows:

$$\text{Power Point Average} = \frac{\text{Total Number of Power Points Earned}}{\text{Total Number of MAIS Opponents}}$$

Athletic Class	Points Awarded On Front End	Points Awarded For Win	Points Awarded For Opponent's Success
1A	NA	NA	NA
2A	0	12	* 1 point for every win or Open Date that opponent has
3A	3	12	* 1 point for every win or Open Date that opponent has
4A - Division II	5	12	* 1 point for every win or Open Date that opponent has
4A - Division I	7	12	* 1 point for every win or Open Date that opponent has

* This includes ANY win that your opponent has, including MAIS opponents AND non-MAIS opponents.

Should Team A lose a game from its schedule due to an opponent's forfeiture because of a program shutting down, a program dropping down to eight-man football, or any other situation approved by the Director of Activities, the game Team A lost will not be used in power point calculations.

In addition, the results of any game not approved by the Football Committee, and not on the final draft of the football schedule, will not affect power point ratings, unless approved by the Director.

Should there be two or more teams that have the same power point rating, the following tiebreaker sequence will be used to break the tie:

a. Head to head competition
b. Record vs. common opponents
c. Point differential* vs. common opponents
d. Point differential* vs. all opponents
e. Coin toss

*There is a cap of 18 points per game placed on the point differential.

Note: The AAC has determined that the process of implementing this tiebreaker is continuous. Once the teams that are tied start with step 1, the steps will be followed in succession until all the teams involved have been awarded a place.

The power point average will be calculated to three decimal places.

The following example will hopefully help coaches in understanding how the tiebreaker is applied when the point differential has to be applied:

Team A defeats Team B by a score of 18 to 6
Team B defeats Team C by a score of 28 to 8
Team C defeats Team A by a score of 30 to 22

To determine a team's differential, the total number of points scored against a team would be subtracted from the total number of points that team scored. Using the example above,

From Team A's two games, Team A receives the following values: +12 (18-6) and -8 (30-22). Therefore, Team A's overall differential value is +4 (12+ -8).

From Team B's two games, Team B receives the following values: +18 (28-8=20, but cap is 18) and -12 (18-6). Therefore, Team B's overall differential value is +6 (18 + -12).

From Team C's two games, Team C receives the following values: +8 (30-22=8) and -18 (28-8=20, but cap is 18). Therefore, Team C's overall differential value is -10 (8 + -18).

Therefore, Team B would finish 1st, Team A would finish 2nd, and Team C would finish 3rd.

19. Class Championships

The championship games for Eight-Man, Class A-AA and Class AAA will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2016.

The championship games for Class AAAA-D1 and Class AAAA-D2 will be on Friday, November 18, 2016.

The Director of Activities will be responsible for overseeing the administration of all class championship games.

In all games leading up to the championship game, the following will apply:

a. The home team of each particular playoff game is responsible for the site of the game.
b. Each team will furnish their own game balls. Note: Wilson balls will be used for the championship games.
c. Assignment of officials for playoff games will be made by the Director of Activities.
d. Either school involved in playoff games shall have the right to broadcast said game. The Academy Activities Commission will determine the radio / streaming / broadcast fees for the playoffs.
e. Football playoff games may be postponed by mutual consent of both teams involved. The AAC and/or the Director of Activities shall set rescheduling of said games.

20. Tie breaker (10 Yard line Overtime Procedure)

The MAIS overtime tiebreaker shall be used for ALL games in which the score is tied at the end of regulation play.

An overtime period is un-timed play after a regulation game has ended with the score tied. During an overtime period each team has an opportunity for an offensive series of downs. However, an overtime period may include only one offensive series of downs if the defensive team scores a safety or touchdown.

When the score is tied at the end of the fourth period, the referee will instruct both teams to return to their respective team boxes. There will be a three-minute

intermission during which both teams may confer with their coaches. All game officials will assemble at the 50-yard line, review the overtime procedure, and discuss how penalties, if any, including any carry-over penalties from the regulation contest, will be assessed to start the overtime procedure. At the end of the intermission, the linesman will go to the other team. They will inform the coaches of any special penalty enforcements that apply.

At the coin toss in the center of the field, the visiting-team's captain shall be given the privilege of choosing "heads" or "tails" before the coin is tossed. The winner of the toss shall be given his choice of defense or offense first, or of designating the end of the field at which the ball will be put in play for this set of downs. The loser will have his choice of the other options. The referee will indicate the winner of the toss by placing a hand on his shoulder. To indicate which team will go on offense, the referee will have that captain face the goal toward which his team will advance and indicate this with the first-down signal. The other team captain will face the offensive captain with his back toward the goal he will defend.

Each team shall be permitted one time-out during each overtime period (a series for A and a series for B). Unused second half time-outs cannot be used in overtime. Therefore, once the referee has declared the fourth period has officially ended all unused time-outs are lost. The team scoring the greater number of points in the overtime shall be declared the winner. The final score shall be determined by totaling all points scored by each team during both regulation time and over-time periods.

To start the overtime, the offensive team shall put the ball in play, first and goal, on the defensive team's 10-yard line or succeeding spot if carry-over penalty has been administered anywhere between the hash marks. The first offensive team shall have a series of four downs. That series shall be terminated by any score by the offensive team or if the defensive team has possession of the ball.

If the team on offense scores a touchdown, it is entitled to the opportunity for a try unless the points would not affect the outcome of the game.
A field-goal attempt is permitted during any down.

If the defensive team gains possession, the ball becomes dead immediately and the offensive team's series of downs is ended.

After the first team on offense has completed its series of downs, the first team on defense will become the offensive team with the ball in its possession at the same 10-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The same end of the field will be used for possessions by both teams during the two sets of downs to ensure equal game conditions and conserve time.

If the score remains tied after each team has been given one series of downs in an overtime period, then the procedure shall be repeated with other overtime periods until a game winner is determined. In this case, there shall be an intermission of two minutes. At the subsequent meeting of team captains, the loser of the overtime coin toss will be given first choice of the options. If additional overtime periods are required, then first options will be alternated with no coin toss.

If a safety is scored by the offensive team, the succeeding spot will be the 10-yard line in possession of the team that was on defense, provided the defensive team has not had its series of downs. When the defensive team gains possession of the ball, the down and series immediately end for the offensive team.

The offensive team shall be awarded a new series of downs when any one of the following occurs:

a. Penalty for defensive pass interference is accepted
b. Offensive team recovers a scrimmage kick (field goal attempt) between the goal lines after it has been touched first by the defensive team beyond the neutral zone.
c. Defensive team is guilty of roughing the kicker, place-kick holder, snapper or passer.

The line to gain is always the goal line regardless of whether or not a penalty enforcement places the ball more than 10 yards from the goal line to start a new series.

* If the defensive team scores a safety or touchdown, the game is ended. No try will be attempted if the winner of the game has been determined.

Post-scrimmage kick enforcement is not applicable in this procedure.
* This would be an EXTREMELY RARE occurrence for the defensive team to score in either of these ways.

21. Athletic Contests
    a. The forfeiture fee for an away game is $2500.00. The forfeiture fee for a home game is $1250.00.
    b. The starting time for football games should be the responsibility of the HOST SCHOOL. After setting the starting time, a change can be made if it is agreed to by both schools.
    c. In case the home team wishes to postpone a football game, they are responsible for the visiting team's actual expenses provided they have failed to notify them in sufficient time due to:
        i. Weather
        ii. Any other reason that has the mutual consent of schools involved.
        In the case of a postponement, the date to replay the game shall be made by mutual consent. If member schools cannot agree, the Director of Activities shall set the date that the game will be played.
    d. Jr. high teams may play a maximum of 8 football games.

22. Pre-Season Practice, Scrimmages and Jamborees

    a. MAIS schools may participate in one (1) pre-season jamboree. No jamboree shall be played earlier than the Thursday prior to the Friday before the first regular season playing date.
    b. Controlled scrimmages may be held following the first five days of practice and two days of practice in full pads (see Section VII-B-5). These scrimmages allow member schools to practice together, thereby benefiting the school and their football program. The coaches of both teams must be on the field with their respective teams.
    c. Member schools must request permission to host a jamboree from the MAIS Office through the MAIS website. Failure to get a football jamboree sanctioned shall result in the host school being assessed a fine in the amount of $300.00 in addition to the percentage of the gate amount due the MAIS.
    d. Ten percent (10%) of the gate receipts of a jamboree are payable to the MAIS. This applies to both junior high and varsity jamborees.

23. Spring Practice

Competition between member schools in sports played out of their regular season (spring football games, spring jamborees, summer basketball camps, etc.) will not be considered as regular competition in that sport, and eligibility requirements will be waived PROVIDED that students who are transferring from one member school to another member school are enrolled in the member school for which they participate at the time of participation.

The following rules apply to spring football:

a. Spring football practice shall consist of twenty (20) practice days within a 30-day consecutive calendar period prior to the end of the regular school session. A spring practice session is interpreted to mean practice under the supervision of any authorized personnel.
b. The Director of Activities may grant permission to member schools on an individual basis to postpone spring training for reasons such as sickness, weather, etc., and go beyond the 30-day period, but for a total of no more than 20 practice days.
c. Each school shall email the Director of Activities with their beginning and ending spring practice dates. This will be done at least one week prior to the starting date of the practice.
d. No football player from a member school shall be permitted to engage in any football practice at any school other than the one in which he is enrolled. (In case of consolidation of two or more member schools, an exception may be made by the AAC).

24. Summer Work-outs

Coaches are allowed to work on the field during summer workouts on anything except team play and contact during June and July. Backs can work out together, and linemen can work out together. They cannot, however, come together and run plays. Helmets may be worn for 7-on-7 and sled work. Shoulder pads may not be worn.

25. Bowl Games
    a. Member schools must receive written permission from the MAIS Office to host, or play in, a bowl game. This request should be made by email to the Director of Activities.
    b. After deducting fees for officials and $100.00 for expenses incidental to the game, the MAIS will receive ten percent (10%) of the gross gate receipts for all special games, and games played between a member and a non-member school, that are not on the regular schedule and are played at the site of a member school.

26. Football Field Regulations
    a. A fence, or some restraining barricade, shall be provided on both sides of all football fields. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be $250 for each game played in violation of this rule.
    b. A $250.00 fine will be assessed against any school that marks their playing field (football, baseball, etc.) with LIME (calcium oxide, or calcium hydroxide) or any other skin-irritating material. The use of pulverized limestone (often called marble dust) is permissible. Upon written complaint of a violation filed with the MAIS Office, the Academy Activities Commission will investigate, and render a decision.

27. Playing Time - A football player shall not play more than six (6) quarters per week unless there is a postponed game to be played. A football week is defined as beginning on Sunday and going through the following Saturday.

28. Jr. High Players Playing "Up and Down" - Eighth and ninth grade football players can be used on both the junior high football team and varsity football team in the same week without penalty, as long as the players do not exceed the six (6) quarter per week rule. Playing any part of a quarter counts as a quarter.

    The penalty for violating the "up and down" rule by a member school shall result in a $300.00 fine assessment and six (6) months probation.

29. Determining HOME Team During The Football Playoffs
    The highest seeded team will be the HOME team in the playoffs. If two teams are matched that have equal seeds, the team with the highest power point rating will be the HOME team.

Should two equally seeded teams have the same power point rating, a coin toss shall be conducted by the AAC to determine the HOME team.

Exception: No coin toss will be needed if the same two teams played each other in the playoffs in the previous year as equal seeds. In this scenario, the team that was the visiting team in the previous year, will be the HOME team this year.

30. All-Star Game / Player Selection Process

The MAIS shall sanction a Football All-Star Game. The North Team, consisting of forty (44) players, will play the South Team, also consisting of forty (44) players.

The number of days that the football all-stars will stay overnight will be three (3).

The first twenty-five (25) players will be chosen by the respective all-star selection committees*. Only the winner of each district can have two (2) players chosen in the initial group of twenty-five (25) players. If there is a tie for the District Championship, the team that wins the tiebreaker is the only team that can have two (2) players in the initial round of twenty-five (25) players.

The next eight (8) players will also be chosen by the selection committee. These eight (8) selections are "at-large" selections, that is, they can come from any school.

The final seven (7) selections will be made by the AAC Football Committee. These selections will also be "at-large" selections.

The selection committees shall be composed of one (1) representative from each district. This representative will be chosen by the district at a special called meeting.

The North All-Star Team shall be made up of players from the following districts: District 1AA, District 2AA, District 3AA, District 1AAA, District 2AAA, District 3AAA, District 1AAAA-Div I, District 1AAAA-Div II.

The South All-Star Team shall be made up of players from the following districts: District 4AA, District 5AA, District 6AA, District 4AAA, District 5AAA, District 2AAAA-Div I, District 2AAAA-Div II, District 3AAA- Div I, and District 3AAA-Div II.

Four additional players from Eight-Man Districts 1 & 2 will be added to the North All-Star Team. Likewise, four additional players from Eight-Man Districts 3 & 4 will be added to the South All-Star Team. These players will be selected by the schools playing eight-man football.

31. All-Star Coaches / Requirements

All-star football coaches will be chosen as follows:

Members of the MAISCA will declare at their district meeting whether or not they would like to serve as an all-star coach. The Football Committee will then choose from the pool of eligible and willing coaches, four coaches according to the following guidelines:

1 Class AA Coach (must be a head coach)
1 Class AAA Coach (must be a head coach)
1 Class AAAA Coach (must be a head coach)
1 Additional Coach (could come from any class; could be an assistant coach)

If possible, the coaches should be chosen before the all-star player selection meeting. They will be allowed to sit in on the selection committee's meeting.

Part-time coaches, or coaches not on the faculty, are ineligible to serve as a head coach in the all-star game. They could, however, serve as an assistant coach.

Note: Coaches are not eligible to coach in the all-star game unless they are members of the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Coaches' Association.

All all-star coaches must agree to the following:

a. No player will start on both offense and defense. Note: The Football Committee has no problem with a player playing on both offense and defense during the game, but only after the other All-Star players are given an opportunity to play.
b. Coaches will spend the night at the hotel where the all-star players are housed.
c. The head coach will present a list of coaching responsibilities to the administrative coach at the beginning of the week.
d. Coaches will make every effort to ensure that all all-star players receive the proper playing time as set forth in the instructions given by the Director of Activities.

32. Officials' Fees

Officials' Fees - Varsity Football	
Assigning Secretary Fee	$95
Referee	$90
Umpire	$90
Linesman	$90
Line Judge	$90
Back Judge	$90
Electric Clock Operator	$55
Note: No travel allowance.	

Officials' Fees - Jr. High Football	
Assigning Secretary Fee	Negotiable
One Game	$50
Two Games	$65
Electric Clock Operator	$55
Note: No travel allowance.	

33. Admission Prices

Football		
Event	Adult	Student
Jr. High Games	$7	$6
Varsity Regular Season Games	$8	$7
Playoff Games Leading To Class Championship	$8	$8
Championship Games	$10	$10
All-Star Game	$10	$10

34. Football Brackets, Forms, Schedules

The following brackets and forms can be found in the football section of the MAIS website:

a. Football Playoff Brackets
b. Jamboree Disbursement Form
c. Bowl Game Disbursement Form
d. Master Football Schedule

35. Mercy Rule For 11-Man Football

When the difference in the score of an eleven-man football game reaches 35 points or more after the second half begins, the clock will run continuously with the exception of time-outs (called either by officials or coaches). Once the mercy rule goes into effect, it will stay in effect even if the point differential falls below 35 points.

36. Length of Playing Time For Junior High - Junior high football quarters shall be eight (8) minutes in length when only 7th and 8th graders are participating. All athletic divisions in junior high have the option to play eight (8) or ten (10) minute quarters in football when 9th graders are playing. (In inter-district play in junior high with 9th graders participating, the length of the quarters will be optional as well as the use of the tiebreaker being optional.)

    The above length of playing time shall be adhered to unless the schools involved agree to play to a lesser number of minutes.

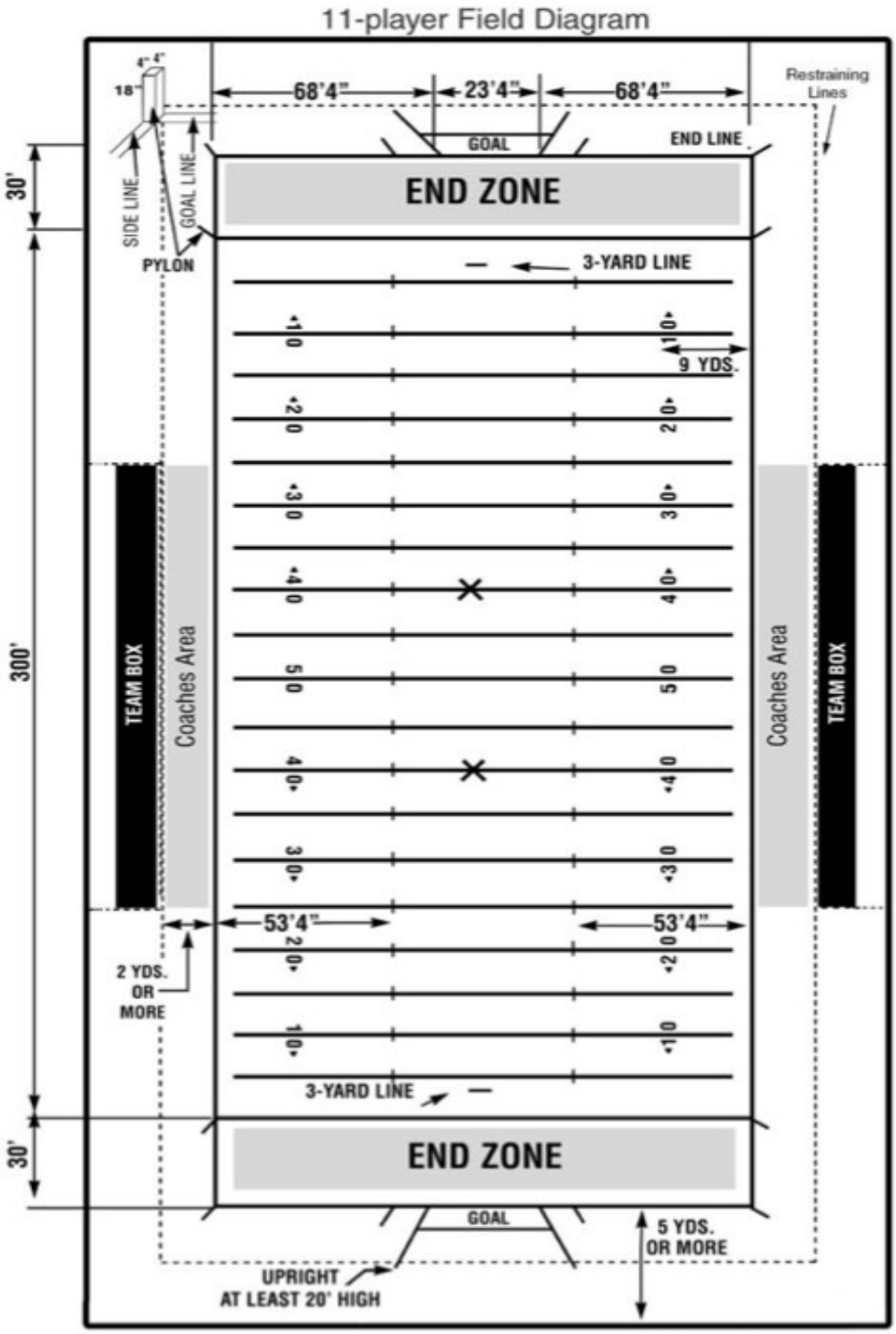
37. Eight-Man Football Rule Modifications - The following modifications will be made for MAIS eight-man football.

    a. Eight-man football is normally played on a shorter and narrower field than eleven-man football. The field is 80 yards long and 40 yards wide. The hash marks are 10 yards in from each sideline. Any school, however, that wishes to use a field marked off for eleven-man football, will be allowed to do so.
    b. If the 80 yard by 40 yard field is used:
    i. Kickoffs are spotted at the 30-yard line. If a kick goes into the end zone, it is brought out to the 15-yard line for play.
    ii. After a safety, the ball is spotted at the 15-yard line for the free kick.
    c. The offensive team is required to have at least five players on the line of scrimmage. Any player who is on the end of the line of scrimmage is an eligible receiver, regardless of the number he is wearing. All 3 backs are also eligible receivers.
    d. Any player may wear any number, regardless of the position he plays. There is no numbering requirement as exists in 11-man football. No duplicate numbers, however, may be worn.
    e. The distance that an onside kick must travel before being legally touched by the kicking team is increased from the normal ten (10) yards to fifteen (15)

yards. In addition, the receiving team must set up behind a line that is at least 15 yards from the ball at the kickoff.

f. The length of the quarters in an 8-man game shall be 10 minutes.
g. NFHS rules used for eleven-man football will apply unless modified by the above.

38. Football Field Diagram



C. Basketball

1. National Federation Rules - All basketball play shall be governed by National Federation Basketball Rules.

   Note: In April of 2012, the AAC voted to modify the dimensions of the coaches' box so that it is marked off by a line 28' from the baseline, back to the baseline.

2. No Play Dates - The AAC removed all no-play dates from the calendar.

3. First Playing Date - The first basketball game shall not be played before October 15. The last basketball game of the season shall be the last game of the Overall Tournament.

4. Sixth Grade Participation - A sixth (6th) grader may participate on a jr. high level in basketball. Sixth graders, however, are NOT allowed to participate in varsity basketball.

   No student below the sixth (6th) grade may participate on the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

5. Removing Net - No school shall remove the nets from the goals of another school unless the host school grants permission. A violation of this rule will lead to action by the Affairs Committee.

6. Artificial Noisemakers - Artificial noisemakers shall not be brought into a gymnasium during basketball games. A pep band may be used, provided said band plays only while there is no action on the floor. Note: A megaphone is considered a noisemaker.

7. Restriction For Cheerleaders - Basketball cheerleaders shall not be allowed on the floor while the ball is in play. The only times they will be allowed on the floor is during a 60 second time-out, between quarters, and at halftime. The host school is responsible for designating the appropriate areas in which the cheerleaders should cheer.

   Exception: Any school that has enough room to place a restraining line marker 12 feet from the out of bounds line on the basketball court, will be permitted to allow cheerleaders to cheer while the ball is in play. The restraining line marker can be solid or dotted, and a color of the school's choosing.

8. Fans Forming Lines - Fans shall not form lines for the basketball team coming onto the playing floor inside the gymnasium. This does not affect the cheerleaders in uniform as they are allowed to form a line for the teams coming on the floor. The officials shall assess a technical foul against the team that allows their fans to form said lines on the playing floor.

9. Illegal Floors - Concrete and ceramic tile floors are illegal for basketball games. In addition, all protective padding shall be in place regarding the playing floor.

10. Spirit Flags - No large "spirit flags" or large signs are allowed inside the gym.

11. Class A Playoffs

Tournament	Teams Participating	2016 Site	2017 Site
North A Tournament	Districts 1 &2	Marvell Academy	Marvell Academy
South A Tournament	Districts 3 & 4	Sharkey-Issaquena Academy	Rebul Academy
Class A Tournament	Top 4 From N/S Tournaments	Rebul Academy	Rebul Academy
Overall Tournament	Top 3 Advancers Class Tournaments	Mississippi College	Mississippi College

The 2017 Basketball Playoff Brackets Are Posted On MAIS Website.

The top four teams will advance from each Class A district to their respective regional tournaments (North A / South A). The top four teams will advance from each of the regional tournaments to the Class A Tournament.

The top three teams will advance from the Class A Tournament to the MAIS Overall Basketball Tournament at MC.

12. Class AA Playoffs

Tournament	Teams Participating	2016 Site	2017 Site
North AA Tournament	Districts 1 & 2	Winona Christian	Delta Academy
Central AA Tournament	Districts 3 & 4	Benton Academy	Canton Academy
South AA Tournament	Districts 5 & 6	Glenbrook School	Tallulah Academy
Class AA Tournament	Top 4 Advancers From N/C/S Tournaments	Canton Academy	Winona Christian
Overall Tournament	Top 3 Advancers From Class AA Tournament	Mississippi College	Mississippi College

The 2017 Basketball Playoff Brackets Are Posted On MAIS Website.

Four teams will advance from each Class AA district to their respective regional tournaments (North AA / Central AA / South AA). The top four teams will advance from each of the regional tournaments to the Class AA Tournament.

The top three teams will advance from the Class AA Tournament to the MAIS Overall Basketball Tournament at MC.

13. Class AAA Playoffs

Tournament	Teams Participating	2016 Site	2017 Site
North AAA Tournament	Districts 1, 2 & 3	Indianola Academy	Leake Academy
South AAA Tournament	Districts 4 & 5	Columbia Academy	Simpson Academy
Class AAA Tournament	Top 4 Advancers From N/S Tournaments	Brookhaven Academy	Kirk Academy
Overall Tournament	Top 3 Advancers From Class AAA Tournament	Mississippi College	Mississippi College

The 2017 Basketball Playoff Brackets Are Posted On MAIS Website.

Four teams will advance from each Class AAA district to their respective regional tournaments (North AAA / South AAA). The top four teams will advance from each of the regional tournaments to the Class AAA Tournament.

The top three teams will advance from the Class AAA Tournament to the MAIS Overall Basketball Tournament at MC.

14. Class AAAA Playoff Structure - Brackets On Website

Tournament	Teams Participating	2016 Site	2017 Site
Division I Tournament	All Division I Schools	Presbyterian Christian School	Jackson Prep
Division II Tournament	All Division II Schools	East Rankin Academy	Hillcrest Christian
Class AAAA Tournament	Top 4 Advancers From DI/DII Tournament	Jackson Prep	Jackson Academy
Overall Tournament	Top 3 Advancers From Class AAAA Tournament	Mississippi College	Mississippi College

The 2017 Basketball Playoff Brackets Are Posted On MAIS Website.

Division I Tournament - Three Division I teams will advance from each Class AAAA district to the Division I Tournament.

Division II Tournament – All Division II teams will advance to the Division II Tournament.

Note: These tournaments will be played the same week as the Class A, AA and AAA are playing their North / Central / South Tournaments.

Overall Class AAA Tournament
The top four (4) teams from the Division I Tournament and the Division II Tournament will advance to the Class AAAA Tournament. Seeding for the tournament will be based on the order of finish in the Division Class Tournaments.

Overall Tournament

The top three (3) teams from the Class AAAA Tournament will advance to the MAIS Overall Basketball Tournament at MC.

15. Scrimmages, Jamborees, Summer Practices
    a. Scrimmages / Jamborees - There shall be no scrimmages and/or jamborees prior to the first Friday in October. Approval for jamborees must be directed in writing to the MAIS Office. The request should be made through the MAIS website to the Director of Activities. NOTE: Schools must comply with the three basketball outing per week rule established in Section VII-C-15-b. The total number of scrimmages, jamborees and/or games in one week cannot exceed three, with the third being on Friday or Saturday.
    b. Summer Basketball Practice – No limitations on games, camps, etc.
        i. Students who participate in summer basketball practices and camps shall be enrolled in the member school for which they participate at the time of participation.
        ii. No player may play for another school's team other than their own school's team unless previously released by said player's head coach, athletic director or headmaster. If the player's school doesn't have a summer team, said player must still secure a release. Both schools shall notify the Director of Activities by email of this situation.
    c. Discipline - Any school in violation of rules 14a or 14b shall be subject to action by the Affairs Committee.

16. Scheduling Limitations

    The following regulations apply to both jr. high and varsity basketball:
    a. Regular Season Game Limitation - 28 regular season games may be played, plus 1 pre-season all girls' tournament (a pre-season all-girls' tournament does not count against the 28 games). Tournaments played during the Thanksgiving Holidays or Christmas Holidays will not count toward the 28 game limit.
    b. Additional Game Limitations - Jr. high and varsity basketball teams will be limited to no more than three (3) games each week, subject to the 28 regular season game limit. If a 3rd game is played in a week, it must be played on Friday or Saturday. Tournament play would be an exception. Tournaments will count as one (1) game against the three (3) game per week limitation.
    c. First Playing Date - No games may be played before October 15th.
    d. Holiday Tournaments - Tournaments that are held at times other than the Thanksgiving or Christmas Holidays will count as two (2) games against the regular season limit of 28, and schools are limited to no more than three (3)

games per tournament. Exception: Should a tournament be a single-elimination tournament, and a team lose its first game, the tournament would only count as 1 game against the regular season limit.

e. Tournament Date Guidelines - Tournaments must be played on consecutive days unless interrupted by a special event. (Example: All-Star Games, Wednesday Night Church Service, etc.)
f. Fall Scrimmages / Jamborees - There shall be no scrimmages and/or jamborees prior to the first Friday in October. Approval for jamborees must be directed in writing to the MAIS Office. The request should be made through the MAIS website to the Director of Activities. NOTE: Schools must comply with the three-basketball outing per week rule. The total number of scrimmages, jamborees and/or games in one week cannot exceed three, with the third being on Friday or Saturday. Once a school plays a regular season game, it cannot participate in any further jamborees.
g. All-Star Football Game No Play Date - No basketball scrimmages, jamborees or games can be played on the date of the Football All-Star Game.

17. Mandatory District Tournament Dates For Class A, AA & AAA - District Tournaments for Class A, AA and AAA will be held during the week of February 6, 2017. It is noted that having a district tournament is not mandatory.

    The championship game for varsity district tournaments must be Saturday, February 11, 2017.

    The Regional Tournaments (North / Central / South) and the Class AAAA Division I & II Tournaments will be held the week of February 13, 2017. Note: Class AAAA schools do not play a district tournament.

18. Playing Time Limitations
    a. Length of Quarters: Junior high basketball quarters, for both boys and girls, shall be seven (7) minutes. (Note: By mutual agreement of BOTH teams, six (6) minute quarters may be used.) Varsity basketball quarters, for both boys and girls, shall be eight (8) minutes.
    b. Regular Season Game Limitation - A basketball player shall be limited to six (6) quarters per evening (or session) of play. Overtime shall be an extension of the fourth quarter.

c. Tournament Play Limitation - In tournaments, no team shall be permitted to play more than two (2) games in one day, and there must be at least four (4) hours rest between games. Example: A team could play at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the same day. Using 1 hour as an approximate length of a game, this would give 4 hours of rest between the games.
d. Playing "Up and Down" - Seventh, eighth and ninth grade basketball players can be used on both the junior high basketball team and varsity basketball team in the same day without penalty, as long as the players do not violate the six (6) quarter per day rule. Playing any part of a quarter counts as a quarter.

   The penalty for violating the "up and down" rule by a member school shall result in a $300.00 fine assessment, and six (6) months probation.

19. Determining District Champions / Playoff Teams
    a. Championship Determination Process - Each district will determine its own champion in basketball. In addition, said district will determine the teams that qualify to advance out of their district to the next level of the basketball playoffs.
    b. Tournament Seeding - Each district will decide the seeding of teams and the site for their tournament (should a tournament be used).
    c. Tournament Officials - Officials for sub-district and district tournaments are to be selected by the schools participating.

20. Invitational Tournaments
    a. Tournament Approval - The host school shall get approval for holding an invitational tournament at lest five (5) days prior to the tournament from the Director of Activities. This request should be made to the Director of Activities through the MAIS website. Note: Failure to get an invitational tournament sanctioned shall result in the host school being fined $300.00, in addition to the percentage of the gate due the MAIS.
    b. MAIS Share - After deducting the fees for the officials, the MAIS shall receive five percent (5%) of the gross gate receipts of all invitational varsity basketball tournaments. The host school will be responsible for collecting, and remitting, the Association's share of the proceeds.

21. Post-Season Tournament Information
    a. Six (6) Team Regional / Class Tournaments - Games will be played on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday (split sessions for Friday and Saturday of the class tournaments only).
    b. Nine (9) Team Regional / Class Tournaments - Games will be played Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (split sessions for Friday and Saturday of the class tournaments only).
    c. Twelve (12) Team Regional / Class Tournaments - Games will be played Monday - Saturday (split sessions for Friday and Saturday of the class tournaments only).
    d. Trophies - First and second-place trophies shall be awarded in all basketball tournaments. These will be procured by the Director of Activities and distributed to the tournament directors prior to the tournaments. The tournament directors will be notified of the cost of these trophies, and the amount will be deducted from the gate receipts. This amount will be included with the amount of money due to be sent in to the MAIS.
    e. Special Admission - Free admission will be given to the following individuals in tournament games leading to, and including, the Overall Championship. This does not limit the number of players on the traveling squad of any member school. Payments will be made for any additions to those listed below:

        15 boys, 2 coaches, 2 managers
        15 girls, 2 coaches, 2 managers
        1 statistician
        1 bus driver

        All cheerleaders who dress out and cheer for their team, and the sponsor who accompanies them, will also be admitted free. Note: For cheerleaders to be admitted free, their team must be in competition in the tournament.

        MAIS numbered athletic passes will be honored for all tournaments except the Class Tournaments, the Overall Tournament, and All-Star Basketball Games. Coaches who present their MAISCA Coaches' Association card will be admitted to all athletic events.
        No pep squad will be admitted free.

f. Radio Broadcasting

The broadcasting of Regional Tournaments (North, Central, South) and Class tournaments is to be handled by the Tournament Director. The fee for radio broadcasting is $75.00 per game, and is to be paid to the host school. The host school will keep $40.00 of this fee, and the remaining $35.00 will be sent to the MAIS.

Any school wanting to stream or do video broadcasting should contact the Director of Activities.

22. Selection and Scheduling of Officials

Officials for sub-district and district tournaments are to be selected by the schools participating.

For Regional Tournaments, the Director of Activities shall be responsible for the assignment of officials.

The Director of Activities will also be responsible for the assignment of officials for all Class Tournaments, and the Overall Basketball Tournament.

The Director of Activities will schedule the games that the officials will work at each tournament above the district level.

23. Tournament Sites

All sub-district and district tournament sites will be determined by the district members. Each AAC representative is responsible for calling a meeting to determine these sites.

Regional (North, Central, South, AAAA-Division I, AAAA-Division II), Class and Overall tournament sites will be selected by the AAC. Member schools that wish to host a post-district basketball tournament for their class, shall submit a basketball tournament bid form to the Director of Activities.

Any school hosting a post-season basketball tournament must have the benches located on the side of the court.

Any school hosting a class tournament must have backboard lights that rim both backboards. These lights must be synchronized with the game clock horn.

Selection of sites will be made for the length of time that the current alignment is in effect (Currently 2 years). The bid form will include the following criteria: Seating capacity, Motel accommodations, Geographical location, Restaurant accommodations

The tournament sites for the 2016-2017 alignment are:

Tournament	2016 Site	2017 Site
North A	Marvell Academy	Marvell Academy
South A	Sharkey-Issaquena Academy	Rebul Academy
Class A	Rebul Academy	Rebul Academy
North AA	Winona Christian	Delta Academy
Central AA	Benton Academy	Canton Academy
South AA	Glenbrook School	Tallulah Academy
Class AA	Canton Academy	Winona Christian
North AAA	Indianola Academy	Leake Academy
South AAA	Columbia Academy	Simpson Academy
Class AAA	Brookhaven Academy	Kirk Academy
Division I	Presbyterian Christian	Jackson Prep
Division II	East Rankin Academy	Hillcrest Christian
Class AAAA	Jackson Prep	Jackson Academy
Overall	Mississippi College	Mississippi College

24. Admission Fees - Basketball

Admission Prices - Varsity Basketball		
Event	Adult	Student
Regular Games*	$6	$5
District Tournament	$6	$6
Regional Tournaments**	$8	$8
Class Tournaments**	$8	$8
Overall Tournament / All-Star Game	$8	$8
* Prices do not apply to box or reserve seats on the HOME side ** Season ticket packages do not apply to any playoff series		

Admission Prices - Jr. High Basketball		
Event	Adult	Student
Regular Games*	$5	$4
District Tournament	$6	$6
* Prices do not apply to box or reserve seats on the HOME side		

The AAC strongly suggests that tournament directors issue passes to the players of the teams participating in the tournament.

25. Officials' Fees

Officials' Fees - Varsity Basketball	
Assigning Secretary Fee	$90
Single Game (2 person crew)	$55
Double-Header (2 person crew)	$95
Single Game (3 person crew)	$55
Double-Header (3 person crew)	$85
Note: No travel allowance.	

Officials' Fees - Jr. High Basketball	
Assigning Secretary Fee	Negotiable
Single Game (2 person crew)	$55
Double-Header (2 person crew)	$75
Three Games (2 person crew)	$95
Note: No travel allowance.	

26. Tournament Information
    a. Administrative Representation - Participating teams in the Regional (North, Central, South, AAAA-Division I, AAAA-Division II), Class and Overall tournaments shall have the administrator, or his or her designated representative, present at each game. Said representative will inform the tournament director of his presence prior to the game.

b. Housing - If necessary, assigned and designated housing accommodations will be made available for class and overall tournaments. In addition, an attempt will be made to keep such accommodations confined to the teams, and away from fans and cheerleaders.

27. All-Tournament Team Selection

For Regional, Class and Overall tournaments, All-Tournament team selections shall be made by a committee of five (5). This committee shall be appointed by the Tournament Director in advance of the tournament. Committee members shall be knowledgeable and impartial basketball observers, and shall make every effort to see each game in the tournament as a committee.

The Tournament Director shall provide the committee with all necessary facilities and information that will aid the committee in making objective decisions.

Ten (10) boys and ten (10) girls will be chosen by the committee (No Ties).

Awards shall be standardized, and made available through the Director of Activities. Expenses for these awards will come out of gate receipts as per first and second-place trophies.

28. All-Star Game / Selection Process

The MAIS shall sanction a Class A-AA Basketball All-Star Game, and a Class AAA/AAAA Basketball All-Star Game, for both girls and boys. Each team will consist of twelve (12) players. These players shall be chosen by a committee that is composed of representatives from each district involved.

The length of each all-star game will be forty (40) minutes, that is, two twenty (20) minute halves.

Most Valuable Player awards shall be given to a player from the North team and the South team in each game. The North A-AA Most Valuable Player Award will be named the "Graham Carson Most Valuable Player Memorial Award". Note: Graham, a former student of Delta Academy, was killed in an automobile accident a year after she graduated. When she participated in the Class A All-Star Game, she was named the Most Valuable Player for the North.

Any coach (head coach or assistant) that is willing serve as an all-star coach will submit his / her name to the Basketball Committee for consideration.

Reminder: Coaches are not eligible to coach in the all-star game unless they are members of the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Coaches' Association.

29. Basketball Brackets and Forms

    The 2017 Basketball Playoff Brackets Are Posted On MAIS Website.

30. Basketball Tiebreaker For Districts That Do Not Have One
    a. Head to Head Competition (This refers to records, not point-differential; only includes district games, not additional possible match-ups in tournaments)
    b. Record Against Other Teams in the District (from best to worst)
    c. Defensive Points Allowed (among the teams involved in the tie)
    d. Defensive Points Allowed Against Other Teams in the District (from best to worst)
    e. Coin Flip

    Note: The AAC has determined that the process of implementing this tiebreaker is continuous. Once the teams that are tied start with step 1, the steps will be followed in succession until all the teams involved have been awarded a place.

Example: Consider the case of three teams being tied with 8-2 records. If the head-to-head competition among the three teams tied were 3-1, 2-2, 2-2, the team with the 3-1 record would be awarded the highest place. To award places to the two remaining teams, the next phase of the tiebreaker (record against other teams in the district – from best to worst) would be used.

If a tie remained after step 2, then step 3 would be used. Should the tie remain, step 4 would be used. If a tie remained after step 4, a coin toss should be conducted (preferably in the presence of the coaches of the teams that are tied).

31. Basketball Brackets And Forms

The following brackets and forms can be found on the MAIS website:

a. Regional, Class and Overall Brackets (All Classes)
b. Jamboree Disbursement Forms
c. Invitational Tournament Disbursement Form
d. Regional Tournament Disbursement Form
e. Class Tournament Disbursement Form

32. Mercy Rule

Should the difference in the score of a basketball game reach 35 or more points at any time after the half, the clock shall be run non-stop until the game is over. Exception: The clock shall not be run during time-outs.

Note: Should the score drop below the 35-point mark during the second half, the decision to run the clock shall NOT be reversed.

Question #1: Should time on the clock be allowed to expire during a free-throw or throw-in situation? **Answer #1**: No. The clock operator should stop the clock at 5 seconds, and wait until play begins before re-starting it.

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Question #2: Once the 35-point differential is reached in the second half, what happens if the team behind begins to close the gap, and the differential falls below 35 points? Should the clock keeper revert back to keeping the clock as he/she did at the beginning of the game? What if the coach of the team that is behind (or ahead) requests that time be kept as normal after the rule has been applied? **Answer #2**: Once the referee instructs the clock keeper to apply the rule, the decision will not be reversed.

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Question #3: Can the mercy rule be set aside by mutual consent of the coaches. Note: One reason for doing this would be to give B-team players the opportunity to get playing time. **Answer #3**: Yes. Should the two coaches want to set the rule aside, they should communicate this to the officials in the pre-game meeting. Should both teams choose to do this, the referee should communicate this to the clock keeper before the game starts.

****

Question #4: What if, during the course of the second half of play, the differential in score reaches 35 points for a few seconds, but then it drops below that mark, and the officials fail to recognize it? **Answer #4**: This rule is not intended to be a legalistic burden on our officials. It would be impossible for them to do their job while also focusing their attention on the scoreboard. If and when the officials can be notified during a dead ball that the differential has reached 35 points, the referee should, in a discrete manner, instruct the clock keeper to apply the rule. Under no circumstances should play be stopped in order to make this notification.

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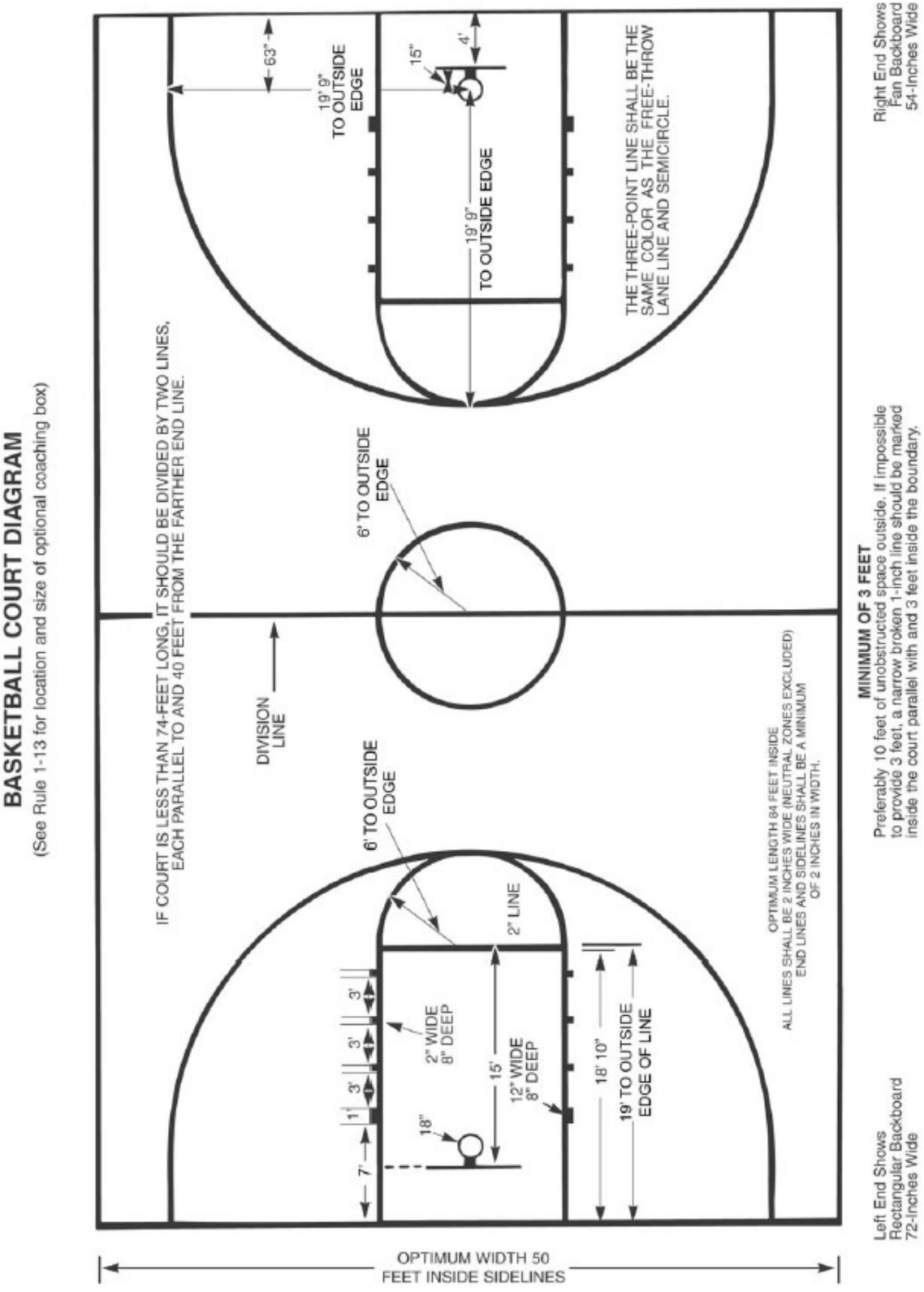
Question #5: Should the clock run during an injury time-out? **Answer #5**: No. When the mercy rule has been applied, the clock is to run non-stop with the exception of time outs, and the scenario described in question #1. Time-out situations would include regular time-outs called by players /coaches, and also time-outs called by officials for injury (or any other situation).

33. Length of Quarters For Junior High - Junior high basketball quarters, for both boys and girls, shall be seven (7) minutes. Note: Upon mutual agreement of BOTH teams, the length of the quarters can be reduced to six (6) minutes.

34. Junior High District Basketball Tournaments
    District Tournaments (girls and boys) - Sub-District and/or District Tournaments shall be the same as those for Varsity competition. Sub-District and/or district tournament playing dates will be set by the representatives of the schools in the district. Selection of tournament site, employment of officials, and other plans for conducting sub-district and/or district tournament shall be made by representatives of the schools in the district. The tournament director shall be designated by the administrator of the host school.

    The MAIS shall furnish a standard trophy for the winner and runner-up of each district. The tournament director will be notified of the cost of the championship trophies and the amount will be deducted from the gate receipts and included with the amount of money due to be sent in to the MAIS. The MAIS share for junior high tournaments is 20 percent. The host share is to be set by the district.

35. Basketball Court Diagram



D. Baseball

1. National Federation Rules - The National Federation Baseball Rules Book shall govern inter-school baseball games.

Note: The AAC reserves the right to make exceptions to NFHS rules should it feel that it is warranted.

2. First Playing Date - The first regular season playing date for baseball is February 13, 2017. One practice game may be held during February 6-11, 2017.

3. Scheduling Limitations
   a. Schools may play 28 regular season games
   b. Regular Season Tournaments - Regular season tournaments will count as 2 games. Should a tournament be single-elimination, and a team lose its first game, the tournament would only count as 1 game.
   Tournaments played during the Easter Holidays or Spring Break will not count toward the 28 game limit.

4. Number of Teams Qualifying For Playoffs - Two (2) teams will advance from each district to the playoffs.

5. Last Baseball Playing Date - The end of the baseball season for each class shall be the last day of the class championships.

6. Length of Game - Seven (7) innings shall constitute a game, but when the score is tied at the end of the 7th inning, additional innings shall be played to break the tie. Note: By mutual agreement, coaches may choose to play two (2) five inning games when playing a double header.

7. Suspended Games At District Level - Each district is responsible for determining its own procedure for dealing with games that are suspended. If a district does not adopt a game ending procedure, NFHS rules will apply.

8. Suspended Playoff Games - Playoff games that are terminated as a result of darkness, weather, artificial light failure, etc. shall be considered a "suspended

game." The suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. The line-up and batting order of each team shall be exactly the same as the line-up and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules governing the game.

9. Ten Run Rule - In playoff games, the ten-run rule does not apply unless mutually agreed to by both coaches before the game.

10. Days Used For Playoff Games - Tuesday and Friday are the days of the week that should be used for playoff games. Exception: During the week of the class track meet, Monday and Thursday should be used.

    Note: By mutual agreement, schools may deviate from the above schedule.

11. Playoff Disbursement - The MAIS shall receive ten percent (10%) of the gate receipts, after game officials have been paid, from all games leading to the Academy Conference class championship.

12. Sixth Grade Participation - Sixth graders are NOT allowed to play baseball at any level (jr. high or varsity).

13. Determining District Champion - The method of determining district champions shall be outlined by respective districts on a year-to-year basis. In addition, each district shall establish their own process by which teams are selected to advance to the MAIS playoffs.

14. Two Out Of Three Format - Each level of the baseball playoffs will involve a best two out of three format. Game 1 will be at the lower seed. Games 2 and 3 (if needed) will be at the higher seed, and played as a doubleheader. Note: By mutual consent, schools may deviate from this format with approval from the MAIS office.

15. Class A Playoff Structure
    All district games must be completed by Saturday, April 29, 2017.
    The first round of the Class A Baseball Playoffs will begin on Monday, May 1, 2017.

The top two (2) teams from each district will qualify for the baseball playoffs. Districts 1A and 2A will compete in the North. Districts 3A and 4A will compete in the South. (See approved Class A bracket on website)

16. Class AA Playoff Structure

All district games must be completed by Saturday, April 22, 2017. The first round of the Class AA Baseball Playoffs will begin on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

The top two (2) teams from each district will qualify for the baseball playoffs. Districts 1AA, 2AA and 3AA will compete in the North. Districts 4AA, 5AA and 6AA will compete in the South. (See approved Class AA bracket on website)

17. Class AAA Playoff Structure

All district games must be completed by Saturday, April 22, 2017. The first round of the Class AAA Baseball Playoffs will begin on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

The top two (2) teams from each district will qualify for the baseball playoffs. Districts 1AAA, 2AAA and 3AAA will compete in the North. Districts 4AAA and 5AAA will compete in the South. (See approved Class AAA bracket on website)

18. Class AAAA Playoff Structure

All district games must be completed by Saturday, April 29, 2017. The first round of the Class AAAA Baseball Playoffs will begin on Monday, May 1, 2017.

Each team will have agreed upon regular season competition. At the conclusion of the regular season, the team with the best record will be the District Champion (North / South).

Playoffs will be divided into Division I competition and Division II competition.

All teams from each division will advance to their respective playoffs.

Division I will have six (6) teams in the playoffs. Division II will have eight (8) teams in the playoffs. (See approved Class A bracket on website)

19. All-Star Game - The MAIS will sanction two baseball all-star games, one for Classes A-AA, and one for Classes AAA-AAAA.

The date of the 2017 MAIS All-Star Games will be May 26, 2017. At the request of the Baseball Committee, and upon unanimous approval of the AAC, the MAIS Baseball All-Star Game will be a two-day event. Coaches and athletes will report on the 25th.

Class A-AA Game - The team will consist of eighteen (18) players. The following guidelines will apply:
Class A-AA has no selection requirements other than no school may have more than three (3) players on the team. The all-star selection committee will select the first twelve (12) players. The final six (6) players will be chosen by the Baseball Committee.

Note: It is the member school's responsibility to ensure that each player nominated will participate if selected.

Class AAA Game - The team will consist of fifteen (15) players. The all-star selection committee will select the first twelve (12) players. The final three players will be chosen by the Baseball Committee.

Class AAAA Game - The team will consist of fifteen (15) players. The all-star selection committee will select the first twelve (12) players. The final three players will be chosen by the Baseball Committee.

Note: It is the member school's responsibility to ensure that each player nominated will participate if selected.

20. All-Star Game Format / All-Star Coaches
The Class A-AA all-star game will be a nine (9) inning regulation game under regulation baseball rules with reference to substitution, pitching, etc. The Class AAA and Class AAAA games with be seven (7) inning regulation games.

Any coach serving on an all-star selection committee, must be the head coach, and on the faculty of a MAIS member school. Also, any coach serving as a head coach must be a full-time employee of the school. If not, said coach may still serve as an

assistant coach. It is left to the discretion of the AAC Affairs Committee, that any coach placed on "warning" and/or "probation" may be ineligible to coach an all-star team during the period of disciplinary action.

Note: Coaches are not eligible to coach in the all-star game unless they are members of the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Coaches' Association.

21. All MAIS Team
    The All-MAIS Selection Committee will consist of the four (4) state championship coaches, the all-star coaches and Baseball Committee members.

22. Baseball Tiebreaker For Districts That Do Not Have One

    If a two team tie exists, the following tiebreaker is to be used:
    a. Record in head to head competition between the teams tied
    b. Run differential between the two teams in head to head competition
    c. Record of the teams tied versus the highest seeded team and proceeding through the lowest seeded team
    d. Fewest runs allowed in all district games
    e. Coin flip

If three or more teams are tied, the following tiebreaker is to be used:

a. Record in head to head competition between the teams tied
b. Run Differential between the teams in Head to Head Competition
c. Record of the teams tied versus the highest seeded team and proceeding through the lowest seeded team
d. Fewest runs allowed in all district games
e. Coin flip

Note: The AAC has determined that the process of implementing this tiebreaker is continuous. Once the teams that are tied start with step 1, the steps will be followed in succession until all the teams involved have been awarded a place.

The MAIS tiebreaker does NOT supersede any tiebreaker that an individual district may have established. It is to be used in those cases in which a district may not have an agreed upon tiebreaker.

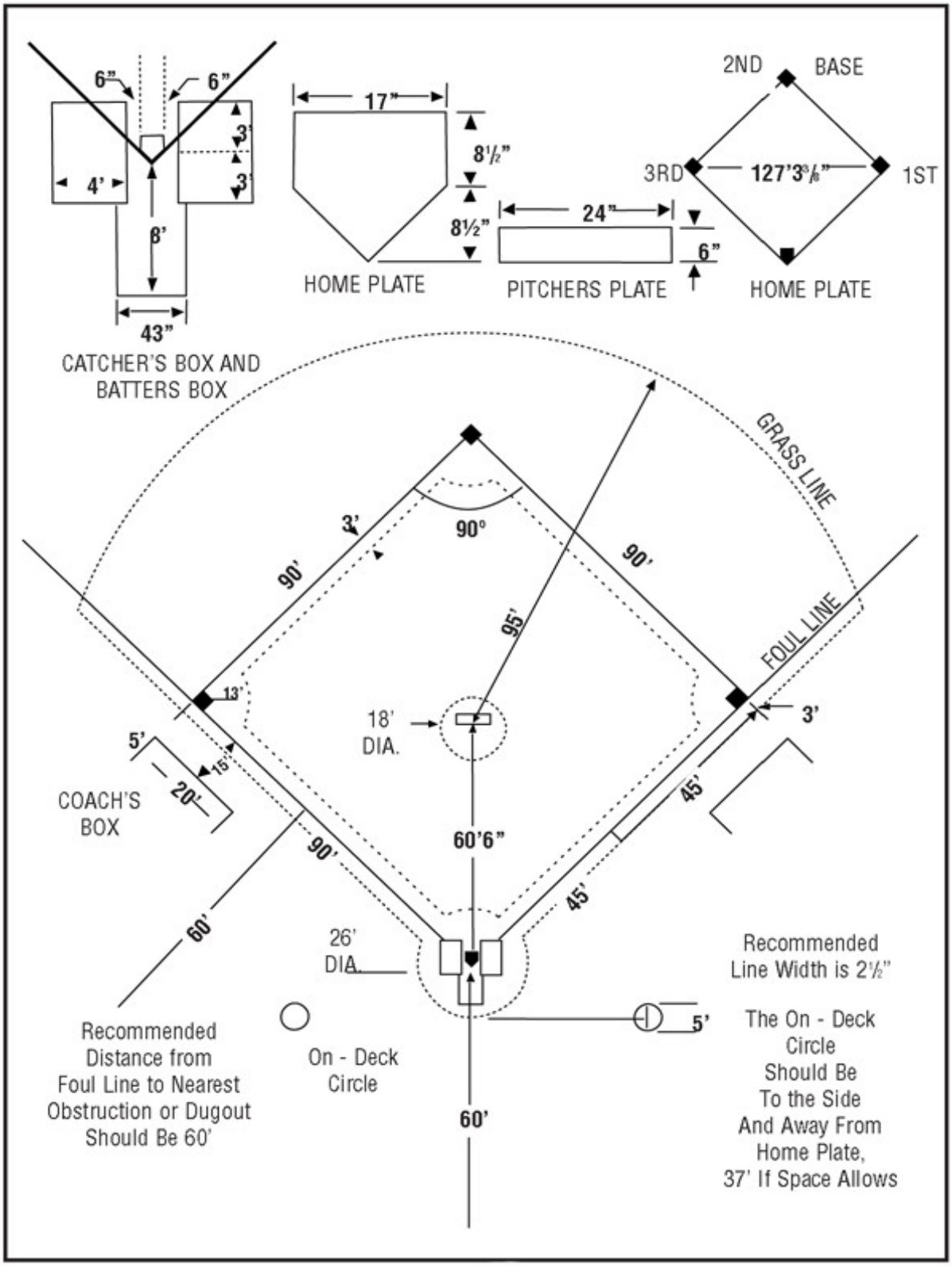
23. Admission Prices - Varsity Baseball

Admission Prices - Varsity Baseball		
Event	Adult	Student
Regular Games*	$6	$5
District Tournament	$6	$6
All Playoff Games Leading To Class Series**	$6	$6
Class Series**	$7	$7
All-Star Game	$10	$10
* Prices do not apply to box or reserve seats on the HOME side ** Season ticket and/or reserved seating does not apply in any playoff series		

24. Officials' Fees

Officials' Fees - Varsity Baseball	
Assigning Secretary Fee	$85
Single Game (plate)	$70
Single Game (bases)	$65
One A-Game / One B-Game	$125
Two A-Games	$135
Note: No travel allowance.	

25. Baseball Field Diagram



E. Track and Field

1. National Federation Rules
   Except for the exceptions listed below, all MAIS track meets shall be governed by the National Federation Track Rules.

2. False Starts
   In each race, should there be a false start by any of the participants, the false start will be charged to the entire field, and no runners will be disqualified. Should any further false starts occur, the offending party (or parties) shall be disqualified.

3. MAIS Field Event Trial Policy
   In all meets leading to the class championships (District, North/South State), participants in the long jump, triple jump, shot put and discus throw will be given three (3) preliminary trials. After that, the top six (6) competitors shall be given three (3) additional trials, and will be called by the field event judge based on their best preliminary trial performance, from worst to best.

   In class meets, each contestant will be given six (6) attempts. Athletes will NOT be re-seeded at the Class Meet.

4. Scoring
   Points to be awarded in track for team events and individual events shall be the same. For district meets and regional meets (North, South, Division I, Division II), the individual and team events shall use the following scoring system:

Scoring - All Meets Except Class Meet	
1st Place	6 Points
2nd Place	4 Points
3rd Place	3 Points
4th Place	2 Points
5th Place	1 Point

For the class championships, the individual and team events shall use the following scoring system:

Scoring - Class Meet	
1st Place	10 Points
2nd Place	8 Points
3rd Place	6 Points
4th Place	5 Points
5th Place	4 Points
6th Place	3 Points
7th Place	2 Points
8th Place	1 Point

5. Starting Heights for High Jump and Pole Vault
   Beginning at the district level, the following starting heights MUST be used:

District / Regional / Class Starting Heights		
Girls' High Jump	4' 0"	Raise in 2" Intervals
Boys' High Jump	5' 4"	Raise in 2" Intervals
Girls' Pole Vault	7' 0"	Raise in 6" Intervals
Boys' Pole Vault	8' 0"	Raise in 6" Intervals

Note: Jr. high starting heights and incremental raises will be set by each district, and should be recorded in the district's constitution. Starting heights for invitational track meets will be set by the host school.

6. Pole Vault Verification Form - Every school that participates in the pole vault shall be required to fill out, and keep on file in the school's office, a copy of the MAIS Pole Vault Verification Form for each of its vaulters. This form is to be signed by the school administrator and/or athletic director, the head track coach and/or pole vault coach, at least one parent or guardian, and the athlete. The form certifies that the vaulter is in compliance with the National Federation of High School rules concerning legal equipment. A copy of the form must be presented to the field judge by either the headmaster, athletic director, head track coach or pole vault coach, at each meet before the competitor will be allowed to warm-up or compete.

   The MAIS Pole Vault Verification Form is posted on the MAIS website.

7. Participation Rule - No individual, boy or girl, may participate in more than six (6) events, of which no more than three (3) can be individual events. It is noted that this deviates slightly from National Federation standards.

   "Up-and-Down" Rule For Track
   During the regular season, jr. high athletes may be used in jr. high competition and also to fill out a varsity relay team in the same day, without the jr. high athlete losing his/her jr. high eligibility. Any points earned by a varsity relay team in this circumstance would count toward the team total for the day.

   Also, since there is no jr. high girls' 3200 meter run, jr. high girls are permitted to run in the varsity girls' 3200 meter run during the regular season as unattached runners without losing their jr. high eligibility.

   Such participation by a jr. high athlete in either of the above cases would count against the athlete's participation limit for the day.

   Entries In District Meet - Each team has the privilege of entering two (2) participants in each individual event at the District Track Meet.

Sixth Graders - Sixth graders are allowed to participate in track at both the junior high and varsity level. Note: This does not apply to schools that are elementary-only.

No student below the sixth (6th) grade may participate on the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

Junior High-Only Schools - Schools that are jr. high only, may not enter participants in a varsity district track meet.

8. Withdrawal From Meets
   After entering a team in a track meet, member schools must notify the Meet Director if they decide not to participate. Failure to notify the Meet Director of their withdrawal shall result in a $50.00 penalty assessment against the school.

9. Financial Disbursement
   The disbursement of gate receipts for track meets leading to, and including, the class championships will be set by the AAC.

10. Meet Officials

    Meet Director – The meet director(s) shall serve as the official representative of host meet management. He/she shall supervise the conduct of the meet and perform such duties to guarantee the competition will run smoothly. When there is no games committee, the Meet Director shall have general supervision of the meet and perform those duties assigned to the games committee.

    The Meet Director and/or his/her designee shall be responsible for handling unsportsmanlike conduct by a spectator(s) and other matters outside the competition rules.

    Referee - Each meet leading up to, and including, the Class Meet, shall have a referee. Some of the duties of the referee are:
    a. The referee is directly in charge of activities during the meet. He/she shall answer questions that are not specifically placed under the jurisdiction of other officials.

b. The referee has the sole authority to determine if a race shall be rerun, and if so, who is eligible to participate in the rerun and when it should be scheduled.
c. When a competitor is disqualified, the referee should notify, or cause to be notified, the competitor or the competitor's coach of the disqualification.
d. The referee has the sole authority for ruling on infractions or irregularities not covered within the rules. The referee may seek the advice of other meet officials before making a ruling.
e. The referee is authorized to disqualify a competitor who commits an infraction personally observed by the referee.

Appeals Committee – For each regional meet (North State, South State, Division I, Division II) and the Class Meet, a Board of Appeals shall be appointed by the Director of Activities. Meets held at the district level must also have a Board of Appeals, with said members being determined by the district.

The Board of Appeals will make the final decision on appealable items and/or serve to advise the Meet Director, or Referee, if he wishes to consult it.

Starter – The starter shall have full responsibility for the competitors on the starting line and during the start. The starter and assistant starter(s) shall decide, without protest, whether a start is fair and legal or which competitor(s) shall be charged with a false start.

Clerk of the Course - The clerk of the course shall be responsible for recording the name and number (when applicable) of each competitor that reports for an event, and shall assign each runner to the proper heat and starting position, as approved by the games committee or meet director. In addition, the clerk is responsible for issuing and keeping record of competitor jewelry warnings.

Meet Announcer – The announcer shall be responsible for giving proper announcements to assist competitors in reporting to the clerk of the course or the field event judges on time. In addition, he/she shall record the time that the official results from an event are announced. This recorded time is to be used in case a coach files a protest concerning the misapplication of a rule.

Field Event Judge – A field event judge shall be responsible for the judging and measuring of each legal trail of a competitor in all field events. The event judge

is responsible for recording the result of each competitor's trial, indicating the place winners in an event, and recording and reporting to the referee any warnings and/or disqualifications he/she issues. The field event judge's decisions are final and without appeal except for possible action taken by the referee or Board of Appeals.

Umpire – The umpire(s) shall be equipped with yellow and white colored flags. When an infraction or irregularity is detected during a race, the umpire shall immediately signal by waving a yellow flag overhead. When the race is completed, the umpire shall report the infraction to the head umpire (or referee). The referee shall make the final decision.
Judgment decisions made by an umpire are not appealable. When no infraction occurs, the umpire shall signal by waving the white flag.

11. Track Meet Events

Track Meet Order of Running Events
3200 Meter Run (G)
300 Meter Hurdles (G &B)
800 Meter Relay (G & B)
3200 Meter Relay (B)
400 Meter Relay (G & B)
100 M Hurdles (G)
110 M Hurdles (B)
100 M Dash (G & B)
1600 M Run (G & B)
400 Meter Dash (G & B)
800 M Run (G & B)
200 M Dash (G & B)
3200 M Run (B)
1600 M Relay (G & B)

Note: The jr. high girls do not run the 3200 meter run. Also, The 400 and 800 meter relays are to be run in lanes.

Girls' Field Events	
Shot - 4Kg (8 lb. 13 oz.)	Discus - 2 lb. 3.274 oz.
High Jump	Triple Jump
Long Jump	Pole Vault

Boys' Field Events	
Jr. High Shot - 4Kg (8 lb. 13 oz.)	Jr. High Discus - 2 lb. 3.274 oz.
Varsity Shot - 12 lbs.	Varsity Discus - 3 lb. 9 oz.
High Jump	Triple Jump
Long Jump	Pole Vault

12. District Track Meets - Athletes Advancing
    Four (4) participants shall advance from the district meet to the North / South Track Meets.

    Any time there is a tie for one of the top four positions in a lane race that would necessitate more than four competitors advancing, the MAIS Office, in conjunction with the meet director of the next meet, shall determine how to best deal with the additional competitors.

    Competitors advancing due to similar ties in a field event or distance race will simply be placed in the events with the other competitors that have advanced.

13. North / South Track Meets
    Preliminaries for the North / South Track Meets shall be run on Wednesday, prior to the North / South Meet, and will be run for all lane events. The field event schedule will be left to the discretion of the meet director.

The regional meets will include the following schools:

Meet	Districts Included
North A	Districts 1 & 2
North AA	Districts 1, 2 & 3
North AAA	Districts 1, 2 & 3
South A	Districts 3 & 4
South AA	Districts 4, 5 & 6
South AAA	Districts 4 & 5
Division I	All Division I Schools
Division II	All Division II Schools

14. Lane Requirement For North / South / Division I & II / Class Meets
    Any school hosting the North, South, or Class Track Meet must have an eight (8) lane track.

15. Class Track Meet
    Qualifiers for Class Meet: The top four (4) participants and/or relay teams from each class at the North Meet and the South Meet will advance to the Class Meet.

16. Sites / Dates For 2016 & 2017 North / South / Class Track Meets

The sites for the North, South, Division I & II, and Class Track Meet be as follows:

Meet	2016 Sites	2017 Sites
North A, AA, AAA	Lee Academy (MS)	Lee Academy (MS)
South A, AA, AAA	Silliman Institute	Silliman Institute
Division I & II	PCS	Washington School
Class Meet	Field-JA, Running-Prep	Field-JA, Running-Prep

The North / South / Division I & II Track Meet prelims / field events will be held on April 26, 2017.

The North / South / Division I & II Track Meet running events will be held on April 29, 2017.

The Class Track Meet will be held on May 5, 2017 (field event finals) and May 6, 2017 (running event finals).

17. Verbal Actions of Trainers and Managers - Competitors cannot be disqualified due to the verbal actions of a school's manager or trainer. This does not exempt individuals and/or teams from being disqualified if there is non-competitor "interference" in a race or field event.

18. Filling Vacancies - Rule 2.1.3 of the NFHS Track and Field Rules Book states:

" When an apparent place winner is disqualified in an event, lower place winners in that event shall be advanced to fill vacant places, unless the disqualification occurs after the event results have become official."

The MAIS has an exception to Rule 2.1.3 that takes into account situations in which an athlete competes in an event for which he/she was not eligible at the

time. This exception does NOT, however, affect any situation where an athlete was eligible at the time he/she competed in an event, and was later disqualified after the results of that event were announced. (See examples below)

The MAIS exception reads as follows:

“Any time vacancies occur in the District, Regional or Class Meet series due to the discovery of a participation violation in which an athlete competes when he/she is not eligible, the vacancies shall be filled. If the error is discovered before the Notice of Certification that the meet results are final has been posted, the appropriate corresponding points will also be awarded to the team score of any athletes being moved up.

Such violations would include:

a. Violating the MAIS participation policy (a maximum of 6 total events, of which no more than 3 could be individual events)
b. Participating in an event while being ineligible according to MAIS Eligibility rules
c. Participating in an event after being disqualified from the meet
d. Any other scenario in which an athlete participated in an event illegally

If this occurs at either the District or Regional level, any competitors that are moved into advancing positions will be allowed to compete at the next level.

Scenario: Competitor A competes in the following events: Long Jump (9:00 a.m.), Triple Jump (10:00 a.m.), High Jump (11:00 a.m.), 100 Meter Dash (3:00 p.m.), 200 Meter Dash (5:30 p.m.). After the results of the aforementioned events have been announced, and before the Notification of Certification that the meet results are final has been posted, it is discovered that Competitor A violated the participation rule.

Ruling: First of all, as a result of violating the MAIS participation rule, Competitor A is disqualified from ALL of the events in which he participated, and any points he earned are subtracted from his team's total score. If warranted, a new team champion is named. This type correction can be made at any time. As far as filling vacancies, because Competitor A was a legal competitor at the time he competed in the Long Jump, Triple Jump and High Jump, no vacancies will be filled due to Competitor A's later disqualification from the meet. However, because Competitor A illegally participated in the 100 Meter Dash and the 200 Meter Dash, vacancies due to his disqualification will be filled, and point totals will be adjusted accordingly.

Comment: The point totals for the competitors that are moved up can only be adjusted if this error is discovered BEFORE the posting of the Notice of Certification that meet results are final. If this violation is reported after the certification notice has been posted, but before the next track meet, the vacancies left in the 100 meter dash and 200 meter dash will still be filled, but no points will be added to the teams of the athletes that are moved up.

Scenario #2: Competitor A competes in the Shot Put at 9:00 a.m. Due to his unsportsmanlike conduct, he is disqualified from further participation in the meet. At 11:00 a.m., he enters the Discus competition, competes, and earns a place. After the Notification of Certification that the meet results are final has been posted, this situation is discovered.

Ruling: First of all, the athlete is disqualified from all of the events in which he participated. He will not advance to the next level in any event. Any points that he earned are subtracted from his teams' total score, and if warranted, a new team champion is named.

As far as filling vacancies, since Competitor A was a legal competitor at the time he competed in the Shot Put, no vacancies will be filled due to Competitor A's later disqualification from the meet. However, because Competitor A illegally participated in the Discus Throw, vacancies due to his illegal participation will be filled, and any athletes moving into the top four places will advance to the next meet. Since this was not discovered until after the meet results were certified, no points will be added to the team score of the athletes moving up in place.

19. Notification of Certification That Meet Results Are Final - Schools will be given a minimum of 48 hours after the results of a meet are posted on the MAIS Post Office Page, to correct clerical and/or team scoring errors. After that time, the MAIS Office will post a notice of certification that meet results are final. No clerical or team scoring errors can be corrected after the certification notice has been posted.

    It is noted that, as with all other sports sanctioned by the MAIS, corrections due to the use of an ineligible or disqualified competitor, can be corrected at any time. Cases of this nature will be handled by the MAIS Office, in conjunction with the Affairs Committee.

Corrections to the list of possible participants in any relay that is advancing from the district meet to the regional meet, can be made IF the MAIS Office is notified within 48 hours of the District results being posted. The four athletes that participated in the relay at the district meet MUST be listed.

Note: Since the Class AAAA regional meets are also viewed as district meets in many respects, Class AAAA schools will also be afforded the same opportunity after their Division I - II meet results are posted.

20. Illegal Headgear - The wearing of baseball caps, hats, visors, skull caps, bandanas or any type of headgear that could come dislodged during competition, is prohibited.

    Note: This language does not prohibit competitors from wearing hood attachments, as long as the attachment is a part of a legal track top or undergarment.

21. Clarification on Coaching Athletes During Competition - It is NOT illegal for coaches to coach their athletes unless they are doing so from an area that has been restricted by meet management, and they are unauthorized to be in that area.

22. District Responsibilities - Each district shall establish its own policies and procedures related to submitting contestant names to the district meet director, and when scratches may or may not be made for the district meet.

23. Starting Procedure - When possible, the following races should be started and run in lanes for the first curve, assuming that each contestant has a lane to himself / herself:

    800 meter run
    1600 meter run
    3200 meter run
    3200 meter relay

If there are more competitors than lanes, a waterfall start should be used. This item is mostly an issue for the Class Meets, as district and regional meets often have more runners than lanes in these races.

24. Hurdles Heights - The following hurdle heights will be used for MAIS competition:

JVG / JVB / Varsity Girls' 300 Meter Low Hurdle Height - 30"
Varsity Boys' 300 Meter Intermediate Hurdle Height - 36"
JVG / Varsity Girls' 100 Meter Low Hurdle Height - 33"
JVB 110 Low Hurdle Height - 33"
Varsity Boys' 110 Meter High Hurdle Height - 39"

25. Unattached Competitors - Unattached competitors are not to be allowed to run in any qualifying races at the district level (or Division I-II level for AAAA).

    Note: If a district wants to have a race or races set aside for unattached competitors, they may still do so, but the AAC felt that the risk of unattached competitors interfering with legitimate competitors in a race, outweighed any positives for allowing them to run in a race in which athletes are competing for the district championship, and the right to advance to the next level.

26. Admission Fees

Meet	Adult	Student
Invitational	$6	$5
District	$6	$6
North / South	$6	$6
Class Meet - Field Events	$6	$6
Class Meet - Running Events	$8	$8

27. Track and Field Diagram
    NFHS track and field diagrams are available at the NFHS website (www.nfhs.org).

F. Softball (Fast Pitch & Slow Pitch)

1. National Federation Rules - The National Federation Softball Rules Book shall govern inter-school softball games. (NOTE: The Academy Activities Commission may make exceptions.)

2. Intentional Walk Rule - A request made to the umpire by the defensive coach or catcher, for the purpose of awarding the batter first base without any pitches being thrown, shall be granted in fast-pitch softball.

3. First Playing Date - The first playing date for official inter-school competition for fast-pitch softball shall be the last Friday in July.

4. Scheduling Regulations - The maximum number of softball games allowed in the regular season is twenty-eight (28). Regular season tournaments will count as 2 games. Should a tournament be a single-elimination tournament, and a team lose its first game, the tournament would only count as 1 game.

   B-team games do not count against the 28-game limit.

   No more than four (4) days may be used to play in a week. If a fourth date is used, it must be a non-school day (before 1st day of school, Saturday, holiday).

5. Sixth Grade Participation - A sixth (6th) grader, who is a student of a MAIS member high school, may participate on the jr. high and varsity level in softball. No student below the sixth grade may participate at the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

6. District Constitution - Each district will determine its own method of determining the teams that will advance to the playoffs. In addition, each district shall be responsible for establishing its own tiebreakers AND game-ending procedures for suspended games. Should a district not have its own tiebreaker, the MAIS tiebreaker used for baseball shall serve as the tiebreaker.

7. Number of Innings Constituting A Game - Unless there is a mutual agreement by both head coaches to do otherwise, seven (7) innings shall constitute a game, but

when the score is tied at the end of the 7th inning, additional innings shall be played to break the tie. If extra innings are needed to determine the winner of any MAIS softball game, each team will start the extra inning(s) with the player who completed the last official at bat, as a base runner on second base. Each subsequent inning will start the same way until a winner has been determined.

8. Time-Limit For Regular Season & Post-Season Games

   Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, there will be no time limit on fast-pitch softball games. Exception: During the regular season, two schools can mutually agree to use a time limit. In addition, schools hosting an invitational tournament are allowed to set time limitations.

9. Playoff Disbursement - The MAIS shall receive ten percent (10%) of the gate receipts, after game officials have been paid, from all games leading to the Academy Conference class championship.

10. Class A Playoff Structure – The top two (4) teams in each Class A district will advance to the regional tournament. The top two (4) teams from districts 1A and 2A will advance to the North A Tournament. The top two (4) teams from districts 3A and 4A will advance to the South A Tournament.

Tournament	2015 Sites	2016 Sites
North A	Central Academy	Tunica Academy
South A	Briarfield Academy	Briarfield Academy
Class A	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS

The top four (4) teams from the North and South A Tournaments will advance to the Class A Tournament.

All post-district tournaments will be two-day tournaments, and will be held on Saturday / Monday.

11. Class AA Playoff Structure - The top three (3) teams in each Class AA district will advance to the playoffs. The top three (3) teams from districts 1AA, 2AA and 3AA will advance to the North AA Tournament. The top three (3) teams from districts 4AA, 5AA and 6AA will advance to the South AA Tournament.

Tournament	2015 Sites	2016 Sites
North AA	Carroll Academy	Carroll Academy
South AA	Amite School Center	Amite School Center
Class AA	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS

The top four (4) teams from the North and South AA Tournaments will advance to the Class AA Tournament.

All post-district tournaments will be two-day tournaments, and will be held on Saturday / Monday.

12. Class AAA Playoff Structure – The top four (4) teams from each district will advance to the Class AAA Tournament.

Tournament	2015 Sites	2016 Sites
North AAA	Bayou Academy	Heritage Academy
South AAA	Brookhaven Academy	Silliman Institute
Class AAA	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS

The top four (4) teams from the North and South AA Tournaments will advance to the Class AA Tournament.

All post-district tournaments will be two-day tournaments, and will be held on Saturday / Monday.

13. Class AAAA Playoff Structure – Each Division I and Division II team will advance to their respective division tournament and will be seeded based on the brackets posted on the MAIS website.

Tournament	2015 Sites	2016 Sites
Division I	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS
Division II	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS
Class AAA	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS	Shiloh Park, Brandon, MS

The top four (4) teams from each division tournament will advance to the Class AAAA Tournament.

14. Fast-Pitch Tournament Regulations

    a. Rules - National Federation Rules will apply, except where modified by the AAC.
    b. Regulation Game - consists of seven (7) innings, unless extra innings are necessary because of a tie score.
    c. HOME Team Designation - For all MAIS softball playoff games (slow-pitch and fast-pitch), the HOME team will be the highest seeded team. When two teams of equal seed meet, a coin toss will be conducted to determine which team will be the HOME team.
       Exception: When the team advancing from the winners' bracket plays the team advancing from the losers' bracket in the first of two possible games, the team advancing from the winners' bracket will be the HOME team, regardless of seed. Should an additional game need to be played to determine the champion, a coin toss will determine which team will be the HOME team.

       Note: At the Class Tournament, after the top two teams have been determined, they will meet and play a three-game series with the team advancing from the winners' bracket hosting the first game. The team advancing from the losers' bracket will host the second game of the series. If needed, the team advancing from the winners' bracket will host the third game of the series. Participating schools can modify this schedule upon mutual consent.

    d. Time Limit - Beginning with the 2015 season, there is no time limit on MAIS post-season tournament playoff games.
    e. Suspended Games - A game called for any reason where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called for light failure, darkness, weather, etc., will be treated as a suspended game as far as batting order and lineups are concerned. Rule 4-2-2 does NOT apply to playoff tournament games. Tournament games will be continued from the point of suspension with the time-limit, the batting order and the line-up of each team exactly the same as the moment of suspension.

f. Softballs - A twelve (12) inch ball will be used. Note: A 0.47 core softball will be used in all playoff games. The host school will provide the softballs for the tournament.
g. Ten-Run Rule - a game will end anytime after 4 1/2 or 5 innings if a team is ten (10) or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.
h. Substitution - any player may be withdrawn from the game and re-entered once, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever in the line-up.
i. Admission (for All post-season tournaments): Adults - $6.00 Students - $6.00
j. Trophies - Championship and runner-up trophies will be given at the North / South, Division I, Division II, and Class Tournaments.
k. Playoff Structure – The first round of the regional and class playoffs will be held on Saturday, with the finals held on the following Monday. A double elimination format will remain intact no matter what transpires with the weather.
l. School Entry Fee - Each team will pay an entry fee of $200 to the tournament director before being allowed to participate.

15. Fast-Pitch All-Star Games – The AAC has sanctioned a Class A-AA Fast-Pitch All-Star Game (7 innings) and a Class AAA-AAAA Fast-Pitch All-Star Game (7 innings). Fast-pitch all-stars will report on the designated Tuesday afternoon, with the banquet and game being held the following day.

    Only coaches who are members of the MAISCA will be eligible to coach in the all-star game.

    Each district shall nominate and submit the name of a coach (or coaches) from their district that would be willing to serve as an all-star coach. The Softball Committee will select the all-star coaches from the list of names submitted.

16. Fast-Pitch Admission Fees

Admission Prices - Fast-Pitch Softball		
Event	Adult	Student
Regular Games*	$6	$5
All Playoffs	$6	$6
All-Star Game	$10	$10
* Prices do not apply to box or reserve seats on the HOME side		

17. Officials' Fees

Officials' Fees - Fast-Pitch Softball	
Assigning Secretary Fee	$80
Single Game (plate)	$65
Single Game (bases)	$60
One A-Game / One B-Game	$110
Two A-Games	$125
Note: No travel allowance.	

18. Slow-Pitch Playoff Structure

The AAC has determined that there are not enough teams participating in slow-pitch softball to justify having a sanctioned tournament. Participating schools may, however, participate in an end of the year invitational tournament.

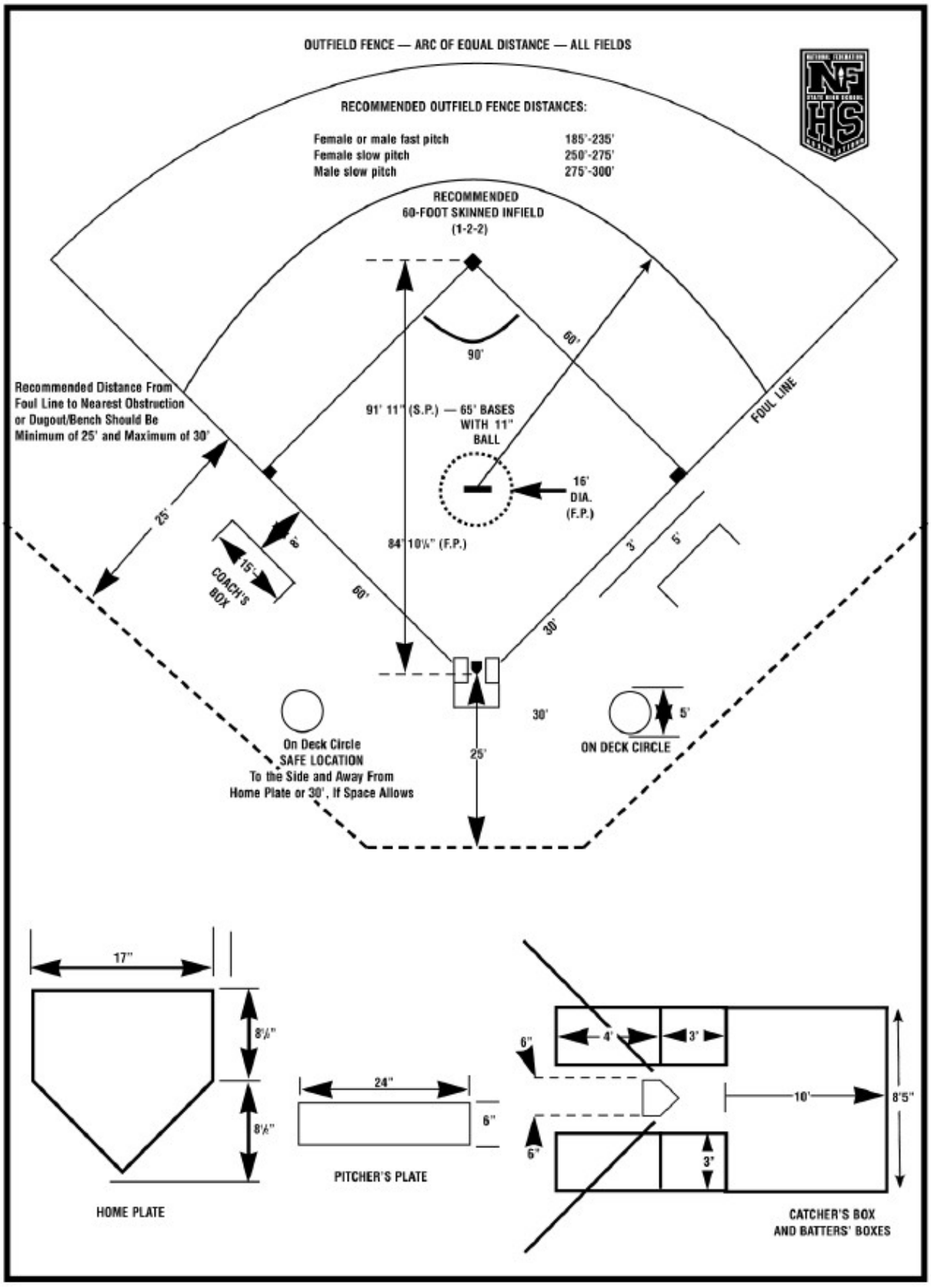
19. Slow-Pitch Admission Fees

Admission Prices - Slow-Pitch Softball		
Event	Adult	Student
Regular Games*	$6	$5
* Prices do not apply to box or reserve seats on the HOME side		

20. Officials' Fees

Officials' Fees - Slow-Pitch Softball	
Assigning Secretary Fee	$70
Single Game (plate)	$55
Single Game (bases)	$55
Double-Header	$65
Note: No travel allowance.	

21. Field Diagram



G. Cross Country

1. National Federation Rules - National Federation of State High School Association Soccer Rules will apply except where modifications have been made by the AAC.

2. Length of Course
   GIRLS - 2.0 miles
   BOYS - 3.1 miles (5000 m)

3. Team Participation
   Each team is allowed seven (7) runners, and only five (5) will count as scorers. The remaining two (2) are "pushers" and take points off the board.

   Note: At the MAIS Overall Meet, all runners from a team can be entered. The seven official participates do NOT have to be designated as the software used at the meet will register the first seven finishers from a school, and ignore the rest as far as team scoring is concerned.

4. Meet Locations
   Meets should be run on golf courses, parks, or suitable varied terrain. In case of flat layouts, bales of hay or suitable "soft" barriers may be used.

5. Course Markings
   Meet management should mark off the trail or course with a chalk line. Before the race, competitors should walk the course or view a map of it. Observers should be spaced at crucial points to prevent runners from cutting corners or gaining any other advantages. The finish should be a chute of 100 feet in length and bounded with rope.

6. Sixth Grade Participation
   A sixth (6th) grader, who is a student of a MAIS member secondary school, may participate on the jr. high and varsity level in cross country.

   No student below the sixth (6th) grade may participate at either the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

H. Soccer

1. National Federation Rules - National Federation of State High School Association Soccer Rules will apply except where modifications have been made by the AAC.

2. Playoff Procedure, Sites and Dates - Competition in soccer will be held in three divisions. Division I will consist of Class AAAA Division I schools. Division II will consist of Class AAAA Division II schools. Division III will consist of all other schools playing soccer.

   Playoff brackets will be posted on the MAIS website.

3. Restraining Barrier Required - Schools should have proper restraining barriers on each side of their soccer fields. The barriers should be a minimum of 15 feet from the sideline. If the site does not conform to this rule, the school shall not be allowed to host a game. The officials will inspect the site before the contest, and if the site is not in compliance with the rule, the game will not be played.

4. Sixth Graders - Sixth graders are NOT allowed to participate on the jr. high or varsity level in soccer.

5. Receiving 2 Yellow Cards - A soccer player that is issued two yellow cards and thus ejected during a game will be treated much the same as a basketball player that has fouled out of a basketball game. However, if BOTH of the yellow cards are for unsportsmanlike conduct, the ejection will be treated the same as a red card ejection and count against the player and school. This could include (but not be limited to) using profanity, using tobacco products, calling attention to his or her self, etc.).

6. Scheduling Limitations - The following limitations apply to both girls' and boys' soccer:
   a. Schools may play on 22 dates
   b. Tournaments count as one date

7. Admission Prices

Admission Prices - Soccer		
Event	Adult	Student
Regular Games*	$6	$5
All Playoffs	$6	$6
All-Star Game	$10	$10
* Prices do not apply to box or reserve seats on the HOME side		

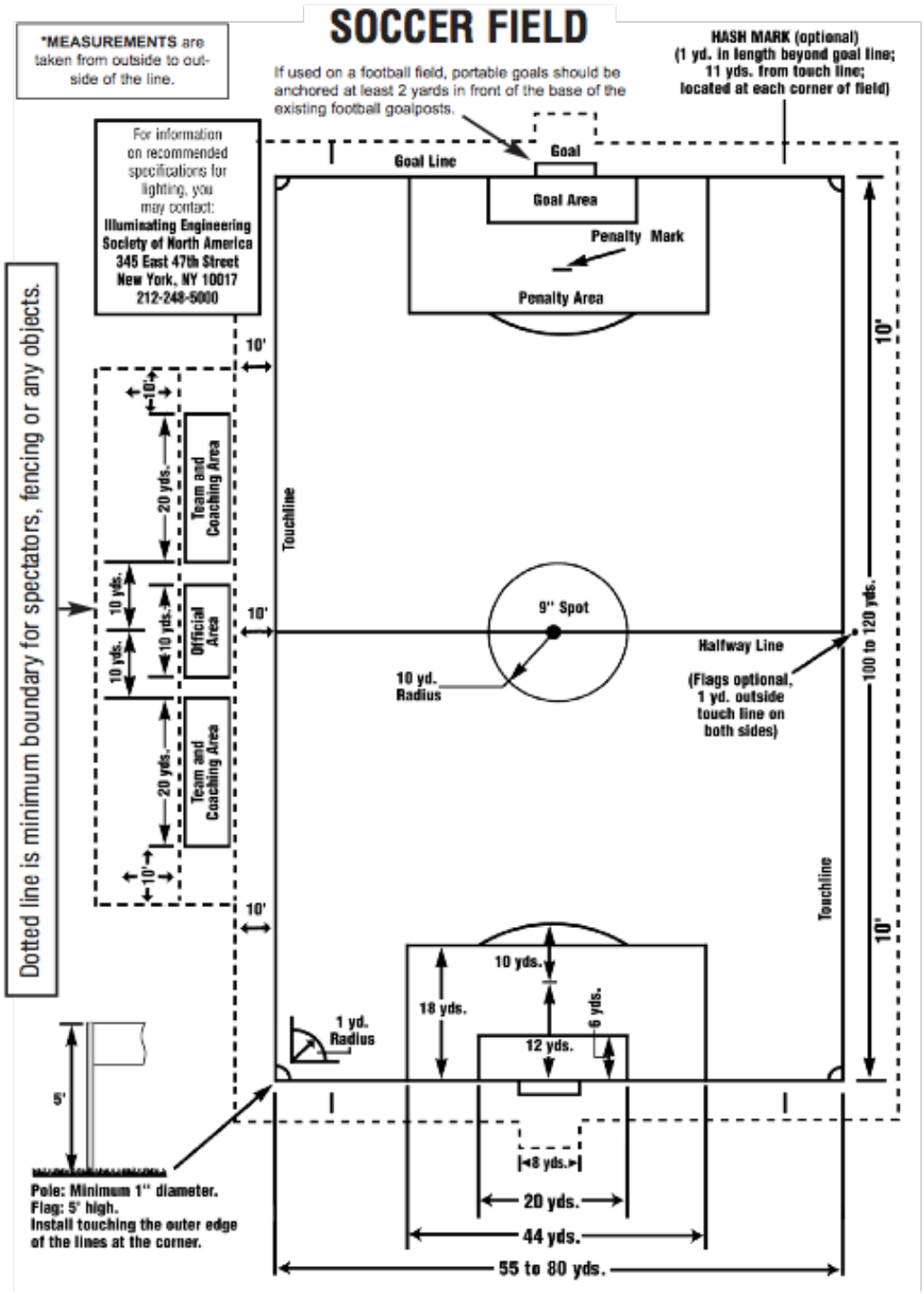
8. Officials' Fees

Officials' Fees - Soccer	
Assigning Secretary Fee	$70
Varsity (Referee)	$65
Varsity (Assistant)	$55
Jr. Varsity (Referee)	$50
Jr. Varsity (Assistant)	$45
Note: No travel allowance.	

9. Tiebreaker
   a. Win/Loss record in member conference
   b. Head to head competition if teams split
   c. Head to head goal differential (maximum of 5 per game)
   d. Head to head goals allowed (maximum of 5 per game)
   e. Conference goal differential (maximum of 5 per game)
   f. Play-In Game(s)

Note: The AAC has determined that the process of implementing this tiebreaker is continuous. Once the teams that are tied start with step 1, the steps will be followed in succession until all the teams involved have been awarded a place.

10. Soccer Field Diagram



An engineered soccer field should have a minimum of one-and-one-half percent slope on fields which are surface drained and made up of native soil. For fields with underground drainage the slope should be no less than one percent slope. Slope is measured from center to side. Under no circumstances should a soccer field be flat. For more information, contact Design Architects, 816-842-5200.

I. Tennis

1. Dates

Regular Season – Schools may play a total of 10 playing dates. On 3 of the 10 dates, multiple matches can be played. Two individuals will advance from each district, and from tournament to tournament.

North and South Academy Conference Tennis Tournaments will be held on the dates, and at the sites, set by the Academy Activities Commission.

2. Sixth Grade Participation

A sixth (6th) grader, who is a student of a MAIS member secondary school, may participate on the jr. high and varsity level in tennis.

No student below the sixth (6th) grade may participate on the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

3. Play

a. District Tournaments - District tournaments are optional. If, however, the region cannot agree to everyone qualifying and playing in the regional tournament, district tournaments MUST be played.

   District tournaments, if played, must be completed by April 25th. This is also the deadline for sending in info to the North/South tournament director.

   If a district tournament is played, the top two (2) players will advance to the North/South Tournament. A girl's and boy's team championship trophy will be given. Individual plaques must be ordered and paid for by the district.

b. North / South Tournaments - Specific information about the location and schedule for the North / South Tournaments will be posted by the Director once it becomes available.

c. Class Tournaments - Winners and runners-up will advance from the North / South Tournaments to the MAIS Class Tournaments in #1 and #2 boys' and girls' singles and doubles and mixed doubles.

4. General Information
    a. Entry fee: there will be a $10.00 entry fee per player to cover the cost of the tennis balls and the court fee. This should be paid to the tournament director upon arrival. This fee is for each separate tournament.
    b. Coaches' Meeting – Class Tournaments: There will be a coaches' meeting on Wednesday, May 7 at 8:30 a.m. at the site of your respective class tournament.
    c. Coaching – The school's designated coach (maximum of 2 per school) may speak to their own player within the allotted time limit (90 seconds) of a changeover. Girls' and boys' teams do not get 2 coaches per team!!! If a match is being played on an outside court, the coaching must be done from the baseline fence. Players still may not leave the playing area. Each school will be responsible for the conduct and proper implementation of this rule.
    d. Awards
    Each Class Tournament will give girls' and boys' team trophies (champion & 2nd). Individual winners will be awarded a plaque.
    The overall tournament will give a girls' and boys' team trophy (champion & runner-up). Individual winners will receive a plaque (singles #1 and #2, doubles #1 and #2, and mixed doubles).
    e. Tennis balls: Wilson heavy duty championship balls will be used.
    f. Courts: Hard surface (laykold) courts will be used at all tournament sites.

5. Rules of play
    Use of Best Player - The rule that used to require a minimum of three (3) regular season matches at a position is no longer in effect. However, coaches are still required to follow the rule regarding the use of their best player(s) at #1 and the next best at #2. This should be followed strictly.

    Any coach found to be in blatant violation of the rules shall be subject to immediate suspension. In addition, disregard for this and other rules could affect the participation of a school's team in the playoffs.

6. Scoring
   Regular season tennis will use 2 full sets of ad scoring, along with a match-breaker (tiebreaker played to 10) in lieu of a 3rd set. Players will continue to swap ends after every 6 points played in the tiebreaker.

   Once we reach the North / South and Class Tournament semi-finals, we will play 3 full sets (if necessary) of regular ad scoring.

7. Tennis rules
   a. Play
      i. Competition of the best-of-nine matches to consist of:

#1 girls singles	#1 boys singles
#2 girls singles	#2 boys singles
#1 girls doubles	#1 boys doubles
#2 girls doubles	#2 boys doubles
Mixed doubles	

      ii. Players may compete in one and only one event.
         (1) in single seed doubles (girls and boys) there will be two divisions (excluding mixed doubles).
         (2) the #1 singles will be the best entry in singles and the #2 will be the second best entry.
         (3) the #1 doubles team will be the best doubles team and the #2 doubles team will be the second best doubles team.
   b. Coach's Responsibility - The coach is responsible to see that that entries are determined by playoff between players. Any attempt of a player to lose in order to win a lower bracket should be recognized and not permitted by the coach in order to promote fair and better competition.
   c. Penalty For Not Fielding Full Team - Teams not able to field full teams must default that/those events. This means that teams are required to default a #2 position if they are lacking enough entries for all events. Example: Defaulting the #1 singles to allow someone to play #2 singles is not allowed.
   d. Play Is Continuous - A player cannot leave the court. If a match breaker is required after splitting sets, players are allowed the same two-minute break that is permitted between the first and second set.
      Exception: A player may leave to get a coach or tournament director in the case of unfair play such as bad line calls, score keeping, foot faults, etc.

e. Specific Rules
   i. The United States Tennis Association point penalty system shall be in effect for unsportsmanlike behavior, tardiness to a match, crowd/parent/teammate control (including coaching)
   ii. A teammate/parent may not coach a player while he/she is involved in a match unless that player is in the ten-minute rest between split sets. This 10-minute break will only be allowed in the north/south semi-finals and finals, and in the state semi-finals and finals. Otherwise, the normal 2-minute break time will be in effect.
   iii. Coaches of each district will have a meeting prior to the tournament for the purpose of making the draw for the event. Bring match score-sheets to the meeting.
   iv. Generally an injury time out is three minutes.

f. The Code
   The guidelines listed below are rules and court etiquette for all non-officiated matches:
   i. When in doubt as to whether a ball is out or good, the call is always made in favor of your opponent. You should not play a let. Any ball, which cannot be called out with surety, is good.
   ii. Other line call procedures
      (1) call all balls on your side of the net.
      (2) help your opponent on calls, when requested
      (3) call against yourself any balls clearly out
      (4) never question your opponent's call.
      (5) ask opponent's opinion if he or she is in a better position to make the call.
      (6) do not enlist the aid of spectators to make such line calls.
      (7) make all calls instantly. Don't violate the "two chance" rule.
      (8) first service is called by receiver or his partner only. On second service, if either the server or his partner clearly sees the fault, he is obligated to make the call.
      (9) if you call the ball out and then realize it was good you should: play the point over if you returned the ball to the opponent's court; or score the point in favor of your opponent if you failed to return the ball.
   iii. Unless ground rules are established before play started, if you catch a ball in the air that would otherwise be out, the point is scored for your opponent.

iv. Returning a serve that is obviously a fault in order to catch your opponent napping is cheating. However, if receiver returns a service he honestly believes is good (possibly trying to give server the benefit of any doubt) server is not entitled to refuse to play the point on the ground he (the server) thought the ball was out.

v. Foot fault. If your opponent is a chronic foot faulter, you should: first, politely advise them of this and ask that problem be corrected; second, request that someone serve as foot fault judge.

vi. Minimize talking while the ball is in play. Once either you or your partner has hit the ball, say nothing until an opponent has hit it.

vii. Movement. A player, other than the server, may feint with his body or move where he wishes even during the service toss, but he may not wave his arms or racquet or talk to create a distraction.

viii. When play is in progress, do not go behind another court to retrieve balls. When returning a ball to another court, hit it so that it goes directly to the server, preferably on the first bounce.

ix. You must play with equipment you have court-side (continuous play rule).

xi. On calls involving a ball touching a player, a player touching the net, a player touching his opponent's court or hitting an opponent's return before it has passed the net, a carry, or a double-bounce - the prerogative of decision rests with the player involved.

xii. In tournaments, the pre-match warm-up should not last over *ten minutes. Service practice must be completed by all players before the match begins and is not to be taken just before a player serves for the first time (continuous play rule). A player should not practice service returns while another player is practicing his serve. (*USTA rule calls for a 5-minute warm-up).

xiii. Receiver should not attempt to return a service during the game, unless he and his partner are ready. If the receiver attempts to return service, he is presumed to be ready and cannot subsequently claim he was not ready.

xiv. Server should announce game score of the set prior to serving the first point. He should then announce the point score prior to serving each subsequent point during the game.

xv. If there is a disagreement over the score and all efforts to resolve the disagreement have failed, there are two methods for settling the dispute. One is to go back to score on which there is agreement, then resumes play

from that point. The other alternative is to spin a racquet. The score becomes whatever the winner of the spin said was the score.

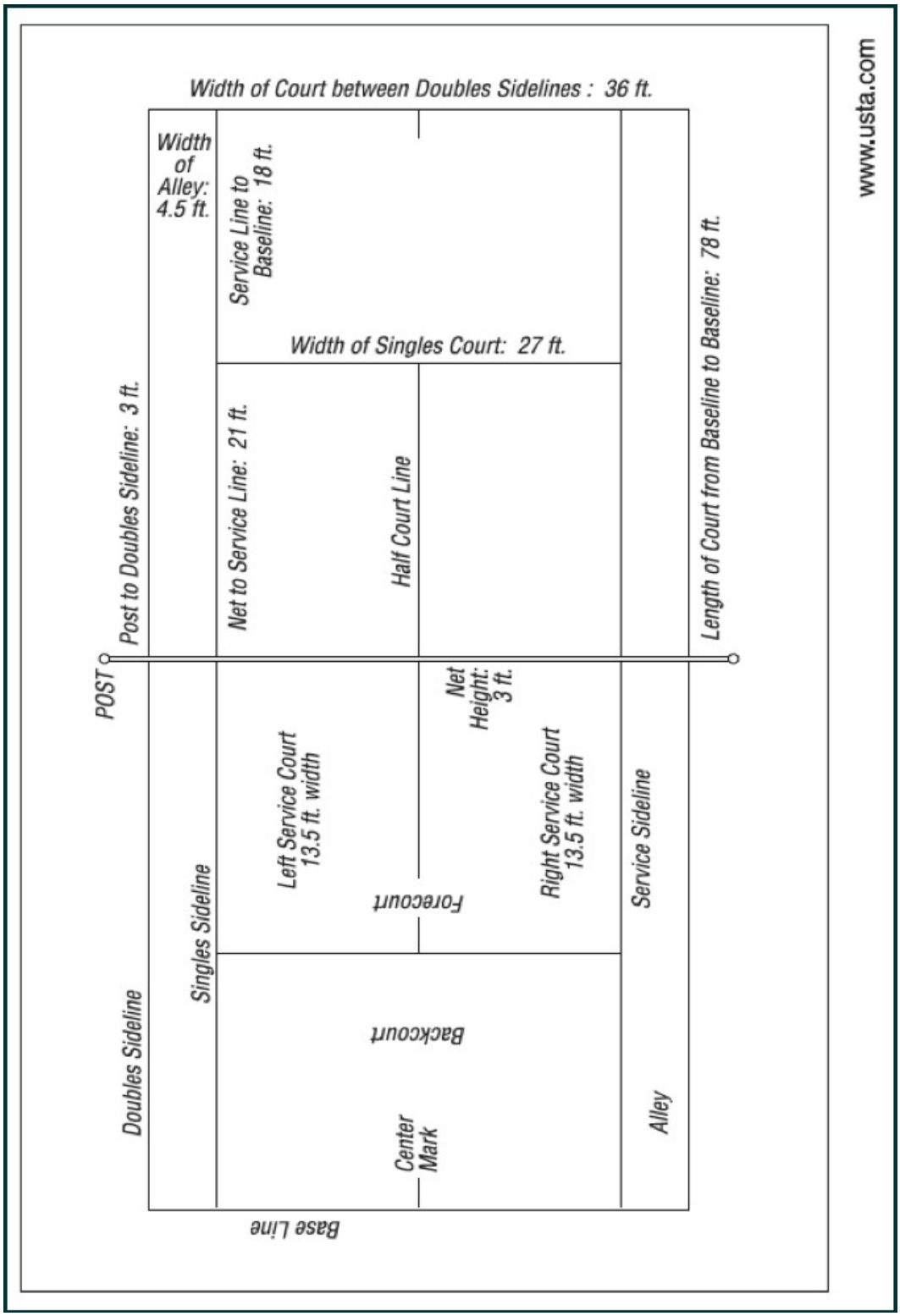
xvi. If opponent repeatedly violates the rules, request an umpire.

g. Guidelines For Setting Up Tournaments
   i. Districts will be seeded on basis of regular season records against their district schools for that event. Other consideration in the case of ties would be the performance against common opponents or strong teams.
   ii. North/south state and class tournaments are matched winner vs. Runner-up.
   iii. The winner and runner-up of district tournaments advance to class north/south tournaments. The winner and runner-up of the north/south advance to the class tournament.

h. Team Scoring - One point for each match won (1/2 point for boys and 1/2 point for girls in mixed doubles).

i. Tiebreaker in class tournaments:
   i. Championships won (first tiebreaker)
   ii. Number of finals participated in (second tiebreaker)

8. Tennis Court Diagram



J. Golf

1. Dates and Sites
   The North / South and Class Tournaments will be held on a date set by the Academy Activities Commission.

   a. Sites: Upon invitation or availability, the AAC will make selection of golf course for play. (North/South, Class & Overall)
   b. Entry Fee: To be set by the AAC or the Director of Activities. This should be paid when the participation form is returned to the Director of the Tournament.

2. Qualifying Requirements - Schools entering post-season play (their respective N/S Tournament) must meet the following requirements:
   a. Minimum Team Qualifying Score (team – 350; individual – 85)
      i. Must be an inter-school tournament or match involving at least one other school
      ii. Must be 18 holes
      iii. Qualifying scores must be sent to N/S Tournament director
   b. Play In Minimum of 3 Qualifying Matches - Each team/individual must compete in at least 3 stroke-play matches to qualify for the North/South Tournament. Two of the matches can be 9-hole matches with the qualifying score being an 18-hole match.

3. Tournament Rules
   a. Etiquette - Proper golf etiquette is expected.
   b. Attire - Proper golf attire is required.
      i. Shirts must have collars.
      ii. No jeans.
      iii. No cut-off shorts.
   c. Tobacco Products - Use of tobacco products is prohibited.
   d. Putting Out - All putts must be putted out. Failure to putt out any hole will result in that player being disqualified.
   e. Rules of Play - USGA and course rules will apply. The pace of play should be emphasized to all participants.

f. Coaching - Only one (1) designated person may coach the team. No greens coaching.
g. Schools Must Supply Markers - Each school must supply at least one marker for a tournament.
h. Reporting Promptly - Teams must report at least fifteen (15) minutes before first scheduled tee time. Teams that are late in reporting will not be allowed to participate.
i. Range Finders - Range finders are permitted; considered part of equipment and cannot be loaned out to anyone (either your team or another team).
j. Female Players - Girls players will play as closely as possible to 90% of the boys' yardage*. We hope to play the boys' course at approximately 6600 yards and the girls' course approximately 5900 yards.
   * This is in reference to tournaments that girls and boys participate together.
k. Pull Carts - Pull carts will not be allowed in any post-season tournaments. They will, however, be allowed during regular season play.

4. Scoring
   a. Team Scoring - The team with the lowest total score (four low scores) will be the champion. Teams may have a maximum of six (6) players.
   b. Individual Scoring - The individual player with the lowest total will be low medalist.

5. Qualifying For Class Tournaments
   a. Teams (all classes): the four (4) teams with the lowest total scores from both the North and South Tournaments will advance to their respective Class Tournament.
   b. Individuals (all classes): the four (4) low medalists from each of the North and South Tournaments will advance to their respective class tournament (this group would not include the medalists advancing with the teams that qualify). Please note that individual advancers must shoot an 85 or lower.

6. Awards (North / South Tournaments)
   a. First & second place trophy to the top two teams.
   b. Plaques will be awarded to the four (4) individual low medalists. Note that these awards will go to the best four individuals and not necessarily to the ones who advance to the class as medalists.

7. Awards (Class Tournaments)
   a. Trophies & medallions to champion and runner-up.
   b. Plaques to the 6 individual low medalists (best six individuals in the tournament).

8. Marshals / Scorers For Tournaments
   a. Beginning with the North/South Tournaments, all host schools will be responsible for organizing scorers/marshals for every group. Each school must provide at least one (1) marker.
   b. Marshals/scorers are responsible for verifying scores and helping with rules interpretations.

9. Designated Area For Turning In Scorecards
   All tournament sites will have a designated area for players to turn in scorecards. USGA rules will apply to procedure of turning in cards, which includes the proper signatures. Any player who either fails to turn in their card or who turns a card in that is not properly signed will be disqualified.

10. Sixth Grade Participation
    A sixth (6th) grader, who is a student of a MAIS member secondary school, may participate on the jr. high and varsity level in golf.

    No student below the sixth (6th) grade may participate on the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

11. Girls' District Tournaments
    Districts will be allowed to have girls' division tournaments. They can be held separate from the boys' tournament, or in conjunction with the boys' tournament.

12. Limitation On Number Of Matches
    There is no restriction on scheduling golf matches other than the "early dismissal" rule that states:
    "Students are allowed only one (1) early dismissal per week per sport. An early dismissal would include academic classes only."

K. Swimming

1. National Federation Rules - National Federation of State High School Association Swimming Rules will apply.

2. Sites and Dates: To be set by the Academy Activities Commission or the Director of Activities each year.

3. Eligible Participants - Eligible athletes in grades one (1) through twelve (12) are allowed to participate in inter-school competition in swimming.

4. All-Sports Points - No All-Sports points are awarded for swimming.

5. Sixth Grade Participation - A sixth (6th) grader, who is a student of a MAIS member secondary school, may participate on a jr. high and / or varsity level in swimming. Note: Schools that are jr. high only, may not enter participants at the varsity level.

   No student below the sixth (6th) grade may participate on the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

L. Volleyball

1. National Federation Rules - National Federation of State High School Association Volleyball Rules will apply.

2. First / Last Playing Dates - The first possible playing date for inter-school competition in girls' volleyball shall be the last Friday in July. The last possible playing date is the date of the end-of-season tournament.

3. Scheduling Regulations - Schools may schedule a maximum of 3 dates per week, but the third date must be Friday or Saturday.

4. Post-Season Tournament - There will be an "open" tournament held at the end of the season that will be open to all teams regardless of class. (See Volleyball Important Dates on website)

   The varsity tournament will be a best of five, double-elimination tournament. The jr. high tournament will be a best of three, double-elimination tournament.

5. Sixth Grade Participation - A sixth (6th) grader, who is a student of a MAIS member secondary school, may participate on a jr. high and / or varsity level in volleyball. Note: Schools that are jr. high only, may not enter participants at the varsity level.

   No student below the sixth (6th) grade may participate on the jr. high or varsity level in athletics.

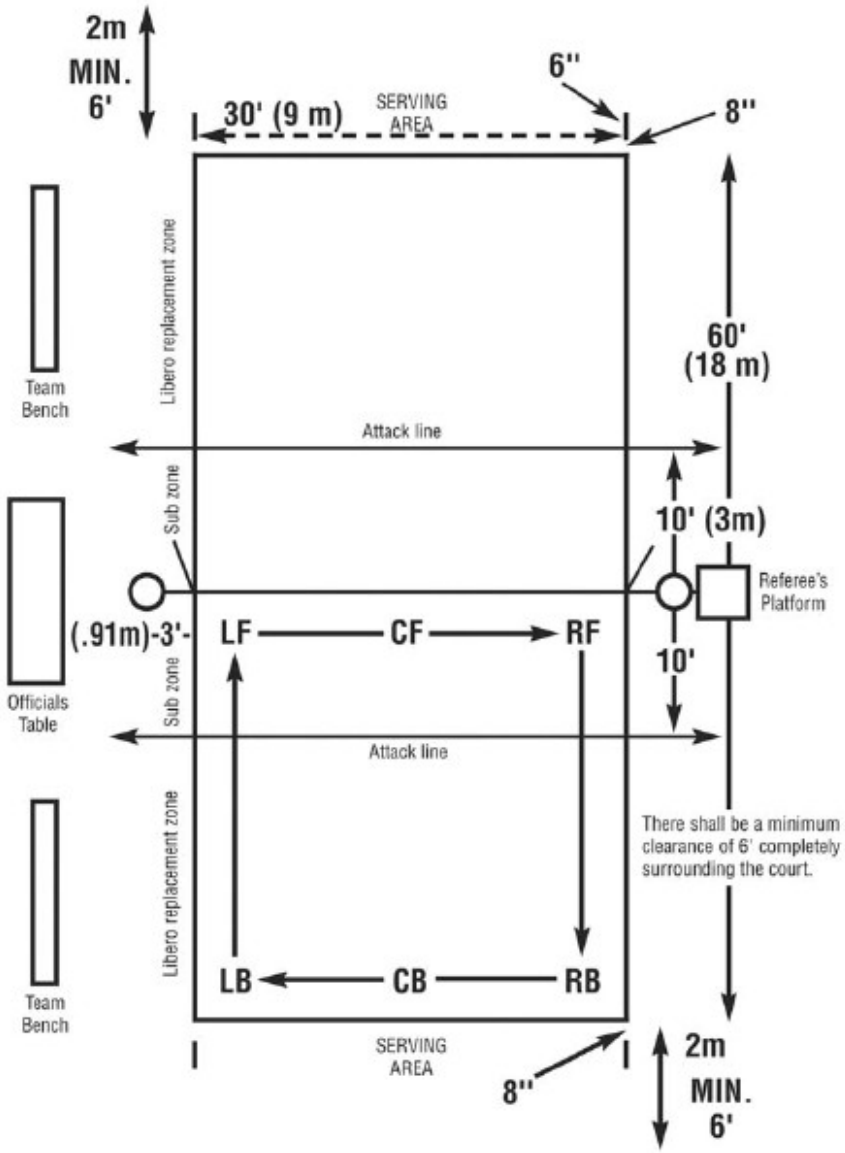
6. Admission Prices

Admission Prices - Volleyball		
Event	Adult	Student
Regular Games*	$6	$5
End of Year Tournament	$6	$5
* Prices do not apply to box or reserve seats on the HOME side		

7. Volleyball Court Diagram

VOLLEYBALL

COURT DIAGRAM



All lines on the court are 2 inches wide. For the center line, a solid or shadow-bordered 2-inch-wide line is permissible. The border for a shadow center line shall be at least ¼-inch wide. The midpoint of the attack line shall be measured from the midpoint of the center line. It is recommended that the area above the court be clear of any obstructions and at least 23 feet (7 meters) high.

M. Cheerleading / Dance Team Competition

All cheerleading and/or dance team sponsors are required to attend the annual MAIS Spirit Conference.