NRHSAA

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ARTICLE I - NAME

The Association shall be known as the Niagara Region High School Athletic Association (NRHSAA) of the Southern Ontario Secondary Schools Association (SOSSA). The NRHSAA consists of schools competing in Zone III and Zone IV. Zones III and IV are comprised of schools from the Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir; the Conseil Scolaire Viamonde; the District School Board of Niagara and the Independent Schools.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The purpose of this Constitution is to provide details for the NRHSAA to qualify through to SOSSA. This manual is only applicable to NRHSAA ZONE III and IV championships. For sport specific playing regulations at NRHSAA ZONE championships, please refer to the NRHSAA sport specific playing regulations.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

The NRHSAA is a co-educational organization consisting of a Coordinator, Coaches, Teachers, Athletic Directors, Athletic Conveners, Principals, and Principal Designates. In order to be eligible for competition, schools must pay their SOSSA fees.

ZONE III		ZONE IV	
CS Viamonde	Franco-Niagara	District School Board of Niagara	Beamsville
CSC MonAvenir	Jean Vanier		DSBN Academy
District School Board of Niagara	A N Myer		Eden
	Centennial		Governor Simcoe
	E L Crossley		Grimsby
	Eastdale		Laura Secord
	Greater Fort Erie		Sir Winston Churchill
	Port Colborne		St. Catharines Collegiate
	Stamford		Thorold
	Westlane	Independent Schools	Great Lakes Christian
Independent Schools	Niagara Christian Collegiate		Heritage Christian
			Smithville Christian

ARTICLE IV - FINANCES

SECTION 1 - SOSSA GRANT

The SOSSA grant of $175.00 paid to each zone shall be spent at the discretion of the Executive Committee to defer costs of expenses in operating programs within the NRHSAA.

ARTICLE IV – FINANCES (Cont.)
SECTION 2 - NRHSAA CONVENER FEES

Each member school will be assessed a base fee of $650.00 in addition to a per student fee based on the October 31st FTE of the preceding year. This per student fee will vary slightly from year to year, based on the total FTE for the association. The NRHSAA coordinator will establish the fee and then collect the monies from each school. These monies are used to pay conveners.

ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - (ATHLETIC DIRECTORS)

The Board of Directors consists of a volunteer representative from each member school. All representatives must be a member in good standing with the College of Teachers and approved by the administration of the member's school. The representative from each member school shall act as the Principals' Designate and will be responsible for voting on all issues pertaining to matters within the NRHSAA (one vote per member school).

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee must be members in good standing with the College of Teachers, come from the Board of Directors and approved by the administration of the member's school.

The Executive Committee consists of the following:

- A District School Board of Niagara Zone III representative;
- A District School Board of Niagara Zone IV representative;
- A Combined/Independent Schools representative;

The Athletic Directors from the member schools will **YEARLY** rotate through the positions:

SCHOOL YEAR	DSBN ZONE - 3	DSBN ZONE - 4	COMBINED / INDEPENDENT
2018-2019	E L CROSSLEY	DSBN ACADEMY	JEAN VANIER
2019-2020	EASTDALE	EDEN	NIAGARA CC
2020-2021	GREATER FORT ERIE SS	GOVERNOR SIMCOE	SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN
2021-2022	PORT COLBORNE	GRIMSBY	FRANCO-NIAGARA
2022-2023	STAMFORD	LAURA SECORD	GREAT LAKES
2023-2024	WESTLANE	SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL	HERITAGE
2024-2025	A N MYER	ST. CATHARINES COLLEGIATE	JEAN VANIER
2025-2026	CENTENNIAL	THOROLD	NIAGARA CHRISTIAN

ARTICLE VII - ROLES OF THE EXECUTIVE

SOSSA Representatives

- Two (2) SOSSA Representatives (one from each Zone) are members of the SOSSA executive.
- This is a four (4) year position.
- Attend all SOSSA Executive Meetings.
- Liaise to the SOSSA Executive concerns of the NRHSAA.
- Liaise to the NRHSAA information from the SOSSA Executive Meetings.

Principals' Representatives

- The Principals' Representatives are non-voting members of the NRHSAA Executive.
- This is a one (1) year position.
- Liaise to the NRHSAA on behalf of the Principals' Associations.
- Liaise to the Principals' Associations on behalf of the NRHSAA.

Athletic Coordinator

- The Athletic Coordinator is a non-voting member of the Executive.
- Oversee the day to day running of the NRHSAA.
- Maintain and update the Zone Constitution.
- Maintain and update the twenty-two (22) sport specific policies.
- Assist conveners with the tracking and accounting of monies collected.
- Liaise with the Executive, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Principals and Conveners.
- Submit motions at the NRHSAA semi-annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES

In order to facilitate the operation of the NRHSAA, the following standing committees will be in place:

SECTION 1 - BOARD OF REFERENCE - GENERAL

The Board of Reference - GENERAL will consist of members of the NRHSAA executive. The Coordinator will act as chairperson for this committee. A quorum of four (4) must be present at a Board of Reference - GENERAL hearing.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Board of Reference - GENERAL shall be used as a method of appeal for sanctions imposed by the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS and PROTESTS and to resolve any other issue that does not fall under the jurisdiction of any other Board of Reference.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES (Cont.)
SECTION 1 - BOARD OF REFERENCE - GENERAL

PROCEDURES:

(i) A written request for the convening of the Board of Reference - GENERAL, shall be made through the Coordinator of the NRHSAA within two (2) working days of the occurrence of the issue under dispute. It is the responsibility of the person requesting the convening of the Board of Reference - GENERAL to ensure that the request has been received by the NRHSAA Coordinator.

(ii) The Board of Reference - GENERAL shall inform all parties of the date of the hearing, and request any necessary documentation and/or other information that may be deemed necessary. Parties to the matter shall be given as much notice as possible prior to the date of the hearing. This committee may meet by teleconference when time constraints are an issue.

(iii) For protests and appeals, **a sum of $100.00** must be received by the NRHSAA Coordinator prior to the convening of the Board of Reference - GENERAL. This fee will be reimbursed to the person/school requesting the convening of the Board of Reference - GENERAL should the Board rule in their favor. A ruling otherwise will result in this fee being forfeited to the NRHSAA.

(iv) Any decision made by the Board of Reference - GENERAL, regarding any NRHSAA matter, or issue, will be deemed FINAL.

(v) Where members of the Board of Reference - GENERAL are staff at the school under review, those members must be replaced with alternates, for the hearing of those issues in question. If necessary, the NRHSAA executive can select individuals that are not members of the executive to fill the quorum needed for the hearing.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES
SECTION 2 - BOARD OF REFERENCE - TRANSFER

The Board of Reference - TRANSFER consists of the NRHSAA Coordinator (Chair) and a volunteer committee. A quorum of five (5) is required for all decisions.

Where members of the Board of Reference - TRANSFER are staff at the school under review, those members will abstain from voting on those transfers in question.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES (Cont.)
SECTION 2 - BOARD OF REFERENCE - TRANSFER

PROCEDURES:

(i) All transfer students must complete the **OFSAA Transfer Form** from the www.ofsaa.on.ca web site. Students must ensure that all pertinent documentation accompanies their form/application. **Incomplete applications will be rejected until all appropriate documentation has been received by the Board of Reference - TRANSFER chairperson.**

(ii) All transfer forms must be signed by the school principal and/or the school transfer designate. This signature implies that all transfer information is correct. Violation of this procedure will result in sanctions set down by the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS.

(iii) All transfers for a given season must be received by the Board of Reference - TRANSFER chairperson no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date of the NRHSAA Board of Reference - TRANSFER scheduled meeting.

(iv) No leagues shall begin prior to the first transfer meeting of the new school year.

DATES FOR NRHSAA BOARD OF REFERENCE - TRANSFER MEETINGS will be published at the end of June for the coming school year.
Transfer meeting results will be sent out to athletic designates within a forty-eight (48) hour period.
If a school plays a student who has not been deemed eligible by the Board of Reference - TRANSFER, then that school will forfeit all games in which that student has played.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES
SECTION 3 - BOARD OF REFERENCE - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS

The Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS consists of a minimum of five (5) individuals with an attempt to include a principal's representative plus four (4) individuals chosen from a pool of representatives as identified by the membership at the second semi-annual meeting. The NRHSAA Coordinator will be the Chair.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES (Cont.)
SECTION 3 - BOARD OF REFERENCE - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS

Where members of the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS are staff at the school under review, those members must be replaced with alternates, for the hearing of those issues in question. If necessary, the NRHSAA executive can select individuals to fill the quorum needed for the hearing.

In time sensitive situations, the protest and sanctions committee may resolve an issue through e mail rather than a physical meeting. Approval should be received by the parties involved.

ALL decisions rendered by the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS must be based on a unanimous consensus by all members of the Board.

SANCTIONS:

In the case of sanctions, the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS shall receive and adjudicate reports from any source regarding any violations of NRHSAA constitution and policy manual rules and procedures **and** matters that might discredit the aims, objectives and values espoused by NRHSAA.

PROCEDURES:

(i) Within two (2) school days, a written request for the convening of the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS shall be made through the Coordinator of the NRHSAA. This request must include documentation outlining the infraction or breach of regulation, which has occurred. It is the responsibility of the person forming the complaint to ensure that all documentation has been received by the NRHSAA coordinator.

(ii) If the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS determines that the matter is within its jurisdiction, it shall inform all parties involved in the alleged violation of the date of the hearing, and request any documentation and/or other information that may be deemed necessary. Parties to the matter shall be given as much notice as possible to the date of the hearing.

(iii) Any decision made by the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS, regarding any NRHSAA matter, or issue, may be appealed to the Board of Reference - GENERAL (see Article VIII, Section 1 for appeal procedures). All decisions rendered by the Board of Reference - GENERAL shall be deemed final.

(iv) Where members of the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS are staff at the school under review, those members must be replaced with alternates, for the hearing of those issues in question. If necessary, the NRHSAA executive can select individuals that are not members of the executive to fill the quorum needed for the hearing.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES (Cont.)
SECTION 3 - BOARD OF REFERENCE - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS

PENALTIES:

Penalties imposed by the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS may include, but are not limited to: stripping of awards, removal of records and standings, suspensions from future NRHSAA competition, identification of offenders to all NRHSAA schools, notification to appropriate sport governing bodies, and appropriate restitution.

PROTESTS:

In the case of protests, the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS shall receive and adjudicate protests pertaining to matters of suspension and competition within all sports.

PROCEDURES:

(i) A written request for the convening of the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS shall be made through the Coordinator of NRHSAA. The request must include documentation supporting the reason for protest. It is the responsibility of the person forming the complaint to ensure that all documentation has been received by the NRHSAA Coordinator. For protests, **a sum of $25.00** must be received prior to the convening of the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS. This fee will be reimbursed to the person/school requesting the convening of the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS should the Board rule in their favor. A ruling otherwise will result in this fee being forfeited to the NRHSAA.

(ii) If the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS determines that the matter is within its jurisdiction, it shall inform all parties involved in the protest of the date of the hearing, and request any documentation and/or other information that may be deemed necessary. Parties to the matter shall be given as much notice as possible to the date of the hearing.

(iii) Any decision made by the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS, regarding any NRHSAA matter, or issue, may be appealed to the Board of Reference - GENERAL (see Article VIII, Section 1 for appeal procedures). All decisions rendered by the Board of Reference - GENERAL shall be deemed final.

(iv) Where members of the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS are staff at the school under review, those members must be replaced with alternates, for the hearing of those issues in question. If necessary, the NRHSAA executive can select individuals that are not members of the executive to fill the quorum needed for the hearing.

ARTICLE IX - POLICY MAKING PROCEDURES

SECTION 1 - CHANGES TO THE NRHSAA CONSTITUTION

The NRHSAA Constitution may be amended or changed through motions only at the time of the NRHSAA Semi-Annual Meetings:

First Semi-Annual Meeting	- Monday of the last week of October
Second Semi-Annual Meeting	- Monday of the first week of April

SECTION 2 - SOSSA POLICY THAT AUTOMATICALLY BECOME NRHSAA POLICY

Any motion that is passed at SOSSA and OFSAA that affects the NRHSAA Constitution and/or NRHSAA sports will automatically become an NRHSAA policy.

SECTION 3 - SUBMITTING A MOTION

All Niagara Region High School Athletic Association Constitutional amendments and policy changes must be submitted on the Official NRHSAA Notice of Motion Form (Appendix B). All motions must be received by the NRHSAA Coordinator two (2) weeks prior to the Semi-Annual Meetings.

The NRHSAA Coordinator will circulate copies of all proposed amendments and changes to each Principal, Athletic Director and/or Principal Designate within each member school two weeks prior to the Semi-Annual Meetings. Principals', Athletic Directors and/or Principal Designates are encouraged to discuss the proposed amendments and changes with those coaches within the school who have a stake in the outcome prior to the Semi-Annual Meetings.

SECTION 4 - VOTING ON MOTIONS

Mover and/or seconder (or representative) will speak to the motion; **NOTE: If the mover or seconder is not present at the time the motion is to be read, the motion will be tabled.**

Members may speak for or against the motion one time only; **NOTE:** Clarification of an issue is not considered a response.

After members have had an opportunity to respond, the mover and/or seconder may respond. A quorum of 2/3 of NRHSAA schools must be present for constitutional and policy manual changes. Each member school has one (1) vote per motion. The Principal, Athletic Director or the Principals' Designate or Alternate will vote on each of the motions on behalf of their school. The Principals' Designate or Alternate will remain the same as the previous year unless the NRHSAA Coordinator is notified otherwise. **All Notices of Motion which affect the Constitution, in order to be carried, must have a 2/3 majority vote of those casting votes. Abstaining votes are not counted "for" or "against" a motion.**

ARTICLE IX - POLICY MAKING PROCEDURES (Cont.)
SECTION 5 - MINUTES OF MEETINGS

The NRHSAA Coordinator will forward the minutes from each NRHSAA Meeting and SOSSA Meeting to the Principal, Athletic Director and/or the Principals' Designate within each member school.

ARTICLE X - ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1 - SCHOOL

For all **SENIOR team sports**' championships coordinated by NRHSAA/SOSSA/OFSAA, schools shall be classified on student populations as follows:

A	500 students and below
AA	501 – 950 students
AAA	951 students or more

SOSSA Championships are offered for A, AA, AAA at the Senior Level in the following sports:

- Girls' and Boys' Basketball;
- Girls' and Boys' Soccer;
- Girls' and Boys' Volleyball

SOSSA Championships are offered for A/AA, and AAA at the Senior Level in the following sports:

- Boys' Field Lacrosse
- Girls' and Boys' Hockey
- Girls' and Boys' Rugby

a) SOSSA shall hear appeals based on school composition. Schools wishing to appeal on any other basis (location of school, team composition, level of competition and OFSAA success) shall be appealed through SOSSA to OFSAA.

b) Appeals to SOSSA to shift a school to the next classification with a lower population, shall be as a school. There shall be no sport specific downward movement. Please see www.ofsaa.on.ca website for information on the appeal process.

c) The Appeals Committee at SOSSA will be composed of the Secretary-Treasurer as chair and a representative of each Zone.

d) Appeals to SOSSA shall be submitted by May 15th prior to the September of the year of the Appeal. Appeals shall be submitted each year.

ARTICLE X - ELIGIBILITY (Cont.)
SECTION 1 - SCHOOL
For all **JUNIOR team sports'** championships coordinated by NRHSAA / SOSSA, schools shall be classified on student populations as follows:

A 799 students and below
AA 800 students or more

SECTION 2 - INDIVIDUAL/TEAM SPORTS
In all recognized NRHSAA sport leagues, a school may enter only one (1) team. Should a school wish to have a "B" or 2nd team that school shall apply to the NRHSAA through a motion at a semi-annual meeting, for permission to do so. The NRHSAA may consent in sport leagues where numbers are down because few schools are participating.

To represent a school in any NRHSAA ZONE III / ZONE IV sport a student must:

1. Be eligible for competition under the NRHSAA Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (playing regulations);

2. Be registered and in attendance as a regular student in day classes of the school for the school for which he/she plays and achieves the following ***course requirements***:

   a) Students who have **fewer than twenty-two (22) credits** must be taking courses which define them as full time students under the Ministry of Education definition. Namely, a student in a traditional school must be registered in minimum of six (6) full day school credit courses; and in a semester school, a student must registered in a minimum of three (3) full day school credit courses in the semester in which he/she participates.

   b) Students who have **achieved twenty-two (22) or more credits** must be registered in at least four (4) non-semester full day school credit courses over the school year or registered in at least two (2) full day school credit courses per semester.

3. If a student no longer is enrolled in scheduled classes before the completion of a sport season, that student will become ineligible for further competition within Zone III / Zone IV for that sport season;

4. Be enrolled as a day student on or before September 20th of the current school year, or has enrolled at least ten (10) school days prior to the contest concerned; and in attendance at least seventy-five (75) per cent of the regular school days intervening between the date of registration and the date of the contest except where school is legally closed by a municipality and except where there is a disabling illness;

ARTICLE X – ELIGIBILITY (Cont.)
SECTION 2 - INDIVIDUAL/TEAM SPORTS

5. Following are the age requirements for **INDIVIDUAL SPORTS**

SENIOR - the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

JUNIOR - the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her 15th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

NOVICE - the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her 14th birthday by January1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held. **Note:** Students may compete in this category for 1 year only, ***THEIR GRADE 9 YEAR***.

Following are the age requirements for **TEAM SPORTS**

SENIOR - the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her **19th birthday by January1st** prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

JUNIOR - the individual's birth certificate indicates that he/she has not reached his/her **16th birthday by August 31st** prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
AND the individual shall be in either of their first two (2) years of high school based on the date entry into grade nine (9).

EXCEPTION: A student who has been accelerated one (1) year in elementary school shall be allowed to play at the junior level for a maximum of two (2) consecutive years in the first three (3) years of his/her high school career. The student shall meet the above age requirement and documentation of the acceleration shall be provided with the eligibility sheet.

PLUS:

6. Be in Grades nine (9) to twelve (12);

7. Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive calendar years from date of entry into Grade nine (9);

ARTICLE X – ELIGIBILITY (Cont.)
SECTION 2 - INDIVIDUAL/TEAM SPORTS

8. Be eligible under the NRHSAA Transfer Policy;

9. Qualify under any special regulations that govern the particular activity in which participation is anticipated;

10. Continue to be listed on the eligibility sheet in the higher classification of age group in an activity, if he/she elects to play in two league games in that activity in a classification or age group above which he/she normally could play in a current season. (Interpretation: The second game that the student athlete participates in at a higher level, makes him/her ineligible for further competition at the previous level. Age group refers to the OFSAA, SOSSA, or NRHSAA age groups.);

11. For play-off purposes, has been on the eligibility sheet for at least one (1) regular league game in his/her local school league within his/her Zone;

12. May participate in one championship series only in each sport. Zone, SOSSA, OFSAA are three (3) separate championship series. A series includes all play-off games. (Example: A school has both Junior and Senior Basketball Teams participating in Zone play-offs. The junior team gets defeated and is eliminated from further competition. The senior team wins their play-off game and continues. A junior player who has been made eligible for the senior team may not be called up to participate on the senior team during any zone play-off and/or championship game/s. If the senior team is successful and wins the zone championship, the junior player may participate at the SOSSA and/or OFSAA level including festivals.)

13. Any student who registers and either (i) attends one (1) full term or semester, or (ii) practices or plays or attends a tryout with a team or an intercollegiate team at a postsecondary institution, and then returns to any high school is ineligible for ZONE and/or SOSSA competition in all sports for the remainder of his/her high school career.

14. Be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school;

15. **Note:** Any student-athlete from an NRHSAA school that participates in an exhibition / game / tournament for another school will be denied the opportunity to play for their own school in NRHSAA competition. (This does not include the special consideration student in non-Bowl bound football).

16. Para athletes with a S14 classification are permitted to compete until the age of twenty-one (21) and shall be eligible for no more than seven (7) consecutive years from the date of entry into Grade nine (9).

ARTICLE X – ELIGIBILITY (Cont.)
SECTION 2 - INDIVIDUAL/TEAM SPORTS

17. **School Prep/Elite Team – Students who play on a school prep/elite team and then are no longer on that team but remain at the school, are ineligible for the 'bona fide' school team for the current school year and the following school year. A school prep/elite team is a team that represents the school in competition and or is under the oversight of the school administration. (OFSAA May 2019)**

SECTION 3 - SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

If a school does not have a particular sports' team, that student athlete may play for another school's team provided that:

1. He/she is declared eligible by both principals involved;
2. He/she plays for the nearest school in relation to their home school that offers the sport in question within the same system. However, a student-athlete may be eligible to participate for a school that is not nearest to his/her home school if the reasons are deemed "exceptional". In "exceptional" cases, approval must be granted by both principals along with the convener and the NRHSAA executive;
3. He/she completes the **Special Consideration Form (Appendix D)** and submits it to the conveners prior to participating. In "exceptional" cases the student-athlete is ineligible to compete until approval is granted by both principals, the convener/s and the NRHSAA executive.

   NOTE: As of April 2015 OFSA AGM: OFSAA Championships or festivals for team sports shall only involve teams which have used OFSAA-eligible student-athletes in all competition during the school year. OFSAA-eligible means the student meets all eligibility requirements as defined in the OFSAA playing regulations and the OFSAA by-laws.
   Any team using an ineligible student-athlete(s) in any competition during the school year forfeits the right to participate in the OFSAA Championship or Festival.

Notes:

1. The term "competition" does not exclusively refer to league play; it is defined as anytime two teams play against each other on a playing surface, whether in Ontario or elsewhere.
2. The requirement that only OFSAA-eligible athletes be used in all competition applies solely to teams qualifying for OFSAA Championships or festivals. This does not apply to teams in leagues that do not send teams to OFSAA Championships or Festivals.
3. Team sports shall be considered: boys' golf, field hockey, football, basketball, volleyball, hockey, curling, baseball, rugby, field lacrosse, soccer.
4. For all sports except football, a team using special consideration athletes shall only be eligible to play in the league schedule, and may not play in the playoffs leading to the Zone Championship. The exception to this is football, which may continue to play in the playoffs, for reasons of safety (i.e. in order to ensure there are enough players on the team).

ARTICLE X – ELIGIBILITY (Cont.)
SECTION 4 - CO PARTICIPATION

Co participation within the NRHSAA as per OFSAA regulations will exist. Athletes from two schools may participate on the same team when all of the following criteria are met:

i) The two (2) schools have entered into an official mutual arrangement of co-participation for the purpose of school sports activities not currently offered at the small school **providing** the smaller school is in compliance with subheadings (ii, iii, iv);

ii) The student population of one (1) of the school is under one hundred (100) students;

iii) The two (2) schools either share facilities or are in close proximity to each other:

iv) The Association supports the mutual arrangement of co-participation of the two (2) schools for sports not currently offered at the small school **providing** the smaller school is in compliance with the first three (3) subheadings (i, ii, iii).

ARTICLE XI - ELIGIBILITY SHEETS

Each school must have an eligibility sheet for each individual and team sport. The only eligibility sheet used will be the OFSAA AELS (Athletic Eligibility List System).

Unless stipulated differently, fully completed and administratively signed and dated eligibility forms must be in the possession of the appropriate convener at least forty-eight (48) hours (two school days) OR earlier before a school's first league game in that sport. Failure to submit the eligibility form in this timely fashion will result in a forfeit. New players may be added at any time by sending their names and birthdates, signed by the coach, athletic director and principal, to the convener on a new OFSAA AELS Eligibility Sheet.

Any junior player used in a senior competition must be clearly marked on the game sheet. Failure to do so will deem the player ineligible for further competition at the lower level. A player may play one league game at the higher level. If a player plays a second game at the higher level, that player automatically becomes ineligible at the lower level. Any player listed on a game sheet is considered to have played in that competition.

ARTICLE XII - TRANSFERS

SECTION 1 - TRANSFER POLICY

The NRHSAA will abide by OFSAA's Transfer Policy; (Refer to Appendix E). No school shall include in its lineup any student who has been registered as a transfer from another school within the previous twelve (12) months. Once a student has changed schools he/she is considered a transfer student and even if he/she returns to a school, he/she must comply with the Transfer Policy.

ARTICLE XII – TRANSFERS (Cont.)
SECTION 1 - TRANSFER POLICY

Any competitions hosted by a school belonging to the NRHSAA must follow OFSAA eligibility requirements (including all schools which attend the competition). Failure to comply may result in sanctions to schools, team or individuals involved in these competitions. Competition includes tournaments, exhibition games, invitational competitions or any other intra school participation

A copy of the current year transfer form may be found on the NRHSAA website.

SECTION 2 - INELIGIBLE RULING

Any student who has been deemed ineligible by the NRHSAA Board of Reference - Transfer may not represent their school in any competition in the sport/s in question regardless of SOSSA and OFSAA sanctioning. Competition is defined as any meeting between two schools within a sport commencing the first school day of the current school year and including the duration of time leading up to and including the OFSAA Championship dates for that sport. Competition includes controlled scrimmages, exhibition, tournament and league games/matches. These students are encouraged to take part in community leagues during their ineligibility period. Violation will result in sanctions set down by the Board of Reference - SANCTIONS AND PROTESTS.

If a student appeals their ineligibility to SOSSA or OFSAA and is successful with their appeal then that student will become eligible for participation at the zone level of play.

SECTION 3 - SOSSA APPEAL PROCESS

The following procedures must be followed if a student wishes to appeal his/her case to SOSSA:

1. The Athletic Director notifies the Chair (Coordinator) of the NRHSAA Board of Reference - Transfer of their intention to appeal. The Chair will then forward all documentation, on file, to the Chair of the SOSSA Appeal Board. The SOSSA Appeal Board must receive all necessary documentation 24 hours prior to the scheduled Transfer Appeal Board meeting.

2. The Athletic Designate will contact the Chair of the SOSSA Appeal Board requesting an appointment. The Chair will then designate a time in which the student will meet with the Appeal Board. Students may bring additional information and/or support people to strengthen their case.

Note: No appointments will be made for parents. The Chair(s) must be contacted by the Athletic Director, the Principal or the Principal's Designate. Any student who arrives unexpectedly to a SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board Meeting without following the above procedures will not have his/her case heard.

ARTICLE XII – TRANSFERS (Cont.)
SECTION 3 - SOSSA APPEAL PROCESS

3. All appeals must be received by the SOSSA Appeal Board Chair seven (7) days prior to the scheduled SOSSA Appeal Board Meeting.

4. Each appeal made to the SOSSA Transfer Appeal Board must be accompanied by a one-hundred $100.00 cheque made payable to SOSSA. This fee will be reimbursed to the school requesting the appeal should the Transfer Appeal Board rule in their favor.

ARTICLE XIII - CONVENORSHIPS

SECTION 1 - ATHLETIC CONVENORS

Athletic Conveners will be hired to organize, run and over-see the operation of the NRHSAA zone level sport activities. The Athletic Conveners' position will be a posted position and may be renewed annually if acceptable to all parties. Conveners will be hired by packages which correspond to specific playing seasons.

Duties include:

- Organizes, arranges, and runs Individual Sport Body Meetings;
- Organizes league formats;
- Creates schedules;
- Creates a method to communication with coaches; e.g.: email distribution lists, web page;
- Maintains and distributes sport specific packages;
- Arranges officials;
- Checks eligibility sheets and cross-references them with the listing of eligible and ineligible student/athletes received from the Board of Reference - Transfer;
- Deals with special consideration/exceptional cases;
- Interprets sport specific rules;
- Records results and provides up-dates to schools on a regular basis;
- Records money that may have to be collected;
- Sees that bills are paid promptly;
- Collects and files eligibility forms
- Distributes, collects and files game sheets;
- Reports concerns to the NRHSAA Coordinator;
- Communicates with the principal and/or principal's designate on all issues pertaining to school athletics;
- Provides the media with schedules and play-off information.
- Submits motions at the NRHSAA semi-annual meetings

ARTICLE XIII – CONVENORSHIPS (Cont.)
SECTION 2 - ATHLETIC CONVENER PACKAGES

Athletic Conveners will be hired to convene and create schedules for the following season packages:

Fall Package: Girls' Basketball; Boys' Football; Boys' Volleyball; Boys' and Girls' Cross Country; Girls' Field Hockey, Boys' and Girls' Tennis, Coed Ultimate Frisbee and Boys' and Girls' Golf.

Winter Package: Boys' Basketball; Girls' Volleyball; Boys' and Girls' Swimming; Boys' and Girls' Hockey; Boys' and Girls' Wrestling; Boys' and Girls' Curling; Boys' and Girls' Skiing, Boys' and Girls' Snowboarding.

Spring Package: Boys' and Girls' Badminton, Boys' Baseball, Boys' and Girls' Soccer; Boys' and Girls' Track and Field; Boys' and Girls' Rugby, Girls' Slo-Pitch, Boys Field Lacrosse.

Athletic Conveners are responsible for <u>Zone level play only</u> for each of the above sports.

SECTION 3 - SPORT SPECIFIC MEETINGS
Sport specific meetings shall take place three times during the school year: late October (winter sports), late March/early April (spring sports), early June or early September (fall sports). The winter and spring sport specific meetings shall take place following the fall and spring NRHSAA semi-annual meetings. The fall sport specific meeting shall take place in the morning on the first Monday in June or the first Monday in September after Labour Day. It shall be the responsibility of the athletic director of each school to attend these meetings.

ARTICLE XIV - SCHEDULING

SECTION 1 - DECLARATION OF PLAY

Schools within the NRHSAA must declare their intention to run a sport by the following deadlines:

Fall Sports	-	Second Semi-Annual meeting in March
Winter Sports	-	October 1st
Spring Sports	-	January 31 (same date for SOSSA)

- League competition for all NRHSAA team sports at the senior level may be contested in two (2) tiers: Tier 1 and Tier 2.

- Tier 1 will be the SOSSA/OFSAA bound divisions (both Junior and Senior) played by each individual school's classification numbers in their existing zones.

ARTICLE XIV – SCHEDULING (Cont.)
SECTION 1 - DECLARATION OF PLAY

- Tier 2 will be non SOSSA/OFSAA bound divisions (both Junior and Senior) played in their existing Zones or a combination of schools from both Zones 3 and 4, depending on the number of teams declaring their intention for this division. At the discretion of the athletic directors involved in the Tier 2 league, a Tier 2 championship may be scheduled.

- Tier 1 and Tier 2 will be used as athletic environments and while competitive, must also be safe, positive and conducive to the development of self-esteem and sportsmanship. While officials are responsible for enforcing the rules of the game, it is the responsibility of coaches to control the athletic environment. The Tier 2 league will be "developmental" and players in this league need to understand that concept.

- OFSAA eligibility and transfer rules will apply for all divisions in both Zones and in both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 divisions.

- The format for league competition and play-offs for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 will be determined at the Convener's Individual Sport Body Meeting. All schools participating in either Tier are to send a representative (Athletic Director or Principal's Designate) to the Convener's Individual Sport Body Meeting or forfeit the right for input in the league and play-off format.

- Athletic Directors and Conveners have the ability to create an additional Tier that qualifies for SOSSA/OFSAA for teams that wish to have competitive league games and consist of teams from both Zone 3 and Zone 4. Athletic Directors and Conveners will determine how teams qualify for play-offs at the sport specific meetings.

DECLARING UP: If your school would like to declare up for a sport, this must be done in writing on school letterhead and signed by the Principal or Vice Principal of that school.

The declaration must go to the NRHSAA Coordinator, the Athletic Convener running the sport, and should also be forwarded to the SOSSA Administrative Secretary.

Schools who wish to move to a higher classification (i.e., AA TO AAA) for FALL activities, must complete and submit reclassification request by the SOSSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (JUNE of each school year) prior to the fall of reclassification.

For reclassification for WINTER sports, the written request must be made by NOVEMBER 15th of each school year. For reclassification for SPRING sports, the written request must be made by the Friday before the March Break or March 15th whichever comes first in that school year.

Declarations must be made on the **NRHSAA Intention Sheet (Appendix D)** <u>for all sports</u>**.**

ARTICLE XIV – SCHEDULING (Cont.)
SECTION 2 - SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

School classification (A, AA, AAA) is based on enrolment on **October 31st** of the previous school year. A team may opt to play at a higher classification if they declare their intention by the Declaration of Play deadlines. If a school's **October 31st** enrollment changes their classification then they must honor their current schedule for the remainder of that sport season.

SECTION 3 - LEAGUE AND PLAY-OFF FORMAT

The format for league competition and play-offs will be determined at the Conveners Individual Sport Body Meeting. All schools participating are to send a representative (Athletic Director or Principal's designate) to the Conveners Individual Sport Body Meeting otherwise forfeit all rights for input in the league and play-off format.

A Badminton coaches meeting will be held the first week of March in order to schedule the season's sub zone and zone tournaments. Any realignment of subzones will also take place at this meeting. Athletic Directors from each school will be invited and may choose to attend or send an approved representative from their school.

Athletic Directors must have the final approval of the draft and final sport schedules in form. The approval from the Athletic Director will be sent to the convener in the form of an e mail.

All sport schedules shall have **NO** more than twelve (12) league games in a season.

SECTION 4 - ZONE FINAL

Regardless of the SOSSA format, when a Zone is sending two (2) teams to SOSSA, the Zone final playoff game must be played. (i.e. even if the same two (2) teams meet in the SOSSA semi-final).

SECTION 5 - STAGES OF SCHEDULING

Stage One (DRAFT-to-FINAL COPY) Schedules will be distributed to all participating schools. **For fall, winter and spring sports**, errors/omissions by the Convener must be corrected within three (3) school days.

NOTE: After schools receive this "Draft-to-Final" copy, the schedule will be considered "FINAL". Changes to this "Draft-to-Final Copy" must be approved by both schools involved and those changes must be conveyed to the appropriate convener within seventy-two (72) "working" hours or three (3) school days.

No revisions will be made by a convener, unless all coaches involved in a game/match /time change agree to the change and the convener(s) are notified to make the referee arrangements. Documentation by email is required.

ARTICLE XIV – SCHEDULING (Cont.)
SECTION 5 - STAGES OF SCHEDULING
If referees are unable to accommodate the new schedule, the original game date and time will stand. Sport specific conveners will notify coaches involved of referees' availability.
Revisions made to the final schedule should be due to extenuating circumstances.

Tournaments are to be scheduled around the final schedule. Teams that are not able to compete for reasons that are not deemed "extenuating" by the conveners and/or NRHSAA Executive will result in a forfeit.

AFTER seventy-two (72) HOURS A "FINAL COPY" (the word "DRAFT-to" will be removed) WILL BE SENT OUT TO THE COACHES

Note: League and play-off games may not start earlier than 3:30 p.m. on a regular school day with the exception of the following sports: Football which may start earlier when "standard time" occurs, Ice hockey due to ice-time availability; Field Lacrosse due to the availability of fields and officials'. If due to extenuating circumstances a competition needs to begin prior to 3:30 p.m. then the time must be approved by both principals.

ARTICLE XV - NRHSAA SPORTS
The following twenty-two (22) sports are **governed** by the NRHSAA:

SPORTS	TEAMS	LEVELS OF COMPETITION
Alpine Skiing	Boys and Girls	SOSSA; OFSAA
Badminton	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Baseball	Boys	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Basketball	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Cross Country Running	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Curling	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Field Hockey	Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Field Lacrosse	Boys	ZONE: SOSSA; OFSAA
Football	Boys	ZONE, SOSSA; OFSAA
Golf	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Ice Hockey	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Nordic Skiing	Boys and Girls	SOSSA; OFSAA
Rugby	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Slo-Pitch	Girls	ZONE
Snow Boarding	Boys and Girls	SOSSA; OFSAA
Soccer	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Swimming	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Tennis	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Track and Field	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Ultimate Frisbee	Coed	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Volleyball	Boys and Girls	ZONE; SOSSA; OFSAA
Wrestling	Boys and Girls	SOSSA; OFSAA

ARTICLE XV - NRHSAA SPORTS (Cont.)
Additions to the list above must come forward as a motion at the NRHSAA semi-annual meeting. Athletic conveners will be financially compensated by participating schools.

ARTICLE XVI - TEAM SELECTION
Student/athletes are encouraged to experience a variety of sports. Sports that are "in-season" are to have priority over sports that are not. It is recommended that team selection occur no earlier than:

- The first day of school for fall sports;
- November 1st for winter sports;
- March 1st for spring sports.

ARTICLE XVII - SAFETY
The Ontario Physical Education Safety Guidelines - Secondary - Interschool Athletics should be followed for each sport. It is the responsibility of the principal, coaches and boards to ensure that the safety guidelines are met.

ARTICLE XVIII - SUPERVISION OF INTERSCHOOL TEAMS
Any school entering a NRHSAA competition must be under the supervision of a coach who has been approved by the Principal of the school which it represents.

Note: It is implicit to understand that "supervision" starts with the first practice to the last game/match/meet of the high school season. It is strongly suggested by the Zone that any "outside coach" for any NRHSAA team be interviewed on procedure and protocol by the possible "inside" coach involved, and/or staff advisor, and/or athletic director and/or administration and if deemed necessary have that person(s) sign a "Coaching Permission Form."

Any coach who is dissatisfied with an official and/or minor official or questions the facilities or conduct of another school's coach or team should report (IN WRITING) such to the Convener. The Convener should immediately contact the NRHSAA Coordinator.

ARTICLE XIX - SUSPENSIONS
The NRHSAA has adopted a "Zero Tolerance Policy" for any altercations which occur outside the context of the competition.

SECTION 1 - EJECTION FROM COMPETITION
If a player or coach is dismissed from any NRHSAA activity (league game/match or play-off game/match), that player or coach will be suspended from his/her next league or play-off contest and **THAT COACH IS NOT PERMITTED TO COACH ANY OTHER SCHOOL TEAM SANCTIONED BY SOSSA WHILE SERVING THE SUSPENSION** unless, after a formal protest, the Board of Reference-sanctions and protests rules to the contrary.

ARTICLE XIX – SUSPENSIONS (Cont.)
SECTION 1 - EJECTION FROM COMPETITION
The referee is to indicate on the game sheet the reasons for his/her decision to remove the player or coach from the competition. A copy of the report shall be forwarded by the home school to the Chair (Coordinator) of the Board of Reference-sanctions and protests and the convener for that sport. The onus of the appeal is on the coach (see Article VIII, Section 1 for appeal procedures).

Any player or coach ejected from a game and then ejected a **second time** in the same season in that sport shall be under permanent suspension in all future inter-school competition (NRHSAA, SOSSA, OFSAA) until his/her case is reviewed and ruled on by the Board of Reference-sanctions and protests . The onus of the appeal is on the coach (see Article VIII, Section 1 for appeal procedures).

NOTE: Any player ejected from his/her final game in his/her potential graduating year may be subject to school discipline or subject his/her school to sanctions or fines as seen fit by the convener of the sport and/or the NRHSAA Athletic Coordinator.

SECTION 2 - PHYSICAL OR VERBAL ALTERCATION

Any player or coach who is involved in an altercation before, during or after a school sanctioned competition shall be under permanent suspension in all future inter-school competition (NRHSAA, SOSSA, OFSAA) until his/her case is reviewed and ruled on by the Board of Reference-sanctions and protests. The onus of the appeal is on the coach (see Article VIII, Section 1 for appeal procedures).

Any player, coach or supervising adult that strikes or threatens a coach or an official “or comes off the bench and becomes involved in an altercation that results in his/her expulsion by the official” will be suspended from all further NRHSAA competition in that year, or until reviewed by the Board of Reference-sanctions and protests. Any such incidents should be reported in writing by the coaches involved to the Chair (Coordinator) of Board of Reference-sanctions and protests and the convener of that sport within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident. A spectator may report an incident in writing to the NRHSAA Athletic Coordinator or Chair of the Board of Reference-sanctions and protests within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident.

NOTE: Any suspension or disciplinary action in Zone play shall be carried forward into SOSSA competition. The Zone Convener shall be responsible for reporting such student/athletes and the nature of the disciplinary action on the SOSSA eligibility sheet.

ARTICLE XX- PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS

The home team is responsible for payment of officials for all league and play-off games. The visiting team is responsible for transportation costs to and from the competition.

ARTICLE XX- PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS (Cont.)

If a visiting team defaults a game/match and the officials were not contacted in time, that team will pay for the referee(s) if the home team had to pay. Reminder; "teams that are not able to compete for reasons that are not deemed "extenuating" by the conveners and/or NRHSAA Executive will result in a forfeit".

If a gate is charged at an NRHSAA league or play-off game then all expenses will be paid from the gate (referees, minor officials, linesmen, security, score keepers, etc.) and the remainder of the gate will be divided equally between the home and visiting team.

In the event a play-off game is played at a neutral site then the cost of officials will be shared equally between participating teams.

ARTICLE XXI - REPORTING SCORES

It is the responsibility of the home team to enter game scores on the www.nrhsa.ca website, within 24 hours of game completion.
In the final week of the schedule, in addition to entering scores on the website, the home team must also contact the convener at home that night with the results of the competition.
In the playoffs, the winning team must contact the convener at home that night with the results of the competition.

ARTICLE XXII - TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

The following method of determining play-off position will be used in all sports where a league schedule leads to a play-off:

(1) Record between tied teams;
(2) Record against teams higher in the standings (1 above, then 2 above, etc.);
(3) Record against teams lower in the standings (1 below, then 2 below, etc.);

(4) A coin flip to determine play-off position only.

The conveners will perform the coin flip. The school that is alphabetically highest will have "heads" in the coin flip **(see Appendix A1 and A2 for alphabetical listing for each zone).** The convener will notify schools of the results.

(a) Play-off on a neutral field/court or a coin flip for home field if both coaches agree, if it is to determine the final play-off position.
(b) In the event of a four (4) way tie, the conveners in consultation with the NRHSAA

Executive and the schools involved will determine a tie-breaking procedure.

ARTICLE XXIII – GAME FORFEITURES

The following policies are in place for game forfeitures:

(1) Should a team forfeit a game with less than forty-eight (48) hours' notice, all costs associated with the game shall be charged to the forfeiting school.
(2) Should a team forfeit a game, the forfeiting team will be given a loss as a result of the forfeit.
(3) Should a team forfeit two (2) games during regular season play, the team shall be removed from the league and all points earned in games played against that team shall be removed from league standings.
(4) A team that forfeits a game during the regular season loses all rights with regards to tie breaking procedures. (i.e. If the team is tied for third (3rd), the team will be relegated to fourth (4th) place).
(5) A team that forfeits a playoff game shall also forfeit the right to play any further playoff games at the current or subsequent level of playoffs (i.e. When two (2) teams qualify for SOSSA). (April 2016)

ARTICLE XXIV – SOSSA "HOST" TEAM FOR OFSAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

If a school hosts an OFSAA Championship, the school has the first right of acceptance or refusal to host the SOSSA Championship for that activity, in the same school year, as the OFSAA Championship.

ARTICLE XXV - GENDER EQUITY

Gender equity in school sport is the belief and practice which ensures fair access for all student-athletes, coaches, officials and administrators to participate, compete and lead.

Equity does not necessarily mean that all persons must be treated exactly the same. People may need to be treated differently in order to be treated fairly.

Student-Athletes will enjoy a full and equitable range of opportunities for participation, officiating, competition and leadership in school sport activities.

OFSAA supports student-athlete participation on a team of their lived gender and encourages equitable programs in co-curricular activities in terms of funding, practice time and facilities.

OFSAA will continue to provide equitable opportunities for students in co-curricular activities.

If a sport activity is not available for a female on a girls' team, she is eligible to participate on a boys' team following a successful try out.

Where a sport activity is available for a female on a girls' team, she is eligible to participate on a boys' team if she demonstrates comparable skill and ability during a successful tryout.

If a sport activity does not exist for a boy, he is not eligible to participate on a girls' team.

ARTICLE XXVI – RECRUITMENT POLICY

OFSAA has enhanced its Recruitment Policy effective the 2015-16 season.
Please see Appendix J of the NRHSAA Appendices for the Recruitment Policy in full.