

## ARTICLE X: COMPETITION AND ELIGIBILITY

### Section 1 - Obligation to Participate

Schools are not obligated to play in all sports or enter all divisions of a particular zone league; but where a school has teams competing in sports conducted by the OVSAA those teams are expected to compete in the local league. In scheduling leagues, commissions must work with schools to avoid exam conflicts.

### Section 2 - Zone or Commission Leagues

- a) Each zone is responsible for the conduct of leagues within its area.
- b) Each commission that operates a league involving teams from more than one zone shall be responsible for the conduct of such leagues.
- c) A zone or commission may permit a second team from a school to compete in a zone or commission league. Only one (1) team from a school shall be permitted to advance to the OVSAA playoffs.

### Section 3 - Playoffs

- a) Zone playoffs are the responsibility of the zones.
- b) Cross-Valley leagues and playoffs are the responsibility of the sponsoring commission.
- c) Where applicable, valley playoffs based upon the competition of the zone champions shall be rotated on a 4-year rotation.
- d) OVSAA Schools hosting Valley Championships cannot charge gate fees.
- e) The OVSAA will only provide pennants for the valley championships.
- f) Valley playoff sites for valley-wide commissions shall be determined by the commissions and expenses incurred are the responsibility of the commission.
- g) Schools and teams must be registered with BCSS to be eligible for valley championships which are used to decide provincial championships berths.
- h) Tie Breaking Formula:
  - This formula will be used in all cases, unless a commission or league rules otherwise prior to the season.
  - i) 2 teams tie - the team with the better WIN/LOSS record in games between the 2 teams shall place higher. If this WIN/LOSS record is even, the team with the better points for and against record in games between the two teams shall place higher.
  - ii) 3 teams tie - placing will be based on the WIN/LOSS record in games amongst the teams involved. If this WIN/LOSS record is even, the team with the better points for and against record in games amongst the three teams shall place higher.

iii) 4 or more teams placing will be based on the WIN/LOSS record in games amongst the teams involved. If within this placing 2 way or 3 way ties remain refer to a) or b) above.

e.g. 4 teams tie - WIN/LOSS records of (A) 2-1, (B) 2-1, (C) 1-2, (D) 1-2, the game between (A) and (B) would decide the top 2 placing and the game between (C) and (D) would decide the third and fourth placing.

iv) In the event that the tie breaking formula described above does not resolve the standings then the commissioner shall supervise a lottery to reach resolution.

i) All teams qualifying for valley playoffs must attend or may be barred from league play in the following year or fined the entry fee for the championship.

#### Section 4 - Game Rules

a) Zones may establish local rules as deemed appropriate to accommodate its leagues and schedules.

b) Valley playoff competitions shall be played under the rules of the recognized authority for the sport, except in cases where the playoff does not lead to a Provincial Championship and exceptions to the rules have been approved by 75% (seventy-five percent) of the commission of that sport at a properly constituted commission meeting.

#### Section 5 - Player Registration

a) Schools shall register players and teams as required by the zone, commission, and/or BCSS.

b) The zone shall decide cases of forfeiture where registration is not correctly completed as necessary for zone play.

c) The commission in concert with the OVSA executive shall decide cases of forfeiture where registration is not correctly completed as necessary for valley playoffs or commission schedules.

d) Participation by an ineligible player or players, shall result in forfeiture of the game to the opposing team.

#### Section 7 - Defaults, Postponements, and Forfeitures

This section is under the jurisdiction of the zone or commission. It is recommended that the following rules be enforced.

a) Default:

Notice of one week must be given to the scheduled opponent by any team intending to default a game. The principal and/or athletic director of the school whose team intends to default a game must be informed prior to such notice being given. Full explanation of

the details connected with the default must be sent to the zone president and/or commissioner who shall decide the penalty for default.

b) Postponements:

Scheduled games may be postponed only for weather conditions or other reasons beyond the control of the school and with the specific consent of the other school involved. The zone president and/or commissioner must be notified as soon as possible. The game must be rescheduled at the earliest convenience.

c) Forfeit:

If a school, for reasons beyond its control, cannot play a scheduled game, the zone president and/or commissioner may award the game to the other team involved. This shall be called a forfeit.

d) Withdrawals:

Zones and commissions are advised that penalties for league withdrawals could include probation or threatened suspension from association membership. Any team entered in a league must realize its commitment on the part of the team members to carry on its obligation to finish out a schedule.

e) For the purpose of this section, the zone president and/or commissioner shall decide whether failure to play as scheduled shall be classed as "default", i.e. loss of points by both teams.

f) Meeting Commitments: For interlock competition in Valley wide leagues the penalty for not meeting a commitment will be:

- i) a \$250 fine and forfeiture of the game for each offense and any costs associated with the canceled game (referees, travel, etc).
- ii) a second offense by the same team within a 2-year period would be fined \$500 and disallowed from the playoffs in the offending season.

Note: Communication of all forfeitures and penalties must be made with coaches, athletic directors, and principals of school(s) involved.

iii) these penalties do not apply when the game is missed due to circumstances beyond the school's control (as approved by the OVSAA President). However, the game must then be made up if time allows and on conditions of the non-forfeiting school. If unable to make that commitment, it will be referred to the OVSAA executive.

Note: Athletic directors need to communicate information surrounding fines and forfeitures to coaches and principals at the start of the season.

## Section 8 – Protests

a) Any intention to protest must be indicated on the game report form (this form may vary from sport to sport) e.g. score sheet, player registration, etc... and signed by the team representative. It is necessary for the team representative to inform the official that the game is being played under protest and for what reason. Protests must be then

submitted in writing to the OVSAA President within twenty four (24) hours of game time. Failure to indicate intent to protest will nullify any written protest within the twenty four (24) hour period.

b) A judgment call made by an official cannot be protested. A misinterpretation of the law, eligibility of players, or breaches of commission rules and regulations can be protested. The protest will first be dealt with at the valley commission level or in zone play the zone commissioner. In the case of an appeal the next step would be at the OVSAA Executive or for zone play the zone president.

c) Reports are required from both of the participants and officials involved. These can be written or verbal.

d) The final ruling by the Executive of the OVSAA shall be binding and final.

e) In the case where a zone sport has its own written protocol for protests, those guidelines will be recognized.