

2024

(effective 2024-25  
school year)

**ALABAMA  
CHRISTIAN  
SPORTS  
CONFERENCE**

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Bylaws of the Alabama Christian Sports Conference originally  
drafted in 2007 with revisions in subsequent years.

**BYLAWS**

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## **Article I...Conference Determination**

**1.1** The name of this association shall be the Alabama Christian Sports Conference (ACSC). The conference is modeled after Christian ideals. The conference was founded in 2007.

**1.2 Mission.** To develop and promote Christian ideals among student-athletes through athletic competition.

**1.3 Purpose.** To provide an athletic conference to develop the Christian community through wholesome competition and good sportsmanship in a variety of sports. This allows student-athletes from a member Christian traditional and/or home school to compete in a Christian environment.

**1.4** The ACSC is a private, non-profit organization comprised of Christian institutions including campus schools, homeschools, and homeschool associations. A campus school is considered an institution in the traditional sense. A homeschool is considered an institution whose requirements meet the definition of a church school as found in Alabama Code 16-28-1ff. A homeschool association is an institution which provides athletic opportunities for homeschooled students enrolled in church schools.

**1.5** The ACSC is comprised of the following Member Institutions

East Central Homeschool Sports (Moody)	Southern Christian Athletics (Auburn)
Evangel Christian School (Alabaster)	Tuscaloosa Warriors (Tuscaloosa)
Ezekiel Academy (Montgomery)	Wiregrass Kings (Dothan)
Lighthouse Homeschool Athletics (Oneonta)	

**1.5.a** Inactive and probationary members do not retain voting privileges of the ACSC. After five years inactive member institutions will be removed from membership in the ACSC.

**1.6** The ACSC participates in the following athletic competitions for both men's and women's, junior high and varsity. Competitive events include: baseball (men only); basketball; 8-man football (men only); softball (women only); volleyball (women only); soccer (men and women); and cross country (men and women).

**1.6.1** Member Institutions must participate at the conference level in all sports fielded by the MI if the conference provides competition in that sport.

**1.7 Annual Meeting.** The ACSC officers and athletic directors will meet, at minimum, annually to consider potential member applications, rule changes, conference business, and scheduling. Changes to bylaws will only be addressed at the annual meeting. The commissioner shall notify all members as to the time and place of annual board meetings. The annual board meeting will take place **annually on the second Saturday in June** (unless moved to another Saturday by a majority vote of the Governing Board). A representative of each member institution **must** be present. **Each institution pays annual dues (\$100) at this meeting.**

**1.7.1 Scheduling Meetings.** Individual sports scheduling meetings should be scheduled in July or August for football and volleyball, October for basketball, and February for baseball and softball. Sports committees can reschedule as necessary; and determine the time and location of eligibility meetings.

**1.7.2 Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year begins July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**1.8 Conference Entry.** Institutions seeking conference entry must submit an application, and (nonrefundable) \$150 application fee. Headmasters/Principals (or equivalents) of prospective institutions must attend the Annual Meeting and make a presentation about their school and athletic program. Prospective institutions must also agree to adhere to ACSC bylaws. The institution is admitted to the conference (in a probationary status) based on a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the governing board. The vote occurs at the ACSC annual meeting. Upon  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote approval, the prospective institution is admitted on a two-year probationary period. During these years, probationary institutions can participate in all ACSC sanctioned events. However, these institutions have no voting privileges.

**1.8.a** Prospective institutions who intend to field teams for fall sports must have their application and other information submitted to the conference on or before April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be scheduled for conference play in those fall sports.

**1.8.1** Upon completion of the probationary years, the prospective institution will be reconsidered for full conference admittance. Again, a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote is necessary for full admittance. Upon full admittance, the institution is considered a “member” institution with all rights and privileges afforded all member institutions in good standing.

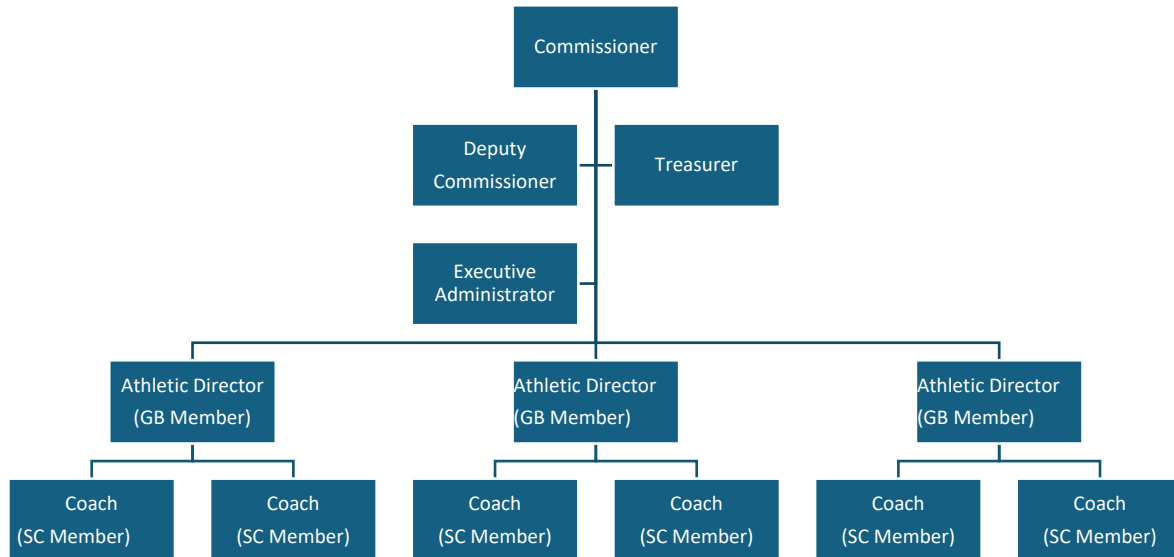
*(Note: An institution in good standing is one that has met all annual requirements of the ACSC, including fees/dues paid in full.)*

**1.8.2 Banishment.** Banishing an institution from the ACSC requires a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the governing board.

*(Note: Any reported violation of this bylaw will be reviewed by ACSC Board. If the violation is determined to be valid by the majority of the board, the violating institution will be suspended for the remainder of the school year. The suspended institution can reapply for conference re-entry.)*

## Article II...Duties and Obligations

2.1 The ACSC is governed by a Commissioner, the Governing Board (GB), and the Sports Committees (SC) [refer to chart below]



**2.1.a.** The **Commissioner** is nominated by the GB, and is the conference chief executive, communicating/coordinating with the leadership of member institutions, advocating the conference to sponsors, media, and others, and facilitating budgets along with the treasurer. He/she is responsible for the organization and direction of the conference during the academic year. The commissioner facilitates operational issues, networks on behalf of the conference and events, and maintains all files. He/she is the ultimate decision maker on conflicts and rules interpretation when a clear consensus cannot be reached among the members of the GB or when convening the board is not feasible. The commissioner votes in situations requiring a tie-breaking vote. The commissioner will be voted on annually by the governing board before the annual meeting.

*(Note: The commissioner has the authority to act upon situations requiring unilateral rulings/decisions to facilitate the conference. Such actions by the commissioner will be reviewed and addressed at the following annual conference meeting.)*

**2.2b** The **Treasurer** is the chief financial executive who facilitates the budget. The treasurer is either a stand-alone duty, or an additional duty of a GB member. (Note: In the event the Treasurer is unable to fulfill his/her duties another Treasurer must be appointed by the GB and/or the Commissioner.)

**2.2c** The **Deputy Commissioner** acts in the place of the commissioner in the event the commissioner is incapacitated or not available for an extended period. The Deputy Commissioner is voted upon annually by the GB. (Note: In the event the Deputy Commissioner becomes Commissioner, another Deputy Commissioner must be elected.)

**2.2d** The **Executive Administrator (EA)** is appointed by the Commissioner and confirmed by the GB. The EA works under the direction of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to facilitate conference business by recording the actions of the GB and Sports Committees in annual and other meetings through the taking and distributing of minutes; preparing the sports calendar before the annual meeting to be presented to and approved by the GB; and updating and distributing the conference bylaws and forms after the annual meeting. The EA maintains a record of the functioning of the conference (emails, policy votes, disciplinary actions, current bylaws, etc.) each year. The EA facilitates communication on conference issues among the GB calling for and recording votes according to the requirements of the bylaws. The EA assists the Athletic Directors who chair Sports Committees with required paperwork and other information as needed. The EA updates the conference website ([www.ascssports.org](http://www.ascssports.org)).

**2.3 Athletic Directors (AD)** comprise the GB. Each board member has equal voting power. The ACSC GB has full authority in all eligibility matters related to ACSC athletics. The GB will field complaints, review documents, investigate & review violations, and make decisions regarding ACSC athletics. The GB approves budgets, fees, and makes final decisions on budgets proposed by the commissioner. The GB will assist the commissioner with tournament operational issues and responsibilities. In the event the commissioner can no longer serve or resigns, the GB will appoint a new commissioner by majority vote. If the new commissioner also serves as a Member Institution AD, the MI will designate someone from their leadership to be the voting GB member for their school. The designee is subject to GB approval. This board also determines commissioner compensation for time and expenses.

**2.3.a** AD's [GB Members] duties include: 1) attending all called meetings or sending an appointed proxy; 2) ensuring all fees and ACSC requirements are met in a timely manner; 3) ensuring all headmasters, pastors, principals (or equivalents) are apprised of the ACSC by-laws; 4) ensuring coaches are notified of all pertinent conference information in a timely manner; 5) ensuring coaches adhere to all ACSC by-laws; 6) ensuring coaches of every sport posts statistics at [www.maxpreps.com](http://www.maxpreps.com); 7) attending and facilitating conference tournaments.

**2.3.b** An AD is nominated by the commissioner to chair a specific sports committee. The nominated board member will chair the specific sport committee, and be a conduit between the committee, the GB and the commissioner.

**2.4 Coaches** will adhere to all ACSC bylaws, be an active participant on their specific sports committee (SC), keep the GB and commissioner apprised on a regular basis of issues pertaining to the season.

**2.4.a** SCs are comprised of the coaches of the participating institutions. Members of each SC will elect a committee chairperson who will present any proposed by-law/rule changes, and/or conflicts or exceptions to policy, (e.g., all league football coaches [participating in that sport] are part of the Football Committee. As would all men's and women's basketball coaches comprise the Basketball Committee.)

**2.4.b** The SC is responsible for the entire spectrum of that particular season (scheduling, suggested amendments to rules, and certain aspects of the championship tournament).

*(Note: All SC decisions/outcomes are subject to GB approval. Also, issues concerning specific sports will only be voted upon by institutions fielding teams in that particular sport. The minutes of the SC meeting will be provided to the Commissioner and/or GB for final approval on decisions made.)*

**2.5 Principal/Headmasters** (or equivalents) will ensure their institution complies fully with ACSC bylaws. They are also ultimately responsible for the behavior of members (to include extended members) of their respective institutions, ensuring proper eligibility of student-athletes (S-As), and ensuring all matters of liability are addressed. Liability for all student-athletes (S-As) is assumed by the member institution.

*(Note: Principals/Headmasters (or equivalents) must ensure ALL information regarding their respective institutions are forwarded to the ACSC in a timely manner. Member institution information must be updated by the annual meeting. Institutions will cease participation until rectified.)*

**2.5.a** Principals/Headmasters (or equivalents) must submit annually any/all Approved Academic Organizations for approval {refer to Article III} by the GB at the annual conference meeting.

**2.6 Host or Home Institution** will adhere to NFHS rules for the applicable sport. All athletic competitions will begin and end with prayer, followed by (if an American flag is present) the National Anthem (sung by the crowd, led by an individual, or recorded) or the Pledge of Allegiance. {refer to Article 5.3}

**2.6.a** Home Institution (Administration) will also ensure the playing surface is safe and free of any obstructions or objects that may cause harm. Home institution will also ensure to provide the proper equipment for competition (i.e., balls, nets, goals, padding, etc.)

**2.7** All participating in ACSC sanctioned activities are expected to govern themselves in a Christ-like manner. All are expected to encourage good conduct whether as a spectator, admissions/concessions worker, student, or any person affiliated with the member institution.



## **Article III...Eligibility**

**3.1 Eligibility** is ultimately the responsibility of the principal/headmaster (or equivalent) of each member institution. The principal/headmaster (or equivalent) shall sign all eligibility lists and correspondence concerning eligibility, and is responsible for their accuracy, regardless of who compiles the information.

**3.1.a** A bona fide student-athlete (S-A) is one who is officially and regularly enrolled in an ACSC member institution {refer to 1.4 for the definition of member institutions}. All bona fide S-As must be enrolled as undergraduates and meet the membership criteria of the ACSC.

**3.1.a.i** As a private, Christian organization, the ACSC uses Christian principles in setting standards for student-athletes. The ACSC accepts all student-athletes regardless of race, gender, creed, or ethnicity as long as the S-A meets the academic and conduct standards of the ACSC. Furthermore, the ACSC recognizes that biologically, student-athletes are created to be either male or female with differing characteristics. Because of those differences, sports programs are separated into all biologically male and all biologically female teams as follows: Volleyball-female; Football-male; Basketball-male teams, female teams; Baseball-male; Softball-female.

**3.2 Tests for Eligibility.** To be eligible, S-As must remain enrolled, sustain regular attendance, and be assigned a course schedule that allows normal progression toward graduation from a campus school or homeschool.

*(Note: The “enrolled” institution must maintain the transcript and eventually provides the graduation diploma.)*

**3.2.a** Upon entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade regardless of age, the S-A has four consecutive years of eligibility.

**3.2.b** Any S-A that becomes 19 years of age before August 1st, may NOT participate in any athletic activity. Any S-A who becomes 16 years of age before August 1 shall be eligible for varsity participation only.

**3.2.c** Junior Varsity teams can only be comprised of S-As who are 15 years of age (or younger) as of August 1st .

**3.2.d** Varsity and Junior Varsity teams are the only teams sanctioned by the ACSC.

**3.2.e** Tests for Participation. All S-A’s are submitted to the SC for eligibility determination. Submissions for participation must include; a copy of a birth certificate (issued by an authorized agency), a copy of the ACSC Release of Liability Form, and an ACSC Concussion Form.

*(Note: Birth certificates are the primary proof of age. Other proofs of age must be reviewed by the SC, and approved by the GB {refer to Art. 8.1}).*

**3.3 Minimum Grade Point Average.** All S-As must maintain a 2.0 average on a 4.0 scale at the end of each grading period throughout the season. Grades from the most recent grading period determine eligibility.

**3.3.a** Headmasters, athletic directors, and coaches are responsible for confirming that minimum academic standards are met by requiring that an Academic Validation Form be submitted by a Member Institution or AAO for all S-As. The Academic Validation Form is submitted to the SC for eligibility determination. {see 3.2.e}

**3.4 Transferring from Non-ACSC Institutions.** Any S-A transferring from a non-ACSC member institution to an ACSC institution must maintain the same standards as referenced in these bylaws. Transferring athletes are subject to a continuance of any disciplinary action (e.g. academic or behavioral probations, suspensions, etc.) initiated by the previous institution/league regarding athletics. If the S-A transferred in good standing from the previous institution, the S-A is immediately eligible at the ACSC member institution if all other eligibility requirements are met. Even after the transfer is complete ACSC bylaws apply regarding the previous school year. The S-A is considered a transfer student for the entire academic year of enrollment at the ACSC member institution. A transfer form must be completed and signed by the receiving member institution's Athletic Director and Headmaster/Principal (or the equivalent).

**3.5 Transferring from ACSC Member Institution.** Any S-A transferring from an ACSC member institution to another ACSC member institution must receive approval from the GB to participate in any sport. Prior to adding an S-A to a roster, both administrations involved must seek approval from the GB by completing a transfer form. If an S-A does not receive permission to transfer from the MI of origin, that S-A may not participate in sports at the receiving MI for a year.

**3.6 Approved Academic Organization.** Under prescribed circumstances {see 3.6.a} the ACSC at the request of a Member Institution (MI) may enter into a relationship with another academic institution for the purpose of drawing S-As from that institution to participate in athletic programs with the MI. The relationship between the ACSC and the AAO must meet the strict criteria stated in these by-laws. These relationships are not automatically renewed each year but must be approved annually by the GB.

**3.6.a** An MI may enter into a relationship with an AAO under the following circumstances: 1) The MI is a homeschool association formed for athletics and/or academics that does not give grades or move students toward graduation from the association; 2) The MI is a brick & mortar school, a private school, or a school formed for homeschooled students (as defined by Alabama education law).

**3.6.b** The MI will submit an Approved Academic Organizations form to the Executive Administrator at the annual meeting. The Executive Administrator will mail or email an Agreement of Expectation and Responsibility for Sports Participation form between the ACSC and the AAO (name of school) for signature unless the MI has already done this or the AAO was previously approved. (A cover letter will accompany the form.) The

agreement must be signed by the headmaster/principal (or equivalent) of the proposed AAO and returned to the Executive Administrator.

**3.6.b.i** The Agreement of Expectation and Responsibility for Sports Participation will be entered into by the ACSC with recognized private or church school entities and not individual homeschooling families.

**3.6.b.i.a** For individual homeschooling families with students participating in sports, the MI is responsible for confirming that minimum academic standards are met by the students and submitting a special Academic Validation Form for eligibility determination. {see 3.3.a}

**3.6.b.ii** An MI may submit additions to the annually approved AAOs list 2 weeks prior to the relevant Sports Committee meeting if necessary. These additions must be accompanied by the required paperwork {see 3.6.b}.

**3.7 Approved Academic Organization Requirements.** Each of the following criteria must be met in order for an MI to rightly draw S-As from an AAO:

**3.7.a** An AAO must be a non-ACSC member institution.

**3.7.a.i** AAOs must adhere to applicable state education laws and sign the ACSC Academic Validation Form for S-As in their institutions.

**3.7.b** The AAO must not offer an athletic program in the particular sport the S-A will participate in with the MI.

**3.7.b.i** S-As of the MI have priority over S-As from an AAO. No S-A enrolled in an MI can be cut from a team to make room for an S-A from an AAO.

**3.7.b.ii** S-As of an AAO must be bona fide students, that is, they must be officially and regularly enrolled in the AAO as undergraduates and must meet all ACSC rules for eligibility.

**3.7.b.iii** S-As from the same family may only participate in the sports program of one MI.

**3.8 Penalty for Ineligible Student-Athlete.** MI's using an ineligible player must forfeit all wins to their conference opponents in which the ineligible S-A participated. The ineligible S-A will be prohibited from further participation until declared eligible.

*(Note: If there is any question regarding eligibility, then the S-A will be declared ineligible.)*

## **Article IV...Rosters & Game Scheduling**

*(Note: "Roster" is defined as the Official Roster with the names of eligible student-athletes that is submitted by the MI. "Bench" is defined as those eligible student-athletes who are listed on the scorebook for a particular game.)*

**4.1 Roster Size.** In all sports, roster and bench size is unlimited. The following minimum numbers address conference expectations for fielding teams. In other words, an institution with the listed minimums is encouraged to participate in the respective athletic sport for that particular season.

**4.1.a Football.** The suggested minimum number of athletes necessary to participate in the conference is 15.

**4.1.b Basketball.** The suggested minimum number of athletes necessary to participate in the conference is 6.

**4.1.c Baseball & Softball.** The suggested minimum number of athletes necessary to participate in the conference is 11.

**4.1.d Volleyball.** The suggested minimum number of athletes necessary to participate in the conference is 6.

**4.1.e Soccer.** The suggested minimum number of athletes necessary to participate in the conference is 15.

**4.1.f Cross Country.** The suggested minimum number of athletes necessary to participate in the conference is 5. (Individual athletes may compete as representatives of their MIs in authorized races.)

**4.1.g New/experimental sports.** Roster sizes will be determined by the appropriate SC.

**4.2 Official Rosters.** Each institution must provide an official roster for each sport. The roster form is provided by the ACSC. Rosters for all sports will include the school of enrollment for each S-A.

**4.2.a Roster Submissions.** Roster deadlines must be established by each SC. However, ALL rosters, game schedules, eligibility submissions, and all required forms (signed by the headmaster/principal/equivalent) must be completed and on file with the commissioner or his agent by the start of each respective season.

**4.2.b Roster Entry.** Rosters and game schedules must also be loaded into [www.maxpreps.com](http://www.maxpreps.com) no later than one-week prior to the start of the season.

**4.2.c Roster Additions.** All requests for roster additions must be made to the commissioner or his agent. No additions can take place after the following dates; Fall sports (September 15th), Winter sports (January 15th), and Spring sports (March 15th).

**4.3 Game Scheduling.** Member institutions must give priority to conference games and play as many as prudent for that particular sport. SCs will determine the appropriate number.

## **Article V...Game Rules, Protocols and Conduct**

**5.1 Game Rules.** Unless otherwise indicated by these by-laws, all contests sanctioned by the ACSC shall be governed by the most recent rule books issued by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the ACSC.

**5.1.a** Sports Committees have the authority to supplement the NFHS rules (e.g. mercy rules) for their particular sport. However, supplemental rules must be approved by the commissioner and/or the AD for that sport.

**5.2 "Mercy" Rules.** Coaches of each team are expected to show great discretion regarding the perceived or actual "running-up" of scores.

**5.2.a** Football. When one institution has a forty (40) points advantage or more at any time in the second half, "running clock" rules shall be in effect. If a team is ahead by more than forty (40) points before the end of the first half, "running clock" rules shall take effect beginning with the kickoff of the second half. "Running clock" rules will remain in effect for the remainder of the game, even if the leading team's margin is subsequently reduced to fewer than forty (40) points. "Running clock" rules are defined as follows: The game clock shall run continuously beginning with the kickoff or free kick following the score that results in the 40-point margin, and will be stopped only for subsequent scores, times-out, and the end of the third quarter.

**5.2.b** Basketball. When one team has a 30 points or more advantage anytime in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the "running clock" rules shall be in effect. "Running clock" rules are defined as follows: Full court defenses must be removed and the game clock will be stopped only for times-out or injury.

**5.2.c** Baseball/Softball. The mercy rule for baseball goes into effect at 12 runs after 3 or 4 innings and 10 runs after 5 innings. The mercy rule for softball goes into effect at 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, and 8 runs after 5 innings.

**5.2.d** Volleyball. N/A.

**5.2.e** Soccer. When one team has a 10-goal advantage the referees will end the match.

**5.2.f** New/experimental sports. Protocols will be determined by the appropriate SC.

**5.3 Pre/Post-Game Protocols.** At minimum, all athletic competitions will begin with corporate prayer. Followed by (if an American flag is present) the National Anthem

(singing [led by an individual, group or crowd] or recorded). All games and matches will conclude with prayer between teams {Refer to Art. 2.6}.

**5.3.a Game Surface/Location.** Home institution ensures the playing surface is safe and free of any obstructions or objects that may cause harm. Home institution also ensures the provision of proper equipment for competition (i.e., balls, nets, goals, padding, etc.)

**5.3.b Spectators.** Principals/headmasters (or equivalents) and ADs are responsible for spectator conduct. Spectators should conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner. “Booing” is never tolerated. Neither is any other act which is demeaning or belittling. The rule of thumb is to always cheer for, but never against, another institution and/or officials.

**5.3.c Game Bench.** Bench personnel must be officially associated with the member institution and covered by the liability policy of the institution. Anyone coaching from the bench must be listed with the conference as a coach. The behavior of all bench personnel is governed by ACSC bylaws.

**5.3.d Game Statistics.** Statistics will be entered in the [www.maxpreps.com](http://www.maxpreps.com) national database. This is mandatory to assist in communicating game results and individual statistics. Both are necessary in projecting post-season team seeding and individual awards. ADs will ensure that basic stats are entered for their respective institution. SCs determine the minimum statistics required by each team and institution. Failure to enter stats will make teams ineligible for regular season awards and post-season play.

**5.3.d.i.** Cross Country will use Milesplit to record race results instead of MaxPreps.

**5.3.e Game Postponement.** Institutions postponing a game must notify the opposing institutions, GB, and the commissioner as soon as possible. Time permitting every attempt must be made to reschedule and play the postponed game before post-season/playoffs. Institutions who fail to show (at the game) without reasonable justification/notification, may be required to pay a portion, or the entire costs incurred by the “injured” institution (as determined by the GB) and will forfeit the game. If a game is postponed for any reason, then the game must be rescheduled before playoffs. Games not rescheduled/replayed are reflected as a tie on the record of both institutions if cancellation is beyond the control of either institution and/or by mutual agreement.

**5.3.f Game Postponement Due to Adverse Weather.** If the city or county public school system encompassing the MI is closed due to adverse weather conditions, then teams may not travel from that area or to that area for regular season or tournament play. The terms of postponement listed in bylaw 5.3.e govern the rescheduling of any such regular season games. Rescheduling of tournament play will be determined by conference officials.

**5.3.g Game Cancellation.** Principals/headmasters (or equivalent) and ADs, along with game officials have the authority, and are expected to, determine delays and/or

cancellation of games due to weather or any other safety/security situation. Such cases should be reported to the commissioner immediately.

**5.3.h Game Officials.** Home institution is responsible for securing the minimum number (regular season) of officials prescribed by NFHS rules and Sports Committee recommendations for their sport. Written notification must be given before each season to the ACSC Commissioner and the AD of that particular sport certifying that the association being used by an ACSC member school is a sanctioned association.

**5.3.h.i Sanctioned associations for game officials** include the AHSAA and AISA. Any other association supplying game officials must be approved by the GB.

**5.3.i Game Admissions.** The ACSC does not dictate what an institution will charge. However, each institution should make every effort to charge patrons the lowest possible rate, while still being able to pay applicable bills comfortably. Institutions are also encouraged to develop a “Family Plan” (which includes only immediate family, not grandparents, uncles, cousins, etc.)

**5.3.i.i Team Admissions for Games.** Rosters should be entered into maxpreps.com and on-file with the commissioner. Free admission is allowed only for the AD, coaching staff (within reason), student-athletes, cheerleaders, and statistician.

## **Article VI...Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

**6.1 Conduct** MIs found guilty of gross un-Christ-like conduct, (fails to control the conduct of respective students, fans, faculty, and coaches within reasonable bounds) will be subject to suspension from the ACSC. Suspensions can be proposed by any coach, AD, headmaster/principal (or equivalent), or the commissioner. However, each case must be voted upon by the GB.

*(Note: UnChrist-like conduct includes striking, cursing or threatening an official, coach player, administrator or spectator any time before, during or after a contest.)*

**6.2 Eligibility/Scholarship** MIs found violating any eligibility or scholarship rules must forfeit all victories achieved while violating eligibility or scholarship rules. If an MI is found to be guilty of violations after season’s end, then all victories, championships, and trophies will be forfeited. Violating institutions will also be subject to suspension from the ACSC.

**6.3 MI Suspension Appeal.** A suspension of an MI may be appealed in writing to the commissioner and Governing Board by conventional mail or email within a reasonable time of their receipt of a suspension notice. The appeal should address any circumstances or reasons for requesting that the suspension should be reversed, decreased in length, or modified in any way. The commissioner and GB may then overturn the suspension, allow it to stand, or modify the terms and will then notify the MI of its decision.

**6.4 Student-Athlete Ejections.** S-As ejected from a contest on account of un-Christ-like (unsportsmanlike) conduct shall be immediately ejected from the contest, and suspended as follows:

**6.4.a.** For the second incidence in a season—one game suspension to be served during the next scheduled game (excluding the second game in a baseball/softball doubleheader). The S-A may attend the game but may not be in uniform. If the ejection occurs in a season ending tournament game, the S-A will serve his or her suspension at the first game of the next year.

**6.4.b.** For the third incidence in a season--suspension for the remainder of the season (including any playoffs). The S-A may not attend any games, at home or away, in which his team is participating.

**6.4.c** Reasons for S-A ejections are;

**6.4.c.i** Football. Disqualification by a game official for unsportsmanlike conduct, but not for reasons unrelated to conduct (illness, equipment, etc.)

**6.4.c.ii** Basketball. Disqualification by a game official by two technical fouls related to unsportsmanlike conduct, or for any flagrant foul, but not for accumulating five personal fouls.

**6.4.c.iii** Volleyball. Disqualification by a red card.

**6.4.c.iv** Baseball and softball. Ejection by an umpire for any reason related to unsportsmanlike conduct.

**6.4.c.v** Soccer. Disqualification by a red card. Red cards not related to un-Christ-like (unsportsmanlike) conduct result in the following:

- a. Disqualification for the remainder of the match in which the red card was given
- b. For the second incidence in a season: one game suspension to be served during the next scheduled conference game. The S-A may attend the game, but may may not be in uniform. If the ejection occurs in a season ending tournament game, the S-A will serve his/her suspension at the first conference game of the next year.
- c. For the third incidence in a season: suspension for the remainder of the season (including any playoffs). The S-A may not attend any games, at home or away, in which his/her team is participating.

**6.4.c.vi** New/experimental sports. Process will be determined by the appropriate SC.

**6.5 Coach/Manager Ejections.** Coaches or managers ejected from a contest on account of un-Christ-like (unsportsmanlike) shall be immediately ejected from the contest, and suspended as follows:



**6.5.a** For the second incidence in a season--one game suspension to be served during the next scheduled game (excluding the second game in a baseball/softball doubleheader). The coach/manager may not attend the game. If the ejection occurs in a season ending tournament game, the coach will serve his or her suspension at the first game of the next year.

**6.5.b** For the third incidence in a season--suspension for the remainder of the season (including any playoffs) and will be permanently suspended from coaching. In both cases, the coach may not attend (defined as being on the premises of the field or gymnasium) any games from which he or she is suspended.

**6.5.c** Reasons for coach/manager ejections are:

**6.5.c.i** Football: Disqualification by a game official for unsportsmanlike conduct

**6.5.c.ii** Basketball: Disqualification by a game official by two direct technical fouls related to unsportsmanlike conduct, or for any single flagrant act, but not for accumulating three indirect (administrative) technical fouls for reasons such as illegal player numbers, substitution violations, conduct of others (fans, etc.).

**6.5.c.iii** Volleyball: Disqualification by a “red” card for any reason relating to his or her own misconduct, but not for technical reasons (delay of game, etc.) or for the actions of anyone else, including team members.

**6.5.c.iv** Baseball & softball: Ejection by an umpire for any reason related to unsportsmanlike conduct.

**6.5.c.v** Soccer: Disqualification by a “red” card for any reason relating to his/her own misconduct, but not for technical reasons (delay of game, etc.) or for the actions of anyone else, including team members.

**6.5.c.vi** New/experimental sports. Process will be determined by the appropriate SC.

*(Note: Coaches are expected to show discretion regarding “running-up” scores. This too, is considered an “unsportsman-like” act by a coach.)*

**6.6 Reporting Unsportsmanlike Conduct.** The report should be submitted to the commissioner via e-mail within 48 hours of the end of the contest by both head coaches through their respective ADs. Unsportsmanlike conduct to be reported includes, but is not limited to: unsportsmanlike conduct calls in football, yellow or red cards in volleyball or soccer, and technical fouls in basketball on S-A’s and coaches.

*(Note: If the report is for an ejection, in addition to the name of the offending player or coach it is to include the reason for ejection and the names and phone numbers of the official [or officiating organization] The report should be courtesy copied to both head coaches, both athletic directors, and/or both institution principal/headmasters.)*

**6.7 Coach/Player Suspension Appeal.** All suspensions may be appealed in writing to the commissioner, with written notice of appeal given via conventional mail or e-mail within seventy-two (72) hours of the end of the contest where the ejection occurred. The notice will list any extenuating circumstances involved, and reasons why a suspension should be reversed or decreased in length. The suspended player or coach may request an oral hearing before the board, by telephone or in person, with the athletic director also permitted to attend. If an appeal cannot be heard before a game where a suspension would be enforced, the suspension will be delayed until the appeal can be acted upon. After hearing from the player(s) and coaches involved, as well as the game official(s) involved (at his discretion), the board may overturn the suspension, allow it to stand, or reduce its length. If the board deems that an appeal was filed only as a delaying tactic, in an effort to allow a player or coach to play in a subsequent game before the appeal can be heard, the board may impose additional penalties on the player(s), coach or institution, as necessary.

## **Article VII...Post-Season (Playoffs/Tournaments/Awards)**

**7.1** The ACSC recognizes both regular and post-season institutional excellence. Regular season champions are based on their regular season conference record. [Tiebreakers are determined by the same criteria as is used for tournament seeding.] The post-season tournament champion is the institution winning the playoff tournament.

**7.2 Playoffs & Tournaments.** Tournaments are sponsored league events and are the responsibility of the ACSC. However, the ACSC will negotiate locations as well as financial agreements each year. The commissioner has final authority regarding all matters of ACSC tournaments.

**7.2.a Officials.** Host institutions/GB/Commissioner work together to secure the maximum number of officials required by NFHS rules. Officials must be sanctioned by a certifiable organization.

**7.2.b Game Admissions.** The ACSC will make every effort to charge patrons the lowest possible rate, while still able to pay applicable bills comfortably. The conference will develop a “Family Plan” (which includes only immediate family, not grandparents, uncles, cousins, etc.)

**7.2.c Member Institution Contribution.** All MIs will assist (as needed) in the administration/facilitation of all conference sponsored tournaments by providing volunteers to work concessions, admissions, awards, announcers, clean-up, etc.

**7.2.d Tournament Seeding.** Regular season tiebreakers are used to determine tournament seeding. They are, in priority order: 1) conference record; 2) head-to-head record; 3)\* point spread [each game, head-to-head]; and 4) coin toss. \*For ties involving more than 2 teams a maximum point spread differential will be used as follows: football-20, basketball-16, baseball-12, softball-12, soccer-4.

*{Note: The tie-breaker process will be clearly explained at each Sports Committee meeting}*

**7.2.d.i** Tournament Bracket. Tournament formats are set by the Sports Committee of each sport (i.e., number of teams participating, single or double elimination, etc.). Seeding for brackets is determined by bylaw {see 7.2.d}. Once brackets are announced for a tournament there will be no change in the bracket structure unless necessitated by adverse weather or by the majority decision of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and AD for the particular sport.

**7.2.e** Junior Varsity Championship. Logistically, it is not always feasible to facilitate a JV tournament. However, at the pre-season eligibility meeting, the Sports Committee of each sport will determine the feasibility, structure, and logistics of facilitating a JV Tournament for their sport. This proposal will be submitted to the Governing Board for approval.

**7.3 Regular and Post-Season Awards.** The ACSC recognizes both regular and post-season individual excellence. Regular season individual awards are based on regular season performance. While post-season awards are based on excellence during the playoffs.

*(Note: These awards are not “popularity/congeniality” contests. Coaches are NOT obligated to select an S-A from each team. These awards recognize consistent excellence and skill in a particular sport throughout that particular season. Individual statistics and team record is not always indicative of who is deserving. However, statistics and record are good criteria. Rule of thumb--these awards are for the most excellent players in each sport.)*

**7.3.a** The Doug Harrison ACSC Christian Character Team The purpose of this award is to honor outstanding varsity student-athletes, who by their testimony and actions have consistently exemplified the highest ideals of Christian character and leadership. The S-A is selected by his/her coach, AD, and/or administrator as determined by each institution and based upon the established criteria for the team. The team is recognized at the regular season award ceremony of the state tournament or championship.

**7.3.b** Regular Season, All Conference Selections (Varsity and Junior Varsity). **The Governing Board mandated that the All Conference Selection Policy (see Appendix) will be in effect for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 seasons.**

A coach from each participating MI will vote as follows:

**7.3.b.ii** Football Varsity selects one team of 25 S-As. Selections are by position to include offense and defense. S-As playing both ways can be selected for more than one position. One "Mr. Football" is selected to recognize the top S-A of the season.

**7.3.b.ii** Volleyball. Varsity selects one team of the top 12 S-As. JV selects one team of the top 9 S-As.

**7.3.b.iv** Baseball & Softball. Varsity and JV [each] selects the top 12 S-As.

**7.3.b.v** Basketball. Varsity and JV [each] selects the top 10 S-As.

**7.3.vi** Soccer. Varsity selects 11 S-As regardless of position.

**7.3.vii** Cross Country. (*Awards to be determined at the 2024 Sports Committee meeting*)

**7.3.b.viii** New/experimental sports. Voting process will be determined by the appropriate SC.

*(Note: Deadline dates for votes will be determined at the annual meeting.)*

**7.4 Post-Season All Tournament Selections.** All Tournament team selections are for JV and Varsity. Each MI will cast a single ballot for one Tournament MVP and the appropriate numbers of All Tournament players. The vote counting process includes team tournament finish. Votes are needed immediately following the championship match.

**7.4.a** Football. Varsity only selects one MVP from the championship team.

**7.4.b** Volleyball. Varsity and JV selects top 6 S-As, of whom one is selected MVP from the championship team.

**7.4.c** Baseball & Softball. Varsity and JV selects top 9 S-As, of whom one is selected MVP from the championship team.

**7.4.d** Basketball. Varsity and JV selects top 5 S-As, of whom one is selected MVP from the championship team.

**7.4.e** Soccer. Varsity selects one MVP.

**7.4.f** Cross Country. (*Awards to be determined at the 2024 Sports Committee meeting*)

**7.4.g** New/experimental sports. Voting process will be determined by the appropriate SC.

**7.5 All Conference Traveling Teams.** All-Star/All Conference traveling teams are encouraged. All ACSC bylaws apply regarding participating in inter-conference contests.

**7.5.a** Conflicts between ACSC rules and that of another (hosting) conference/tournament, are resolved by the ACSC submitting to the rules of the host. However, the SC, GB and Commissioner must receive the bylaws/rules prior to our participation. The Commissioner and GB must be apprised of and involved in decisions regarding such activities.

**7.5.b** If the ACSC hosts such activities, then ACSC bylaws apply. Guest institutions must be provided a copy of ACSC bylaws as soon as possible and provided ample time to review and agree to comply. Guest administrators must agree to adhere to ACSC bylaws prior to participating in an ACSC sanctioned event,

#### **Article VIII...Undue Hardship**

**8.1** Member Institutions may present cases of undue hardship to the Governing Board for final decision.

## **Article IX...Athletic Recruiting and Scholarships**

**9.1** There shall be no recruiting of players by coaches, administrators, or supporters for the purpose of athletics by any form of communication.

**9.2** There are absolutely no scholarships awarded to students for the purpose of athletics. Violation of this article will result in suspension from this conference.

**9.2.a** Scholarship/Financial Aid Form. At the annual meeting, each MI will submit one conference Scholarship/Financial Aid Form for their school.

**9.2.b** Roster Identification. On the Official Roster submitted for each sport, student-athletes receiving scholarships will be indicated.

*(Note for #1: Beware of the fine-line between openly advertising an opportunity to play for your institution and seeking players to participate in your program.)*

*(Note #2: Any reported violation of these articles will be reviewed by ACSC Board. If the violation is determined to be valid by the majority of the board, the violating institution will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the school year. The suspended institution can/must reapply for conference re-entry.) {Refer to Art. 1.8 }*

## **Article X. Health and Safety**

**10.1** The health of student-athletes is a priority.

**10.1.a** Concussion As part of the eligibility process {refer to Art. 3.1} each student-athlete has a signed ACSC Concussion Form on file with the ACSC and the MI. A copy of Concussion Symptoms and Signs will be available at all contests. Any S-A who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be removed from the contest and shall not return that day.

*(Note: Once concussive signs are identified, only a medical doctor can clear the S-A to return to play.)*

**10.1.b** Bleeding A S-A who is bleeding, has an open wound, or has any amount of blood on his/her uniform or person, will be directed to leave the game until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform or body is appropriately cleaned or the uniform is changed. The home team is responsible for cleaning/sanitizing the affected court or field areas before play continues.

**10.1.b.i** Furthermore, if the officials do not stop play after the situation has been called to their attention by the ACSC Athletic Director or coach, the coach must take initiative to bring the S-A off the court/field to receive medical attention and comply with the process {refer to

10.1.b}. Officials who do not comply with these guidelines are to be reported to their officiating association and to the conference.