GISA RULE CHANGES

In this volume of the *GISA Interscholastic Rules & Regulations* rules changes made in 2013-14 will be noted in **RED**; and any that will be made in 2014-15 will be added as the year passes.

*Updated December, 2014*
GEORGIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
(INTERSCHOLASTIC)

GOVERNING RULES

Section 1. Purpose of the Organization

The purpose of GISA (Interscholastic) shall be to promote academic excellence among member schools; to promote, develop, direct, protect and regulate interscholastic, athletic, and literary relationships among member schools; and to stimulate fair play, friendly rivalry, and good sportsmanship among contestants, schools, and communities.

Section 2. Classification

Member schools of GISA (Interscholastic) shall be placed in regions and classifications for the purpose of athletic and literary competition.

a. In the fall of each even numbered year, GISA (Interscholastic) will reclassify for the following two-year period.

b. Classification will be based on high school enrollment. Enrollment figures for Grades 8-11 of the year of reclassification will be used to determine classifications.

c. At the beginning of the reclassification process, the GISA President and Vice President will publish parameters for that year’s reclassification. Those parameters will include the number of classes into which schools will be divided and the percentages of schools in each classification or the cut-off numbers used to decide the divisions.

d. Schools will submit their numbers to the GISA President on the third Monday in November of the year of reclassification. Once the President receives the numbers, there can be no changes.

e. Based solely on the parameters already announced, the classes will be sent by fax and/or email to the schools on the following Monday (fourth Monday). Region alignments will be sent by fax and/or email to the schools as soon as possible.

f. A school may be allowed to play in a higher classification by the approval of the GISA President. However, the school must make a written request signed by the head of school within five (5) days of the publication of the new classifications. A school that changes classification by this method will remain in that classification until schools are reclassified on a statewide basis.

g. Heads of school that believe another school has an error in their reported numbers can notify the GISA President, and he or his representative will go to the school to confirm or deny the reported numbers.

h. Once the GISA President has set the regions and groupings for reclassification, approval of the Interscholastic Advisory Council will be required before a school may change its region or classification. The Advisory Council will meet on Tuesday of the following week, after the regions have been announced, to hear requests for exceptions to the GISA President’s decision. The decisions of the Advisory Council will be final. There will be no appeal to the heads of school. For issues not dealing directly with the previous classification decisions, the Advisory Council can be called back into session by its Chair to deal with concerns that arise over the next two years until the subsequent reclassification cycle.
Section 3. Advisory Council

Membership of the Advisory Council shall consist of the elected officials of the GISA (Interscholastic), past presidents of SEAIS or GISA (Interscholastic) who are still actively employed in an interscholastic school, and the secretary of each region. Although a school may have more than one representative to this Council, no school may cast more than one vote in Council decisions.

Section 4. Appeal Board

a. The Interscholastic Vice-President of GISA shall serve on the Appeal Board and shall appoint the Chairman of the State Athletic Committee, the Chairman of the State Literary Committee, and one head of school and one alternate from each classification to also serve on the Appeal Board. No member school may be represented twice on the Appeal Board.

b. The Appeal Board will meet annually on or about the first week in August to consider any appeals that have been submitted in writing to the GISA President. Each appeal for initial eligibility must be filed in writing with the GISA President at least two weeks prior to an Appeal Board meeting. Called meetings may be held at quarterly intervals as called by the GISA Interscholastic Vice-President.

c. A fee of $150 must accompany each appeal to the Appeal Board. The fee will be refunded if the appeal to the Board is upheld. The fee will be forfeited if the appeal to the Board is denied.

Section 5. Authority

a. The GISA President shall be authorized to interpret rules with the authority to impose the proper penalty.

b. Opinions of the GISA President may be appealed to the Appeal Board.

c. Opinions of the Appeal Board may be appealed to the Interscholastic membership of GISA at any regular meeting.

Section 6. Standing Committees

Standing committees will be appointed each year by the Interscholastic Vice-President. Appointment will be subject to the approval of a majority of the membership at any regular meeting. They will perform the usual duties of the Committee and other specific and related duties when specified by the Interscholastic Advisory Council. The standing committees shall consist of:

a. Athletic
b. Literary
c. Finance

Section 7. Region Officers

Each region in each classification shall elect the following officers:

a. The Region Secretary/Treasurer shall be the region representative to the Interscholastic Advisory Council.

b. The Region Athletic Chairman shall be the region representative to the State Athletic Committee.
c. The Region Literary Chairman shall be the region representative to the State Literary Committee.

Section 8. Forfeiture, Suspension, Probation

The Association Executive Committee and/or the Region Executive Committee and/or the GISA President have authority on sufficient evidence of the violation of rules of GISA (Interscholastic) to forfeit any games or events won by a school under its jurisdiction and/or to suspend from membership in GISA (Interscholastic) any school under its jurisdiction with the provision that appeal may be made in the manner presented in Sections 3 and 5. Suspension of membership may be made to a maximum of twelve months.

Section 9. Reports

The head of school of each member school shall make reports to the region and GISA President at the time prescribed in the GOVERNING RULES and in the manner called for, and also such other reports as may be requested by the region or GISA President.

Section 10. Rules and Regulations

All athletics will be played under the rules and regulations of the National Federation of State High School (NFHS) except swimming, tennis, golf, and clay target sports.

- Swimming will use the United States Swimming (USS) Rules and Regulations book.
- Tennis will use the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Rule Book.
- Golf will use the USGA Rules of Golf.
- Clay Target Sports will use Scholastic Clay Target Program Official Handbook.

Section 11. Elite Teams

A member school shall have no more than one varsity team in any sport. This rule covers competition inside and outside the GISA. No interscholastic school is permitted to have an elite team in any activity.

Section 12. Officials

All officials/referees associations which call varsity level sports events must register (via submission of a registration form and a list of participating officials) with the GISA prior to beginning work with any member school. This registration shall be required annually and registration shall be required for each sport in which the association is involved.

All officials for varsity athletic contests will be members of an approved officials’ organization or approved by the GISA President.

Each officials association must have a plan for the certification of athletic officials which includes:

a. Published procedures for registration of officials.

b. Published guidelines for training officials. Must include:
   1. A rules clinic on all new rules for that year. They may attend a GISA rules clinic.
   2. At least two other (preferably more) rules meetings.
   3. A test over the rules.

c. A system for evaluating performances of officials.

The head of the officials association must certify that these requirements are satisfied each year.
Absence of Officials: In the unlikely event that at least one game official does not arrive for a contest, both schools should agree on one of the following procedures:

a. Delay the game until a new set of officials can arrive.
b. Agree to play the game on another date except a Sunday.
c. Use registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest.
d. Use coaches or school personnel from both schools.
e. Use formerly registered officials who might be in attendance at the contest.

Notify the GISA the next school day of circumstances involved.

Section 13. **Game Contracts**

All member schools will sign official contracts for all scheduled athletic contests in football, basketball, baseball, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling.

Section 14. **Meeting Attendance**

Each member school shall have a representative attend at least two (2) meetings of GISA (Interscholastic) each year, one of which must be the January meeting. There will be three (3) meetings of GISA (Interscholastic) to be held as follows: In conjunction with the GISA Annual Conference in the fall (usually the first weekend in November), the second Wednesday in January, and the spring meeting in March. The January meeting will be the required meeting. In addition, all GISA (Interscholastic) members are required to attend one of the other two meetings or be subjected to fines of $100 per meeting missed over the limit. Schools are encouraged to send representatives to all meetings. Schools not having representatives at any of the meetings during the year will be suspended.

Section 15. **Scheduling of Football Games**

1. All schools planning to play football for the next bi-annual cycle shall be present at a football scheduling meeting to be held at a central site. All schools fielding a varsity football team are expected and required to play a region schedule unless prior approval has been granted by the GISA President. An interscholastic school starting a new varsity football program will have the following options: (1) Play a non-region schedule; (2) Play in the classification that enrollment dictates if they wish to be eligible for the state playoffs; (3) Play down a classification, be placed in a region, be eligible for region individual and team honors, but not be eligible for the state playoffs for that two year scheduling cycle only.

2. The GISA President has full and complete authority to help ensure each and every school has a complete (10 game) schedule. This will include the authority, if and when necessary, to assign, strike, or change previously scheduled games, without consultation as deemed necessary to ensure each school a full and representative schedule. Non-GISA schools will only be allowed in situations to assist in completing schedules.

3. When a separate classification for football (only) is set forth during any two-year period, the schools in that classification may elect a football coordinator/representative. This representative will serve on the Athletic Committee, as well as coordinate with the GISA Office all pertinent matters regarding playoffs, trophies, football assessments, etc.

4. Schools that drop football during a reclassification cycle, but continue to compete in football in another league, will be fined $1,000 per contest by the GISA Office. Schools are also accountable for penalties stated in executed game contracts.
Section 16. **Mandatory Participant Medical and Fan Coverage**

Every July each member school shall submit to the GISA the total number of students who will be expected to participate in any GISA approved or sanctioned interscholastic event (athletic or literary) during the upcoming school year. This will be for the purpose of providing catastrophic medical coverage (in excess of $25,000 or other such reasonable amounts as may be approved by the Executive Committee). Based on the total number of participants, each school will be billed for this coverage. This coverage shall be mandatory and will be in addition to the annual dues. Further, each school is required to maintain a roster of all current participants covered. Upon request, this roster will be made available to the GISA President and/or insurance company.

Section 17. **Amending the Governing Rules**

1. For the purpose of amending these rules, a majority vote of the membership of GISA (Interscholastic) is required.

2. Proposed amendments to these rules must be submitted in writing at a regular meeting of GISA (Interscholastic) and voted on at the next regular meeting.

END GOVERNING RULES
GISA INTERSCHOLASTIC REGULATIONS

Section 1. Student Eligibility:

1. Students must pass five (5) or more subjects to be eligible for the following semester. All students must take four (4) or more classes to be eligible (2nd semester seniors) in Grades 9 through 12. Passing only 4 subjects will not allow the student to be eligible the following semester.

2. The eight (8) semester rule begins in 9th Grade. This means the student must complete eligibility within eight (8) consecutive semesters from the date of entrance into the 9th grade. Under the eight (8) semester rule, students are eligible to participate in all athletic and literary events. Eighth (8th) graders who participate on a varsity level shall meet the eligibility requirements of GISA. Students are allowed only one year of varsity eligibility as an 8th grade student. (Students are not allowed to repeat the 8th grade and retain varsity eligibility during the second year as an 8th grade student.)

   (NOTE: Students below Grade 8 are not eligible to participate in any GISA sanctioned varsity sports or literary events.)

3. Only students enrolled and attending a GISA school may participate in a GISA interscholastic sport or activity. Said student must be a full-time student, and this includes JV team (9th-10th) sports and activities as well. An exception to this would be high school/college joint enrollment as explained in #7.

   NOTE: This not only has reference to home school students but also to students from feeder schools and football players that are registered to attend next year and wish to participate in spring games.

4. All new or returning students must be in school at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the state playoffs in the activity in which the student might compete to be eligible.

5. Any student who changes schools after entering the ninth (9th) grade is a migrant and subject to the following stipulations:
   a. Students entering the ninth (9th) grade for the first time are eligible, except for those who participate on a varsity level while in the eighth (8th) grade. Any eighth (8th) grader who participates on a varsity team is immediately subject to the migratory rule.
   b. Transfer from one member day school to another member day school: A student is ineligible for one calendar year unless a bona fide move is made.

      INTERPRETATION: A student who leaves a member school will be ineligible at another member school for one calendar year regardless of the number of schools attended in between. Spending a summer session or a part of a school year in a non-member school will not allow a student to establish eligibility in a new member school until the year has passed.

   c. Transfer from one member day school to a boarding school: A student who transfers as a resident student into a boarding school will be eligible, if all other eligibility requirements are met.
   d. Transfer from a boarding school to a day school: A student who transfers from a resident program in a boarding school to a member day school will be eligible, if all other eligibility requirements are met.
   e. Transfer from a non-member school to a member school: Transfer students from non-member schools are eligible for competition in contests only if the transfer occurs at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the state playoff in that activity in which the student might compete.
f. A student who transfers from a member to a non-member school and back to the original member school is eligible after two weeks provided student has not attended another member school in the last calendar year.

g. A student who transfers from one member school to another because of a bona fide change in custody from one parent to another parent is eligible in the high school of the new parent’s residence provided he/she meets all other requirements and provided that such change in custody is in the best interest of the child.

**INTERPRETATION:** Bona fide change in permanent parental custody **must** be accomplished by court order and signed by the appropriate judge in the court of jurisdiction. If a standing court order (as described above) states joint parental custody, the student is eligible at either residence. However, if a legal change of residency from one parent to the other parent is made, this may be permitted once a year. In all cases, a copy of the court order **must** accompany the Eligibility Form.

h. A student whose custody is transferred from a parent to guardian or from one guardian to another will be ineligible. Such instances will, of course, be subject to review by the Appeal Board. If such cases are appealed, the appealing school must demonstrate conclusively that such a transfer or change is not made to establish eligibility.

6. **Family Move:** To be eligible, all four of these criteria must be met. The new family residence must be: (A) nearer to the school to which they are transferring than they were to the school previously attended. (B) The new residence must be nearer to the school to which they are transferring than the old residence was. (C) The new residence must be farther from the old school than the old residence was. (D) Any move that is not bona fide and is made for the purpose of creating eligibility shall be considered illegal and the student shall be ineligible in any GISA (Interscholastic) school for a period of one calendar year.

**INTERPRETATION:** Students must make the school change at the time of the move to be eligible. Please advise the GISA Office if circumstances prevent change of schools at the time of move, and each situation will be evaluated.

7. A student who has passed in 5 unit subjects for the first semester (approximately one-half of the academic school year) is eligible for the second semester. A student who passes in 5 unit subjects, or their equivalent, for the first quarter (approximately one-third of the regular academic year) in order to be eligible for the second quarter. A student must pass 5 unit subjects, or their equivalent, for the second quarter to be eligible for the third quarter. A student must pass 5 unit subjects, or their equivalent, for the third quarter or for the year in order to be eligible for the first quarter of the following year. Of the 5 unit subjects, 3 units **MUST** be in the following subject areas: English, Foreign Language, Science, Social Science, Mathematics, Religion, and Business Education. Excluded from any credit is teacher’s aide, office aide, or their equivalent.

Students failing to pass the required 5 unit subjects for the first semester may be allowed to become eligible at the end of the 3rd nine weeks grading period if they were passing the required 5 unit subjects at that time. Students must have passed at least three (3) subjects at the semester to be eligible to gain eligibility in this manner.

Summer school credits are limited to two credits. Cases with extreme circumstances can be appealed and this rule will not have any effect on units schools count toward graduation.

**INTERPRETATION for BLOCK SCHEDULES:** For transfer students’ whose earned credits are from schools on block schedules, simply count the units of credit earned and multiply times two. Example: A student transferring at mid-year with credits from a school using block scheduling, has one credit in Algebra I, one credit in History, and 1/2 credit in Science. Multiply each credit by two for a total of five. Enter 5 on Transfer Student Eligibility Form in place designated for number of credits earned in previous semester.
**INTERPRETATION for JOINT ENROLLMENT:** Students jointly enrolled in both a GISA Interscholastic school and a local college must meet the following criteria to establish eligibility.

A. At least ½ of the students’ schedule or course load must be scheduled and pursued at the GISA Interscholastic school.
B. The school and school head must maintain full and complete discipline and control during the students’ day.
C. Both the local college and school must agree in advance to award the student full and graduation credits for jointly enrolled courses.

8. A student who is a four-year or senior high school graduate is ineligible.

9. A student who has attained his or her 19th birthday prior to May 1 preceding the school year of participation is ineligible.

10. A student who has participated in any athletic contest as a professional under contract is ineligible.

11. Students must be listed on a properly certified eligibility list filed with the GISA Office to be eligible. Eligibility is considered effective on the date certified by the GISA President.

12. If the parent of a student is a full-time* employee of a member school, the student is eligible to compete in GISA (Interscholastic) competition.

   **INTERPRETATION:** *Full-time employment is defined as at least 20 hours per week for the entire school year.

13. Students who are ruled ineligible for GISA competitions are prohibited from representing a GISA school in any varsity contest regardless of the opponent.

14. **Exchange and Foreign Students**

GISA recognizes all exchange programs that are approved through the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) which identifies reputable international youth exchange programs, to provide leadership and support to the exchange and educational communities so that youth are provided with meaningful and safe international exchange experiences, and to promote the importance and educational value of international youth exchange. The current list of approved programs can be found on the CSIET website at [www.csiet.org](http://www.csiet.org).

a. Foreign exchange students registered with a CSIET-approved program are eligible without appearing before the Appeal Board, if they arrive BEFORE September 15.

b. Foreign exchange students registered with a CSIET-approved program that arrive AFTER September 15, must appear before the Appeal Board to be considered eligible.

c. Foreign students that live with family and arrive in this country legally are eligible.

d. Foreign students that arrive in this country legally and are not living with family, and are not under an approved exchange program, must appear before the Appeal Board to be considered eligible.

e. Students in situations (a), (b), and (d) that remain at the same school are eligible in successive, consecutive years based on establishing eligibility in the GISA School (in the same manner as a migrant student) without having to return to the Appeal Board.

f. Schools that develop their own “foreign exchange programs” or programs with other exchange organizations (not approved by CSIET) must file paperwork with the GISA Office each year by May 15 of the preceding year of attendance to obtain approval or rejection. If the GISA rejects the request, the school can appeal to the Appeal Board at their August meeting.

g. All students in situations (a) through (f) above must be submitted for eligibility on paper forms (they cannot be submitted online) and will not be approved without a transcript accompanying the Eligibility Form.
NOTE: Foreign students must meet all other eligibility requirements to retain eligibility.

15. Virtual Classes

“Virtual Classes” = Distance Learning Classes; Online Classes:
A mode of computer-based education whereby the teacher interacts with students via remote,
electronic communications such as video-conferencing, Internet broadcast, or email; sometimes
called distance learning or E-Learning.

a. To be eligible to represent your school in any GISA sanctioned competition, students taking
“virtual classes” must be fully enrolled at your school.

b. Virtual classes must be accredited by a regional accreditation organization (ex., SACS; SAIS).

c. Students must be enrolled in core classes on campus at least 50% of the school day.

d. Virtual classes cannot replace courses offered by your school unless approved by the head of
school for special circumstances.

e. Students can only establish eligibility in one established academic association. Example: A
  student cannot be eligible to compete with a GISA school and with a home school organization or
college.

f. Students who do not meet qualifications listed above can appeal to the GISA Appeal Board.

16. Golf/Tennis Academy

Students enrolled in a golf or tennis academy who wish to also be enrolled in a GISA Interscholastic
member school for academic and educational requirements must adhere to the following
requirements:

1. Golf/tennis academy must be a party separate from the school.
2. Students will not be eligible for any GISA interscholastic activity.
3. Students will not be eligible for one calendar year after leaving golf/tennis academy at the
school attended.
4. Students will count against a school’s enrollment numbers.
5. In August, the school must submit a list of names for all students attending the academy and
continue to update any changes as they occur.

17. Eligibility Reports

Schools must submit eligibility reports and forward to the GISA President at least ten (10) calendar
days prior to the first game or contest. All eligibility changes must be filed with the GISA President
within ten (10) calendar days following each quarter or semester. Heads of school are to report to the
GISA Office any failures concerning eligibility at the end of a quarter or semester, whichever the
school uses. All late eligibility reports carry a $100 fine. Any school which fails to submit eligibility
reports, as required, shall be considered in violation of eligibility rules and any game or contest played
prior to the submission of those forms may be forfeited. The GISA President will return certified
copies of eligibility forms to the school and region secretary.
18. Violation of Eligibility Rules

a. A school violating an eligibility rule shall be subjected to a fine of not more than $500 for each offense and/or suspension from GISA (Interscholastic) for a period up to a full calendar year and/or forfeiture of games and/or contest involved.

b. The GISA President is authorized to make such investigation as may be necessary to judge whether or not a school has violated an eligibility rule. When a school is found guilty, the GISA President is authorized to direct the penalty or penalties.

c. A school found guilty must accept the ruling of the GISA President and pay any fine imposed or make an appeal within two (2) weeks of the ruling in the manner as prescribed in Sections 3 and 4 of the Governing Rules.

d. A school found guilty of rules violation only through clerical error with respect to an athlete otherwise meeting all eligibility requirements, without question, will be penalized with an appropriate fine and not with forfeiture of athletic contests.

19. Hardship Requests

a. Hardship requests will be presented to the Appeal Board.

b. Except for the eligibility rules in regard to age, the Appeal Board shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when, in a Board opinion, the rule works an undue hardship upon that student, provided such action shall be the result of the following procedures:

   o The Appeal Board shall have the authority to consider requests to have the rule or rules set aside for the benefit of individual students and shall consider such request at a scheduled meeting held for that purpose.

   o The decision of the Appeal Board to set aside the effects of the rule in each individual case shall not be considered as setting a precedent for other cases of a somewhat similar nature.

20. JV (9th-10th) Squad Eligibility

Students participating on JV teams of a member school are required to meet the age limit, but are not required to meet other eligibility requirements.

21. Only students enrolled and attending a GISA school may participate in a GISA interscholastic sport or activity. Said student must be a full-time student, and this includes JV (9th-10th) team activities as well.

   NOTE: This not only has reference to home school students, but also students from feeder schools and football players that are registered to attend next year and wish to participate in spring games.

22. Scholarships

a. No student will be given a scholarship purely for athletic purposes.

b. The GISA President will determine whether or not a scholarship and/or financial aid is being given for athletic purposes.
Section 2. **A member school to be eligible to participate in interscholastic contests:**

1. Shall be governed by persons who believe in fairness and honesty, and evidence of which shall be the strict observance of all rules and regulations in regard to eligibility of contestants representing their schools.

2. Shall not have been disqualified as a member school for violation of the Constitution and By-Laws within one year.

3. Shall operate all interschool contests and activities under direct and complete control of the school administration or designated regular teaching school personnel.

4. Shall abide by all rules of GISA and also the region organization when the rules of the region are not in conflict with the rules of GISA.

5. Shall limit all athletic and literary competition to members of GISA (Interscholastic) and/or members of other reputable independent school associations and home school associations approved in advance by the GISA President.

6. Shall not cancel any game contract that has been properly executed without the agreement and consent of the other school concerned. Any school failing to carry out a game contract may be suspended for up to one full calendar year by the GISA President. Calendar year means twelve full months from the date of the scheduled contest in question.

7. **Physical Examination of Contestants:**
   a. Shall provide strict physical examinations of each and every athletic contestant before competing in each school year. Examinations must be performed by a competent physician.
   b. Shall have on file in the school office a certificate of physical examination signed by a physician. The standard form approved by the GISA heads of school must be used to show that the contestant has been examined and has been physically approved for participation.

   **NOTE:** Schools are highly encouraged and requested to carry copies of these forms on trips to out of town games to expedite medical attention for injured athletes. The person responsible for these forms should be reminded of the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of the information contained on the forms.

8. Shall not permit its teams or players to participate in any post season game or contest except when specific authorization has been given by the GISA President. This rule also applies to often called "Bowl" or "All Star" games or contests.

9. Shall fill out forms prepared by the GISA Office regarding the region or state literary meets at least one week before the event and forward same to the region secretary or GISA President when required.

10. Clinic attendance or rules tests are required of all varsity and assistant varsity football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball, and head track coaches at the Annual Coaches’ Clinic and/or GISA clinics (officially sponsored and conducted by GISA approved and registered officials associations). In lieu of attendance, each coach must take and pass a rules test (administered by the GISA Office) by the following dates: **Softball – August 1; Football - September 1; Basketball - November 15; Baseball - March 15; Track – March 15; Soccer - March 15 and/or September 1.** Failure to attend or pass a rules test prior to the above dates will subject the coach to a $50 fine. GISA and/or the Coaches’ Association will administer clinics. The GISA Office will administer all online rules tests.
11. Shall not permit the use of a “bullhorn” or other electronically amplifying device by a fan, student, or coach to cheer or harass players before, during, or after any GISA event. (Exception: School’s official public announcement system, coaches at track meets or other meets where such a device is needed to conduct the event, megaphones used only by cheerleaders, or in the event of an emergency when the use is necessary by a school or other appropriate official.) The head of the host school or tournament director must authorize use of any musical instruments in advance. Bands or any instruments cannot be played while the ball is in play.

12. a. Players who are bleeding or have an open wound must be taken from the game as an injured player until the medical problem is corrected.

   b. Players with blood on their uniform must change or thoroughly disinfect and clean the uniform in order to re-enter the game. The official in charge must review and approve the changed or cleaned uniform prior to re-entry.

   c. This rule applies also to injured officials and coaches.

   d. People who treat the bleeding individuals must follow prescribed procedures found in every National Federation of High Schools rule book.

   e. In GISA events or practices such as in basketball gyms, etc., any blood on the playing floor must result in the official (or the coach in charge during a practice) calling a time out and having the soiled area thoroughly cleaned with appropriate cleaning materials and disinfectant before play or practice can resume.

13. Coaches, administrators, and players are NOT to make comments to the media which are critical of officials and their judgments in a game. Penalties that could be imposed by the GISA President may include a fine and/or suspension. Coaches and administrators may file the complaints with the GISA Office for review and submission of complaints to the head of the officials’ association or other appropriate action by the GISA President. NOTE: GISA does NOT allow protests.

14. All new Interscholastic Heads of School (both NEW schools and NEW heads of Interscholastic schools) must attend one of the scheduled “New Heads’ Orientation Meetings” or schedule a meeting with the GISA Staff. Failure to do so would subject the school and head of school to possible fines and/or post season playing sanctions.

15. All new Athletic Directors are required to attend a Rules Workshop held in August of each year.

Section 3. Commitment dates to participate in GISA Interscholastic competitions:

1. Current GISA Interscholastic Members
   To participate in athletic and literary competitions, a school MUST inform the GISA Office of their intention by submitting a Participation Form issued in early November by the GISA Office for the purpose of reclassifying.

2. General Member schools wishing to move to Interscholastic
   General membership schools wishing to also join the Interscholastic category must have decided to do so in time to inform the GISA Office of their intent to participate in sports in a manner consistent with the time schedule for current Interscholastic schools.

3. New Interscholastic member schools
   To receive a region schedule, which allows a school to participate in GISA championship competition, a new school must be admitted as a full Interscholastic member for one school year before they can begin competing during the next school year.
4. All member schools of GISA (Interscholastic) must compete in ALL sports sanctioned by GISA (Interscholastic) that the school offers as a varsity level sport. Interscholastic member schools may only participate in a varsity level sport in another association when GISA (Interscholastic) does not offer that sport (ex. fall soccer). In other words, schools cannot compete in some sports with GISA (Interscholastic) and other sports with another association without forfeiting their right to participate in the GISA region and state playoffs.

NOTE: Schools will be charged a $500 per sport penalty for withdrawing after the classifications and regions have been set. The $500 per sport penalty would apply to withdrawal at any time during the two year cycle (with the exception of $1,000 for football as stated in Governing Rules, Section 15 #4). The penalty can be appealed to the Appeals Board. The penalty does not apply to schools who will not field a sports team due to low student interest.

*In exception of the above rule are schools whose primary mission is to serve students with special needs.*

Section 4. GHSA-GISA Interscholastic Crossover Play

The following are some guidelines with respect to the GHSA Rule passed at the April, 2014, Executive Committee Meeting, concerning crossover play between the two leagues. The following interpretations of this rule are subject to change if abuse of the system occurs, or if GHSA or GISA schools are having serious scheduling difficulties caused or increased by these interpretations.

GHSA Rule: 2.62

Member Schools may play GISA Interscholastic schools only in sports currently not operating under a power ranking system.

1. A GHSA school may schedule no more than 20% of its regular season competitions against GISA schools.

2. GISA eligibility rules will be respected except 8th grade students may not compete in a varsity contest against a GHSA team.

3. All GHSA requirements for catastrophic insurance, physical examinations and other appropriate risk management mitigations must be followed.

**Football, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball**

No participation at Varsity level or JV level (9th Grade and up). These are Power Ranking Sports.

**Cross Country, Volleyball, Competitive Cheerleading, Swimming and Diving, Track and Field, Golf, Tennis & Soccer**

20% Rule is in effect for GHSA schools in all contests between one GHSA and one GISA school. 20% rule also counts against both GHSA schools in a three way competition between two GHSA schools and one GISA School. 20% Rule only counts against the host school in an event where more than three schools are involved if the Host school is GHSA. If the Host school is GISA, 20% Rule counts against all GHSA schools participating for GISA Host school only. Example: Track & Field Meet with 8 schools competing.

**Volleyball Dual Meets** between GHSA and GISA schools shall be best 3 out of 5 games. All other GHSA-GISA crossover matches shall be 2 out of 3 games. For regular season matches, each team will be billed by the officials association for one half of the officiating fees for games in which they played. Host school will pay the officials travel fee. For invitational tournaments and multiple school play dates, the host school will be billed for the officiating fees (including travel).

GISA currently does not have teams participating in Gymnastics, Lacrosse, & Riflery. At the time such teams do exist, they must follow the regulations above in that sport.
**Wrestling**
Same rules as above, with GISA agreeing to the weight assessment component of the NFHS “Weight Management Program”.

**Coaches Passes** from both associations will only be honored at games in sports in which crossover play is allowed. i.e. GISA passes will not be honored at GHSA sports of Football, Softball, Basketball, and Baseball; and GHSA passes will not be honored at GISA sports of Football, Softball, Basketball, and Baseball; in either regular season or playoffs.

Since GHSA does not sanction **Debate or Shooting Sports**, activities that are sanctioned by GISA, these sports do not fall under this agreement. GHSA schools interested in participating in these activities should contact GISA for participation guidelines, including 8th grade participation.

GISA reserves the right to pass further regulations limiting their schools amount of participation with GHSA schools.

**Section 5. Tournaments and Playoffs:**

1. All tournaments and playoffs must be approved by the GISA President.

2. The head of school which serves as the host for a GISA tournament or playoff will:
   
   a. Pay 20% of all GISA region and state playoff gate receipts to the GISA Office to defray interscholastic expenses.
   
   b. Pay for game officials, trophies (if applicable), scorer and timer (if applicable). Host schools will receive $75 per day, except for football, provided gate receipts allow this amount after expenses noted above. The GISA President, under special circumstances, would have the authority to approve additional expenses. (Example: A school not in Class AA is asked to host the Class AA basketball tournament due to location and seating capacity.)

   c. Pay the remainder to the participating schools based on the formula provided by the GISA. A **Distribution of Proceeds Form**, showing this formula for each sport, will be used to calculate the distribution and forwarded to the GISA Office and each school involved with the host or home teams’ school. In a few rare instances, such as in baseball, basketball, soccer, and softball state tournament semifinals and finals, where the game shares per school are less than $25, the balance will be retained by the GISA Office for operating expenses related to these tournaments.

   d. Forward complete scores and results of said tournament or playoff immediately to the GISA Office.

**Section 6. Special Provisions:**

1. **Concussion Management and Return-to-Play Policy**

All Georgia Independent School Association Interscholastic Member Schools are required to comply with the following policy effective September 1, 2013. This policy applies to all practices, conditioning, and games in all sports. This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees yearly, at which time comments and suggestions for the improvement of the policy will be solicited from all Member Schools, coaches, trainers, and officials, and appropriate modifications made.
I. Definitions.

A. “Health Care Provider” means a licensed physician or another licensed individual under the supervision of a licensed physician, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified athletic trainer who has received training in concussion evaluation and management.

B. “Student Athlete” means any student who participates in interscholastic athletic competitions at a Member School regardless of age.

C. “Coach” means all coaches of all interscholastic sports whether full or part time and whether paid or volunteer.

D. “Member School” means each Georgia Independent School Association Interscholastic Member School.

II. Policy.

A. At the beginning of every school year, all Member Schools shall provide to the parents or legal guardians of every Student Athlete an information sheet which informs them of the nature and risks of concussions and head injuries and the actions to be taken by the schools to minimize the risks and effects of concussions and head injuries. Such information sheet should be substantially in the form of Appendix A to this Policy, and each Member School shall maintain a copy of the information sheet signed by each Student Athlete’s parents or legal guardians for that school year.

B. If a Coach observes a Student Athlete exhibit any sign, symptom, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury, the Coach must immediately remove that Student Athlete from practice, conditioning, or game. The Student Athlete may not return to practice, conditioning, or game until a Health Care Provider has determined that the Student Athlete has not suffered a concussion. In the case where a Health Care Provider has determined that the Student Athlete has suffered a concussion, the Student Athlete may not resume practice, conditioning, or participation in games until medically determined capable of doing so for full or graduated return. In no circumstance may a Student Athlete return to a practice, conditioning or a game on the same day that a concussion has been diagnosed by a Health Care Provider or cannot be ruled out.

C. All Coaches must participate every year in a course of concussion management approved by the GISA. All Member Schools must maintain record of each Coach’s participation in the course. The on-line course in concussion management entitled “Concussion in Sports” and prepared by National Federation of High School Sports Associations is acceptable and is available free to Member Schools at www.nfhslearn.com.

III. Penalties.

Member Schools violating this policy shall be fined a minimum of $500.00 and a maximum of $1,000.00 for the first offense. A Member School may be removed from membership for repeat violations.

(Approved by the GISA Board of Trustees on 29th day of July, 2013.)

2. Severe Weather & Heat Index

All Georgia Independent School Association Interscholastic Member Schools (“Member School(s)”) are required to comply with the following policy effective August 1, 2012. This policy applies to all practices and conditioning in all sports, but does not apply to games. This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees after the conclusion of the 2012 calendar year, at which time comments and suggestions for the improvement of the policy will be solicited from all Member Schools, coaches, trainers, and officials, and appropriate modifications made.
I. Definitions.

A. “Practice” means the period of time that a student engages in coach-supervised, school-approved preparation for sport whether indoors or outdoors, including Acclimatization Activities, conditioning, weight training, distance running, and scrimmages, but not including a Walk Through.

B. “Walk Through” means the period of time, not exceeding one hour per day, that a student engages in coach-supervised, school-approved sessions, whether indoors or outdoors, to work on formations, schemes, and techniques without physical contact. No protective equipment is worn during a Walk Through. No conditioning activities are held during a Walk Through. A Walk Through may not be held on a day when two practices are being held.

C. “Acclimatization Activities” mean outdoor conditioning, distance running, and exercises five consecutive weekdays in shorts and helmets before the first football practice in full pads.

D. “WBGT” stands for the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature reading, which is a composite temperature used to estimate the effect of air temperature, humidity, and solar radiation on the human body, expressed in degrees. It is not equated with the “Heat Index.”

II. Policy.

A. All Member Schools shall utilize at each Practice a scientifically approved instrument that measures WBGT.

B. At the following WBGT readings the corresponding activity, hydration, and rest break guidelines apply:

   Under 82.0
   Normal activities. Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour of a minimum duration of 3 minutes each during Practice.

   82.0 - 86.9
   Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise. Watch at-risk students carefully.
   Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour of a minimum of four minutes duration each during Practice.

   87.0 - 89.9
   Maximum outdoor Practice time is two hours. For football, students are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during Practice. All protective equipment must be removed for conditioning activities. For all sports, provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour of a minimum of four minutes each during Practice.

   90.0 - 92.0
   Maximum outdoor Practice time is one hour. No protective equipment may be worn during outdoor Practice and there may be no outdoor conditioning activities. There must be twenty minutes of rest breaks provided during the hour of outdoor Practice.

   Over 92
   No outdoor activities or exercise. Delay outdoor Practice until a lower WBGT reading occurs.

C. The following guidelines apply to hydration and rest breaks:
   1. Rest time should involve both unlimited hydration (water or electrolyte drinks) and rest without any activity involved.
   2. For football, helmets should be removed during rest time.
   3. The site of the rest time should be a cooling zone not in direct sunlight, such as indoors, under a tent, or under a shade tree.
4. When the WBGT is over 86, ice towels and spray bottles filled with ice water should be available in the cooling zone and cold immersion tubs shall be available for a student showing signs of heat illness. A cold immersion tub may be anything, including a shower or wading pool, that can be adapted to immerse a student in cold water and ice which is available within two minutes travel from an outdoor Practice facility.

D. The following guidelines apply to Practice:
1. All Member Schools must hold Acclimatization Activities.
2. No two-a-day Practices may exceed four hours for both sessions; no single Practice during two-a-days may exceed two hours. A three hour rest period must be observed between the two sessions.
3. No single Practice may last more than three hours.
4. Restrictions based on outdoor WBGT readings do not apply to indoor Practice where indoor air temperature is 85 degrees or less.

III. Penalties.

A. Member Schools violating this policy shall be fined a minimum of $500.00 and a maximum of $1,000.00 for the first offense. A Member School may be removed from membership for repeat violations.

2. Other Provisions & Circumstances
   a. If a game is suspended or postponed: The two schools involved must agree on a solution within a reasonable amount of time (within 2 hours) or the game is to be resumed at the interrupted time on a date to be agreed upon by the two heads of school within forty-eight (48) hours. If the two heads of school cannot agree on a time, the decision will come from the GISA President. The GISA Office will be notified of the decision by the two schools involved.
   b. Schools are required to develop their own severe weather policy.
   c. In the event of the threat of severe weather (observed lightning or thunder in the area, or weather bureau-announced tornado warnings or watch) during the course of an outdoor sporting event, the head of school and/or coaches of the competing teams, by agreement, have the authority to suspend the event until non-threatening conditions return.
   d. Schools are required to have weather detection devices that give warning if severe weather is in the area.

3. Post Season, Bowl, Tournaments, All-Star Games, and Athletic / Academic Achievement Awards
   a. All-Star games may be held in any activity approved by the GISA President. Student All-Stars must be seniors or have graduated (if All-Star games are conducted in the summer).
   b. All-Star coaches will be selected by the GISA Coaches Association with approval from the GISA Office.
   c. All-Star players will be selected by the All-Star coaches selected to coach the All-Star team, under supervision and direction of the GISA Coaches Association.
   d. Each year the GISA Coaches’ Association may present a Morris Johnson Athletic / Academic Achievement Award. Criteria for selection must be approved in advance during a meeting of interscholastic schools. The GISA President will annually review and approve the final list of qualified students. (The GISA Coaches’ Association will furnish all funding for this award.)
4. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

a. Cases of unsportsmanlike conduct shall be referred to the GISA President who may handle any case or refer it to the Appeal Board.

b. The GISA President is authorized to warn, place on probation, suspend, fine a school, or any combination of these and to bar or suspend from competition a player and/or coach and/or official for unsportsmanlike conduct.

c. Incidences of poor sportsmanship which result in a technical foul, ejection from the game and/or dismissal from the premises shall be reported to the GISA President on the first school day following such violation. **All participating schools and the officials associations shall be required to file such reports.** Any contest terminated prematurely by approved officials due to the misconduct of players, coaches or fans must be reported in writing by the officials to the GISA President, and will result in a $500 fine from the school or schools causing the termination. A second violation within one school year will result in an additional $500 fine and reprimand plus a suspension from any post-season play-off contest for one calendar year from the date of the incident, or notification of results of any investigation which is lengthy. A third such violation will result in suspension of said school from membership in GISA (Interscholastic) and the school cannot make application for re-admission for a period of two years.

d. If a player or coach is ejected, that player or coach will be automatically suspended from the remainder of that game and the next previously scheduled game in that particular sport at that level, whether it is regular season, region or a state play-off game. Further, the school will be required to forward to the GISA Office a mandatory fine of at least $50 per occurrence. If there are no remaining games in the sport in which the ejection occurred, then suspension would be served in first or next game of next sport of participation. Any fan or other person who is associated with the school and is ejected from a game will also require the school to pay a mandatory fine of $50 and suspend that person from at least one game for each ejection. When a fan or coach is ejected, that person must be removed from the playing and seating area (i.e. gym, stadium, or ball field, etc.) and **must not be seen or heard during the period of suspension.** A player ejected may or may not be removed from the playing area as per officials’ instructions. The player may be allowed to attend the next game of suspension in the company of a school official or his/her parents. The player may not be seated with the team or the school’s cheering section at that contest. All fines are due and must be paid within ten (10) days of incident.

e. Schools failing to report unsportsmanlike behavior by **anyone involved** with their school (coach, player, fan, etc.) by the conclusion of the next school day will be fined $50. The opposing school, after one letter of warning, will be fined $25 for not reporting unsportsmanlike behavior of the other school by the conclusion of the next school day. These reports may be faxed or e-mailed to the GISA Office.

f. Any student who intentionally injures or intentionally attempts to injure another student, coach, official, spectator, or other person before, during, or immediately after any GISA sponsored or sanctioned activity may be declared ineligible in future GISA activities by the GISA President.

g. Any non-student fan who intentionally injures or intentionally attempts to injure another before, during, or immediately after any GISA sponsored or sanctioned activity may be banned from all future GISA activities for a period of one year or greater by the GISA President.
h. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that all student athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, and fans conduct themselves consistent with good sportsmanship as outlined in the GISA Code of Good Conduct.

i. Non-student fans or spectators who conduct themselves in a seriously unsportsmanlike manner before, during, or immediately after a GISA event may be banned from attending any Association event for a period of one year or longer by the GISA President.

j. The Head of School or a designated administrator, other than the team’s coach, must be present for all GISA interscholastic athletic events. A coach can serve as the game administrator only if he/she has little or no coaching duties during the game.

5. Each school hosting a regular, tournament, or playoff game in football and/or basketball shall employ adequate uniformed security for each such event. This sworn, uniformed officer must have legal arrest authority. Host school shall be fined $200 per occurrence for non-compliance. The host school head, officials, and visiting school head shall notify the GISA Office on the next school day to report any instance of non-compliance. Should there be a rare and unusual circumstance beyond the control of the school for security not to be present, the school may request in writing the next school day that the $200 fine be abated (in part or whole) after review of the GISA President. Security is strongly recommended for all other GISA events.

6. **Season Passes**

   a. The GISA President shall issue to each member school a pass for the head of school, assistant head of school, band/choral director, athletic coaches, and literary coordinators as listed by the school. Each school is also able to request passes for up to three (3) team doctors, or certified athletic trainers, to be given out at the discretion of the head of school or athletic director.

   b. The name of the person to whom the pass is issued shall be imprinted on the pass.

   c. The pass will admit the person to whom it is issued and one other to any game or contest of GISA (Interscholastic).

   d. School passes are for the use of the school personnel only and are void if presented by any person other than the one named or spouse.

   e. Any school head or athletic coach who has served or coached for a total period of not less than ten (10) years in the Association, upon application with the appropriate documentation to the Office of the GISA President, may be issued a **Lifetime Pass** upon official retirement. The required documentation shall consist of a letter (or a completed form available from the GISA Office) verifying all experience as school head and/or coaching and must show at least ten (10) cumulative years of GISA service in a combination of service as a school head or coach.

   f. Officials Passes issued by Georgia Officials Association will admit the official and one other person to all GISA Interscholastic events.

6. **State Competition**

   **Individual students** qualifying for state competition in athletic and/or literary events are required to participate in the state event. Any school failing to notify the GISA President at least twenty-four (24) hours before the event will be fined $50.
Teams qualifying for state competition in athletic events are required to participate in the state event. If a team qualifies and does not attend they will subject the school to a $500 fine for the first offense. For a second offense, the school will be subjected to a $500 fine plus forfeiture of participation in the next season’s playoffs.

All other circumstances will be reviewed and considered by the GISA Office.

7. **Summer Policy**

The Association does not sanction, sponsor, promote, approve, or disapprove any individual school’s summer activity, so long as said summer activity does not conflict with current or future published or written rules in the *GISA Interscholastic Rules & Regulations*. Therefore, each GISA school has the right and privilege of choosing the degree and nature of involvement for summer activities. Also, each must understand and accept that GISA assumes no liability or purview for any summer activities.

**Required Guidelines for Implementation:**

a. GISA’s Catastrophic Insurance is in effect for all school-sponsored summer team activities whether on or off campus. No student is covered while in attendance at an individual or specialty camp.

b. School heads must ensure total and adequate supervision and liability. In permitting or sponsoring participation, the head is assuring GISA that they assume all responsibility (inherent, expressed, or implied) for any summer activity conducted by anyone associated with the school. Should coaches participate without said approval from the school, full responsibility rests totally with the school.

c. Therefore, any school, on their own, may sponsor, schedule, etc. any summer activity not in conflict with written GISA rules. This includes, but is not restricted to camps, practices, clinics, field trips, summer school, literary camps, and tournaments, and any other activity for which the school takes sole responsibility.

d. **Summer** is defined from the last day of school until fall sports practice begins as published in the *GISA Calendar of Events*.

e. Practices may be held during the summer months in any individual school approved activity. Football practices in pads are still *restricted* to Fall starting dates, as per *GISA Rules & Regulations*.

f. Students may participate in leagues; however, they may not *officially* represent a school during the summer months.

g. Practices, camps, and/or clinics *may or may not* be taught by coaches of the school’s team. However, for liability and safety reasons the school must provide appropriate supervision.

h. Summer activities *may or may not* be held on school property. Proper arrangements should be made with authorities for the use of the facilities.

8. **Filming**

Coaches or anyone associated with a school (parents, fans, friends, etc.) are not allowed to film games in which they are not participating and are expected to refrain from accepting films from unauthorized sources. Coaches are encouraged to trade films with opponents in a professional manner.
9. **GISA Stats**

   Schools are required to place their schedules, scores, and region and overall records on the GISA Stats website. This is to be updated weekly during the regular season and playoffs. Schools that do not comply will be subject to fines of $25 per week.

10. **Sportsmanship Statement**

   This statement is to be read at all GISA games and events that a speaker system is available.

   “The GISA encourages and promotes sportsmanship by student-athletes, coaches, and spectators. We request your cooperation by supporting the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial, ethnic, or sexist comments, or other intimidating actions will not be tolerated and are grounds for removal from the event.”

11. **Blaze Sports**

   GISA partners with Blaze Sports, a non-profit organization that advances the lives of youth and adults with physical disability through sport and healthy lifestyles. Blaze Sports provides sports training, competitions, summer camps and other sports and recreational opportunities for youth and adults with spinal cord injury, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, muscular dystrophy, amputation, visual impairment or blindness as well as other physical disabilities.

**Section 7. Amending the Regulations:**

For the purpose of amending these regulations and for transacting all other business, a majority vote of the member schools present at a regularly scheduled meeting is required.

**ATHLETICS**

**Section 1. Baseball**

1. The *National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Baseball* is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. All regular season baseball games shall be played with officially dressed baseball officials who are approved under the GISA plan to register officials, or an approved association of another state.

3. Officials for all state playoffs will be assigned by the GISA President.

4. Wilson is the official ball for the GISA playoffs.

5. Upon approval of both teams, the home team designates the site and time of the game and will furnish the game balls.

6. The visiting team or any team traveling will be responsible for its own travel and expenses.

7. The State Champion and Runner-Up in each classification shall receive appropriate trophies. The All-State selectees shall receive a plaque.

8. The GISA Coaches’ Association will select the All-State teams and/or All-Star teams subject to the approval of the GISA President. Only eligible seniors may be selected for the All-Star teams.

9. If a baseball game is ended by the umpire on account of darkness, rain, thunder and lightning, or other causes, and four-and-a-half (4 ½) innings have been played, it is a regulation game if the home team
does not need their 1/2 inning. If the game is not complete or goes into extra innings, the game will be completed at a later date, and shall be continued from the point of suspension.

10. Limit on number of innings pitched: Limit to ten (10) innings on any day. Limit to fourteen (14) innings during any four-day period. Fractions of innings will count, but one pitch will count as 1/3 of an inning. [Example: If a pitcher gets 1 out in an inning and stops pitching it is 1/3 of an inning. If he gets 1 out and throws at least one more pitch without getting an out it is 2/3 of an inning.]

11. A team may play in one tournament other than region and state plus their twenty (20) regular season games.

A tournament is defined as follows: All the games which may be played in one (1) day or not more than a total or maximum of six (6) games by any one school if played in more than a one day setting. To be approved, a tournament must use brackets (single or double elimination) resulting in a championship game. Round-robin showcase tournaments not resulting in a champion are acceptable as long as they are played at a single site. The GISA President must approve all tournaments in advance. The host school must submit the brackets, date(s), sites, times and any other pertinent information at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the official start of the season. Each school will be required to list the tournament and maximum number of games, sites, times and dates when the schedule for that sport is submitted.

12. State Baseball Playoffs:
   a. All current overall GISA Rules & Regulations and especially those pertaining to baseball are incorporated.
   b. The normal and current GISA playoff brackets will be used. Format will be best two out of three games in each round of the playoffs.
   c. At each level of the state playoffs, the site host must provide a field with adequate seating for not less than 100 paid fans or spectator admissions. The field must be properly marked at all times. The field must have an outfield fence not less than 280 feet from home plate. Portable pitching mounds are prohibited during the playoffs.
   d. Three officials will be used in all playoff games. Four officials will be used in the Championship Series. Officials will be selected by the Selection Committee which will have a representative from each region. These will be forwarded to the GISA President who, in turn, will select sufficient officials for each site/game.
   e. Any school hosting any level of the playoffs must assume any financial losses, should that occur. Any school not wishing to assume the responsibility may so inform the GISA Office and the next ranked team will be invited to host the competition.
   f. Baseball playoff games must be played to conclusion, either by run rule or culmination with a winner. Games stopped due to weather concerns or darkness must be completed before the next game of playoff series is begun.
   g. In each round of the playoffs, a pitcher will be permitted to throw in ten (10) innings in any one series. He may throw all ten (10) in one day, or the innings may be broken down over the remaining scheduled games of each series. However, if the series needs to be extended because of weather or other reasons approved in advance by the GISA President, an additional two (2) innings may be added for each one-day beyond the regularly scheduled format. No pitcher, regardless of the circumstances, may pitch more than fourteen (14) innings in any four-day period. Any violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of game. NOTE: Innings will not be added for days in which games were not scheduled (i.e. Sundays, graduations, etc.) nor for rainouts prior to the series actually beginning.
   h. The 15-run rule after 3 innings (or mercy rule), and the 10-run rule after 5 innings will be in effect for all games including the deciding game.
The playoffs will be played as follows:

**ROUND 1**: Teams finishing 1st and 2nd from each region will host a double elimination tournament with pairings determined by bracket. The game schedule will be set by the two teams involved. If they cannot agree, the schedule will be set by the GISA Office. The site host will serve as home team in Game 1 (and “IF” Game) and the visitor in Game 2. Winners advance to the Quarterfinals.

**QUARTERFINALS**: Each of the eight Round 1 winners will advance to the Quarterfinal level as per the GISA brackets. Host will be the highest originally ranked region team. These Quarterfinals will be double elimination with the best two out of three games. The game schedule will be set by the two teams involved. If they cannot agree, the schedule will be set by the GISA Office. The site host will serve as home team in Game 1 (and “IF” Game) and the visitor in Game 2.

**SEMIFINALS**: Each of the four division winners will advance to the Semifinals as per the GISA brackets. Host will be the highest originally ranked region team. If both teams in any bracket are equally ranked, the bracket showing home will prevail. These Semifinals will be double elimination with the best two out of three games. The site host will serve as home team in Game 1 and visitor in Game 2. If teams are of equal rank in Game 3, a coin toss will be used to determine which team will be home team. In other cases, higher seeded team is home team.

**FINALS**: The Championship Series will consist of the best two out of three games. Game 1 will commence at 4:00 pm on Friday. Game 2 will begin at 1:00 pm on Saturday, with Game 3, if needed, starting 15-minutes after the conclusion of game 2. The site host will serve as home team in Game 1 and visitor in Game 2. And, if teams are of equal rank in Game 3, a coin toss will be used to determine which team will be home team. In other cases, higher seeded team is home team. The Mercy Rule applies to all games in the Championship Series.

### Section 2. Basketball

1. The *National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Basketball* is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. a. No basketball team or individual player shall play more than twenty-six (26) basketball games during the season. This does not include region or state eliminations.

   b. The school should choose one (only) of either (i), (ii) or (iii) to meet game limit requirements:

      (i) A school may count as one of the 26 single games any game on any day that the student plays, regardless of the number of times that the student athlete or basketball player has entered that one single game on that day.

      (ii) A school or team may also choose to keep (in its official all-current season scoring book) for each player the number of games counted by quarters. Since 26 games are allowed, 26 x 4 quarters (excluding overtime) = 104 quarters. Also, when necessary, a junior varsity player may be allowed to play part of his/her quarters in the junior varsity game and the remaining quarters in the varsity, but not vice-versa. Further, using this method, any time a player enters the game during a quarter; this counts as a quarter of playing time. This is in keeping with past practices and the intentions of the 26 game rule of the association regarding these matters.

      (iii) During any one game day, an individual player may play up to a total of thirty-two (32) minutes in regular games (overtime excluded). Regardless of the total minutes played on a given day (again, not to exceed 32 minutes, except overtime), this will count as one of the 26 maximum games allowed.
c. Regardless of the method chosen, no athlete may participate in more than 32-minutes of basketball, excluding overtime, in any one day.

3. All basketball varsity games that involve both boys and girls must begin no later than 6:30 p.m. JV or middle school games must terminate no later than 6:15 p.m.

4. Artificial noisemakers are banned from gymnasiums in regular season and tournament games. The head of the host school or tournament director must authorize use of any musical instruments in advance. No band or musical instruments can be played while the ball is in play.

5. Only cheerleaders in uniform will be allowed on the floor to cheer at any GISA basketball event.

6. No team shall enter any basketball tournament other than the region or GISA (Interscholastic) elimination series unless the GISA President has approved such tournament.

7. The officials in all games shall have complete control over all features of the game.

8. In region and state tournaments no teams shall have the privilege of placing their scorer and/or timer at or near the position occupied by the official scorer and/or timer.

9. In region and state tournaments the committee or person in charge shall secure the services of a competent scorer and a competent timer.

10. The number of entries from each region in state tournaments for each classification shall be the first four teams as determined by each region.

11. Each region must have a predetermined method of choosing state playoff representatives.

12. In all games of the state tournament, three (3) officials for each game will be assigned by the GISA President. Coaches are encouraged to recommend preferred officials. Girls’ and Boys’ teams will alternate years playing on Thursday at the Final Four.

13. The State Champion and Runner-Up for each classification shall receive appropriate trophies. The All-State selectees shall receive a plaque.

14. The GISA Coaches’ Association will select the All-State teams and All-Star teams subject to the approval of the GISA President. Only eligible seniors may be selected to the All-Star teams.

15. Cumulative Unsportsmanlike Conduct Technical Fouls for Basketball Coaches and Players: 

   (This is in addition to the current rule that states two technical fouls in same game results in an ejection.)

   a. Varsity Basketball Coaches may receive two (2) cumulative unsportsmanlike conduct technical fouls in a season without further increase in sanctions. The third (3rd) unsportsmanlike cumulative technical will require a $50 fine from the school. The fourth (4th) such technical mandates a $100 fine and a one game suspension to be served the following game in that sport at the same level. The fifth (5th) technical warrants a $150 fine and the offending coach is suspended for the following two (2) games. The sixth (6th) technical will result in a $200 fine and the coach will not be allowed to coach any more in that sport for the season. This rule will not interfere with rules in place regarding ejections, but will be in addition to said rule. (Example: Coach with one accumulated technical foul receives two technicals in same game. Coach will be ejected and miss following previously scheduled game and pay $50 fine for ejection. Coach would also be fined $50 for third accumulated technical.) Multiple team coaches (Girls & Boys) will have each team treated separately. Heads are expected to regulate sub-varsity accumulated technicals in a very rigid and responsible manner.
b. **Varsity Basketball Players** may receive two cumulative unsportsmanlike conduct technical fouls in a season without further increase in sanctions. The third (3rd) cumulative unsportsmanlike technical will result in a one game suspension to be served the following game. The fourth (4th) technical will result in a two game suspension to be served the following two games, and should there be a fifth (5th) technical the player is suspended for the remainder of the season. This rule will not interfere with rules in place regarding ejections but will be in addition to said rule. (Example: Player # 1 has one accumulated unsportsmanlike technical foul and receives two (2) more in same game. Player would be ejected and miss following previously scheduled game and pay $50 fine for ejection. Player would also be suspended for one additional game because of three (3) accumulated technicals.) Any player construed by the officials to be baiting an opponent with known cumulative technical foul problems will be subject to be disciplined very severely by the GISA Office, including game suspensions, fines, or game forfeiture.

16. **GISA BASKETBALL MERCY RULE:**
   If a team is trailing by 40 points or more at halftime, the coach of the trailing team may invoke the mercy rule, which would change the length of the quarters in the second half to 6-minute quarters for the entire half. If a team is trailing by 30 or more points at the end of the third quarter, the 6-minute quarter mercy rule will be invoked automatically. Normal timing/scoring rules would apply during both of the above.

17. **INSTANT REPLAY**
   If and when GISA plays its Final Four in a facility that has the capabilities to use instant replay, at a level that meets NCAA regulations, GISA will use instant replay to help the officials determine if an end-of-game shot was taken in time, or if a shot in question by the officials was a two or three-pointer. These would be the only circumstances that instant replay will be used.

**Section 3. Clay Target Sports**

1. The [Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) Official Handbook](www.shootsctp.org) shall be the Official Rules for all GISA-sanctioned competitions with exceptions as noted in this section. Meet format may vary from SCTP guidelines in order to meet certain GISA Rules & Regulations.

2. Shooters must have passed the **DNR Hunter Safety Course** to participate in any GISA meet.

3. Dress is as stated in SCTP Rules, which includes no camouflage clothing or headwear and no visible tattoos.

4. Participation rules are as stated in SCTP except only 8th Graders and above will be allowed to participate on Varsity teams. All Varsity Shooters must meet all GISA eligibility rules and be on the current school eligibility list approved by the GISA.

5. Clay Target Sports is non-classification event with no differentiation on teams for gender.

6. GISA will have three (3) disciplines at their State Meet: Sporting Clays; Skeet; and Trap. Other GISA meets may or may not have all three disciplines.

7. A GISA Team includes all athletes and coaches representing a school. For the State Championship each school’s HOA Score will be the total of their top three shooters in all three disciplines added together. Individuals may participate and compete for individual recognition in each of the individual disciplines as well as HOA Individual if they compete in all three disciplines.
8. **All Coaches must have Level 1 NRA Shotgun Coach / Instructor Training, or higher.** Coaches with other training credentials must be approved by the GISA Office at least one week prior to a shoot. Most training listed as accepted in SCTP will be accepted by the GISA in the short term, however, in the long term, Level 1 NRA or higher training must be attained.

9. Each school will have a coach / assistant coach for every six shooters.

10. **All rules and regulations for each discipline will be followed starting with the first meet.** All coaches are responsible for all basic rules and regulations and must have on hand the rule books to refer to for unusual situations that may come up.

11. All Shooters must participate in at least two (2) GISA-sanctioned meets prior to entering the State Meet (beginning with the Fall Regular Season in 2014). The following minimums will also be required for State Competition in each discipline.

   - 20 / 25 Skeet
   - 20 / 25 Trap
   - Top 75% in at least one Clays competition during the regular season

   The last date for Regular Season Meet will be November 22, 2014, to allow for completing registrations.

12. The GISA Office will appoint a Meet Director for the State Meet, and must work with this Director on establishing site, time, and arrangements for the State Meet.

13. The Meet Director will appoint a Rules Committee, Chief Referee, and others as may be deemed necessary to successfully run the meet.

14. GISA will require factory ammo at the State Meet. No reloads will be allowed at the State Meet. Other meets may set their own rules regarding reloads. Ammo must be in the following limits: Shot size 9 to 7 1/2, load size 1 1/8 or smaller.

15. Only 12-gauge guns or smaller may be used at the GISA State Meet.

16. Teams cannot practice on the sporting clay course after setup for the State Meet.

17. **For both the General and Interscholastic Divisions,** awards at the State Meet will be High Overall Team and Individuals, and Ladies High Overall. Awards will be given in three disciplines for the Top 3 Individuals and Females. **All-State Awards will also be given.**

18. A Committee will be formed to work out further rules and rule changes as the sport continues. Optimally this committee will include representative from SCTP, DNR, GISA, Heads of School, and Coaches.

**Section 4. Cheerleading (Spirit)**

1. The **National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Spirit** is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. GISA is regulating only competitive cheerleading. All competitive cheerleaders must be eligible according to the rules and regulations of the GISA (including the migratory rule), and such information as required by GISA must be submitted and approved prior to participation. Support squad cheerleaders that are not involved in competitive cheerleading must meet the schools requirements for participation. Schools may have the following:
a. Competitive cheerleading squads that are also support squads
b. Competitive cheerleading squads that are not support squads
c. Support cheerleading squads that do not participate in competitive cheerleading

3. All cheerleaders participating in competitive cheerleading shall have a form on file at school certifying a current (yearly) physical examination.

4. No meets or competitions may be held prior to September 1st.

5. Maximum number of competitions will be ten (10), not including region and state competitions. All competitive cheerleading teams are required to compete in at least one GISA-sanctioned cheerleading meet during the regular season to be eligible to compete in the GISA State Cheerleading Meet.

6. Competitive cheerleading squads do not have a set number, however no squad may be larger than 16, including mascot.

7. Competitive area for all GISA meets must be at least 30 feet by 42 feet. GISA State Cheerleading Meet area will be 42 feet by 42 feet.

8. Only competitors, coaches, and officials will be allowed in the competitive area. All filming must be done from an area designated by the meet director that will not interfere with spectators viewing the meet. School personnel may only film their own school’s performance.

9. Only team members may act as spotters. Non competitors may not assist during the routine.

10. The center of the mat should be easily discernible.

11. Pom-poms and signs are the only props allowed during a competitive routine.

12. All skills performed for scoring must be within the boundaries of the mats and within the body of the routine. Skills are not permitted as part of the entrance or exit.

13. Length of routine shall not be greater than 2 minutes and 30 seconds. After a 5-second grace period, 5 points per second will be deducted from final score. Official timer and meet director’s decision will be final and is not subject to review.

14. Glitter will be allowed in appropriate amounts. Teams will be expected to leave the mat in the same condition as when they started their routine.

15. Stunts that are illegal and in the opinion of all judges were intentional will subject the squad to disqualification.

16. **Schools must use certified judges during all regular season competitions.** Certified judges will be used at the GISA State Cheerleading Meet, with the higher and lower scores being discarded and the remaining scores added to obtain the final score. Tie breakers are as follows: (1) Squads that did not drop a stunt; (2) Overall performance score; and (3) Rankings. The head judge will also serve as safety judge.

17. The GISA Office will select the site and date for the State Competition and will notify schools of these decisions in a timely manner.

18. The State Champion and State Runner-Up will receive appropriate trophies. [Note: This is a non-classification competition.]

19. A copy of the judges score sheet to be used each year will be posted on the GISA web site.
20. At the request of the coach or head of school, the meet director will review tapes for schools to make interpretations on the legality of certain segments of the routine. Do not abuse this service.

21. Each squad wishing to participate in the GISA State Cheerleading Meet must submit a participation form, to be received in the GISA Office on or before October 1, stating their intent to compete. This form must be signed by the head of school and the competitive cheerleading coach stating that neither the music nor any part of the routine should be deemed objectionable for a GISA audience. If, in the opinion of all judges, the material is obscene, the team will be disqualified and face possible other sanctions from the GISA President.

22. Disqualifications will be made for the following: Unsportsmanlike conduct; too many members on the squad; obscene content of music and/or routine.

23. Schools are required to have sufficient liability insurance to cover practices and performances. Every precaution should be taken to ensure that proper mats and other safety equipment are in place for practices and performances, and that lack of proper supervision is not an issue in case of an accident or injury.

Section 5. Cross Country

1. *The National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Track and Field* is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section. Cross Country is found in Chapter 9.

2. Teams shall not enter any meet unless approved in advance by the GISA President.

3. The cross country course will be **3.1 miles** in distance for boys and girls at the varsity level of competition.

4. No contestant will be permitted to enter a meet if the contestant is not accompanied by a faculty member or coach of the school the contestant attends.

5. A boys’ team will consist of a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of seven (7) boys. A girls’ team will consist of a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of seven (7) girls. However, if a school does not have a team, it may enter less than five members in the individual division of the meet. No school shall enter more than seven (7) participants in the region or state meet. Three (3) alternates may be listed on the entrance forms.

6. Cross country rules governing uniforms must be observed.

7. A computer chip timing system will be used at the GISA State Cross Country Meet. Schools will be responsible for paying for lost chips at $10.00 per chip.

8. The GISA President will appoint a meet director for the State Meet, and he must approve the site and time for the State Meet.

9. The top four (4) teams and any individual that finishes in the top 10 at the region meets will qualify for the State Meet.

10. Ten (10) All-State awards will be presented to the boys, and ten (10) All-State awards will be presented to the girls who finish in the top ten rankings in each classification. In addition, the State Champion and Runner-Up boy’s teams and the State Champion and Runner-Up girl’s teams in each classification will be presented an appropriate trophy.
11. The State Championship Meet Course shall be set at 3.1 miles distance for boys and girls. The course shall be set up to comply with all NFHS course requirements. Host school will set up and keep concession proceeds.

12. **Team Entrance Rule**: Any GISA region or school may host a regular season competition provided it is conducted on a course in accordance with NFHS requirements and approved in writing in advance by the GISA Office.

13. Any meet conducted by a school may provide awards. The meet, awards, etc. will be the financial responsibility of the host school. The awards presented for the State Championship will be the responsibility of the GISA.

14. The GISA Office will appoint the meet director. The meet director will then appoint the following State Championship Meet officials: referee, starters, clerk of the course, finish judge, chute umpire, caller, checker, course umpire, timers, marshals, and P.A. announcer. The meet director will appoint the proper person(s) to keep all individual and team records and designate awards for qualifying participants and teams.

15. The host school for any meet shall provide responsible person(s) to collect admission and ensure adequate security.

16. Only eligible varsity level athletes may participate in the State Championship.

**Section 6. Football:**

1. The *National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Football* is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. Each school must file its completed football schedule and contracts with the GISA President no later than March 15 of each scheduling year. Schedule must show day, date, time, and place of game. Any school making a change in their football schedule after the schedule has been filed with the GISA President shall notify and receive approval of the GISA President of such changes.

3. Only one varsity football game per week by the same team (may be waived for playoffs or by direction of the GISA President) may be played. The maximum number of games for the regular season is ten (10). The GISA President has the authority to allow a team to play eleven (11) games in order to help a member school to fill a schedule.

   Players are limited to 6 quarters or 48 minutes of playing time per week in varsity and JV team competitions. This limitation begins with the varsity game on Friday and is counted through any JV team competition the subsequent Thursday.

4. The GISA President shall set a regular season beginning and ending date.

5. Playoff games will be scheduled by the Athletic Committee and the GISA President.

6. Eighth (8th) graders are ineligible to play against varsity teams and "B" teams that have eleventh (11th) or twelfth (12th) graders playing.
7. The tie-breaking procedure for all region and state playoffs is as follows:
   a. The winner of the coin toss will have the option to be on offense or defense first.
   b. All play will take place on one end of the field as determined by the officials.
   c. The ball will be placed on the 25-yard line and each team will have a series of plays on offense and defense. Teams may make first-downs and will retain possession of the ball until a score is made, the team loses the ball, or the ball goes over on downs. If there is not a winner, the teams alternate choice of being on offense and defense first and each team has another series of downs from the 25-yard line.
   d. After each team has had two possessions and there is still not a winner, the ball will be placed on the 10 yard line and the teams will continue to alternate choice of offense or defense first. The playoff will continue this process from the 10-yard line until a winner is determined.

8. Football fans must be kept at least five (5) yards behind the end zone lines. If this amount of space is not available fans will not be allowed to stand behind the end zone lines.

9. **Pre-season football practice:** The first two days of preseason practice are in helmets and shoulder pads only. Football teams may be allowed to practice together during the second (2nd) week of organized practice with the knowledge and consent of the GISA President. There can be no more than 3 practices during the week and no more than 2 of these practices can be held in one day. Host teams must file a form signed by the coach and/or head of school listing the schools with which they may practice. (The forms must be filed in advance of the start of fall football practice.)

10. Schools who do not comply with established preseason football guidelines will forfeit playoff contention.

11. A pre-season football **game** may be played with another member school under the following guidelines:
   a. There will be only one pre-season scrimmage per school per season. All pre-season scrimmages will operate during the third week of practice.
   b. The GISA President is to be in complete control of all scrimmages. He is to know which teams are playing, place, date, and time.
   c. Officials must be used.
   d. Coaches are on the field for teaching purposes at all times.
   e. No kickoffs.
   f. No punting. Ball is moved thirty (30) yards down field on fourth (4th) down when normal punting situations occur.
   g. No twenty-five (25) second clock between plays.
   h. First downs chains are to be used.
   i. After a score or to start scrimmage, the ball is placed on the thirty (30) yard line.
   j. Either a set number of plays or time limit with a running clock for the length of the scrimmage will be used. This must be agreed upon by the schools involved prior to the scrimmage.

12. The host school will appoint adults to work the chains or hire certified officials.

13. Regions must have a predetermined method of choosing state playoff representatives. In the state playoffs, the region may send up to four (4) teams in each classification. (Highest seed to HOST each round. See bracket rotation if two teams are equally ranked to determine host and/or home schools.)

14. GISA, in accordance with a majority vote of the heads of school, does not allow spring practice.
15. **REGION TIE-BREAKERS**

Each classification has a choice of one of the two following methods and must make their choice known to the GISA Office in writing prior to August 1, of each year.

**CHOICE 1:**

**Two-way tie:**
1. The winner of the regular season head to head match-up will be awarded the highest seed.

**Three-way tie:**
1. Head-to-head is the first tiebreaker, if it will establish seeds.
2. In a three-way tie in which Team A beat Team B, Team B beat Team C, and Team C beat Team A, draw for A, B, & C and play a jamboree-type game or series of games, using the tiebreaker procedure below.
3. a. C gets a bye, while A plays B in Game 1.
   b. C plays winner of Game 1. If C wins, C is highest seed, and winner of Game 1 is next highest seed.
   c. If Game 1 winner wins, then that team is highest seed, and C and Game 1 loser would play for next highest seed, if necessary for placement in brackets.
4. Game will be played on Monday night following last region game at 6:00. Jersey colors, site, and officials will be agreed upon by the coaches of the teams involved and the region secretary or region athletic chair. All details must be worked out by noon of the Saturday prior to the game. There will be 10-minutes allowed between games, and 2-minutes allowed between overtime periods.
5. Admission maximum is $6.00.

**Three-way tie:**

**GISA Tie-Breaking Procedure:**

a. The winner of the coin toss will have the option to be on offense or defense first.

b. All play will take place on one end of the field as determined by the officials.

c. The ball will be placed on the 25-yard line and each team will have a series of plays on offense and defense. Teams may make first downs and will retain possession of the ball until a score is made, the team loses the ball, or the ball goes over on downs. If there is not a winner, the teams alternate choice of being on offense and defense first and each team has another series of downs from the 25-yardline.

d. After each team has had two possessions and there is still not a winner, the ball will be placed on the 10-yard line and the teams will continue to alternate choice of offense or defense first. The playoff will continue this process from the 10-yard line until a winner is determined.

**CHOICE 2:**

**Two-way tie:**
1. The winner of the regular season head to head match-up will be awarded the highest seed.

**Three- or Five-way tie:** Seeds will be awarded according to the following priority.

1. Head to head is the first tiebreaker, if it will establish seeds.
2. Next tiebreaker is won/loss record of the three teams that are tied in games played against common opponents. (All common opponents would be included). Team with the best winning percentage against common opponents would be higher seed, and winner of the head to head game between the other two teams would get the next seed.
3. Next tiebreaker would be the team which has allowed the fewest points in the first half of games with the other two or four teams that they are tied. The team that allowed the fewest points against the other two or four gets the higher seed, and winner of the head to head game between the other tied teams would get the next seed, or revert back to the points allowed system to determine the next position, if necessary.

4. At this point in the priority system, if a 3-way tie still exists, a jamboree would be held on the Monday after the last game of region play has been completed. Procedure would be like Choice 1 above.

16. All JV team football games are to have at least one certified official unless both schools agree otherwise.

17. State Football Play-Off games will be played on a lighted field with a minimum seating capacity of 500. If the field of the home team does not meet these requirements, the home team has the option of arranging another site of their choice if they bear the expense of the other site, or playing on the home field of their opponent.

18. The State Champion and Runner-Up for each classification shall receive appropriate trophies. The All-State selectees shall receive a plaque, one of which must be a kicker.

19. The GISA President will assign officials for state playoff games.

20. The GISA Coaches' Association will select the All-State teams and All-Star teams by ballot subject to the approval of the GISA President. Only eligible seniors may be selected for the All-Star teams.

21. The recommendation by NFHS pertaining to the numbering system of football jerseys is waived.

22. Please note that pads and full contact are prohibited during any workout or practice prior to August start date. Helmets are allowed.

23. Cumulative Unsportsmanlike Conduct for Football Coaches and Players:

   a. Varsity football Coaches may receive two (2) cumulative unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in a season without further increase in sanctions. The third (3rd) unsportsmanlike cumulative penalty will require a $50 fine from the school. The fourth (4th) such penalty mandates a $100 fine and a one game suspension to be served the following previously scheduled game in that sport at the same level. The fifth (5th) penalty warrants a $150 fine and the offending coach is suspended for the following two (2) games. The sixth (6th) penalty will result in a $200 fine and the coach will not be allowed to coach any more in that sport for the season. This rule will not interfere with rules in place regarding ejections, but will be in addition to said rule. (Example: Coach with one accumulated unsportsmanlike penalty receives two such penalties in the same game. Coach will be ejected and miss following game and pay $50 for ejection. Coach would also be fined $50 for third accumulated penalty.) Heads are expected to regulate accumulated unsportsmanlike penalties in a very rigid and responsible manner.

   b. Varsity Football Players may receive two cumulative non-contact unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in a season without further increase in sanctions. The third (3rd) cumulative non-contact unsportsmanlike penalty will result in a one game suspension to be served the following game. The fourth (4th) non-contact unsportsmanlike penalty will result in a two game suspension to be served the following two games, and should there be a fifth (5th) penalty the player is suspended for the remainder of the season. This rule will not interfere with rules in place regarding ejections but will be in addition to said rule. (Example: Player # 1 has one accumulated non-contact unsportsmanlike penalty and receives two (2) more in same game. Player would be ejected and miss following previously scheduled game and pay


$50 fine for ejection. Player would also be suspended for one additional game because of three (3) accumulated non-contact unsportsmanlike penalties.) Any player with known cumulative unsportsmanlike penalty problems construed by the officials to be baiting an opponent will be subject to harsh discipline by the GISA Office, including game suspensions, fines, or game forfeiture.

24. All football games affected by severe weather will be handled as follows:
   a. Region games must be played to completion either that night or at a later date.
   b. Region games extend weather waiting period from one-hour to two-hours for all games.
   c. A non-region game that does not finish first half of play and cannot be completed, will be called a no-contest, and both teams record reflect that game was not played.
   d. A non-region game that does not finish first half of play and cannot be completed, may be completed at a later date with unanimous approval of heads of school and head coaches.
   e. A non-region game that does complete the first half of play and cannot safely be completed in time restraints listed above will be declared a complete game.

25. **GISA FOOTBALL MERCY RULE:**
   If a team is trailing by 30 or more points at halftime, the coach of the trailing team may choose to play the second half with a running clock. Quarters will remain at 12 minutes. If the coach does not exercise the option, the entire third quarter will be played with regulation timing. If a team is trailing by 30 or more points at the end of the third quarter, a running clock is mandated for the entire fourth quarter. A running clock means the clock will be stopped only after a score until the ball is kicked off, during deliberations or penalty administration, and during charged or official’s timeouts.

26. **NFHS Football Jersey Rule Changes** – The **2011 NFHS football jersey rules** will continue to be followed; however, schools are encouraged to comply with the new **2012 NFHS football jersey rules** when they order new uniforms.

27. **Neutral Site for State Football Championship Games** - GISA Interscholastic heads voted (by survey in May 2012) to move all State Football Championship Games to a neutral site.

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**Section 7. Golf**

1. The *United States Golf Association (USGA) Rules of Golf* is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. The GISA State Golf Tournament, or any qualifying elimination, will be 18 holes of medal play.

3. The State Golf Tournament will have a maximum of five (5) players per school, with the four (4) best scores per team counted toward tournament placement. Up to seven (7) names from each school may be submitted for the region tournament with two (2) serving as alternates.

4. The top 4 teams from each region with a **team score of 380 or below** will qualify to participate in the GISA State Tournament.

5. The low medalist from each region and individual golfers that finish in the top 6 in the region, and are not on a qualifying team, would also be invited to the State Tournament.
   a. Golfers that are allowed to participate at the State Tournament because of making All-Region must have shot a 95 or under in the region tournament to qualify for the GISA State Tournament.
6. An award will be presented to the State Champion, Runner Up, and the low medalist (including ties) if there are at least three (3) boys and/or three (3) girls participating in each classification. In addition, the six lowest scorers (including ties) will be awarded an All-State plaque.

7. Participants displaying flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct will be penalized. Penalty for the first offense will be two (2) strokes. Penalty for the second offense in the same competition will be disqualification. Flagrant conduct is throwing clubs, use of profanity, etc.

8. The use of caddies and carts at the region tournament and the GISA State Golf Tournament shall be prohibited (unless prior approval is received for a valid health condition).

9. If boys and girls participate in region and/or state golf competition, boys shall drive from the men’s tee and girls shall drive from the women’s tee. Distance played by the girls shall be equal to 90% of distance played by the boys.

10. Range finders, which compute distance only, as approved by the U.S Golf Association are legal at all regular season matches, region tournaments, and the GISA State Tournament.

Section 8. Soccer

1. The National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Soccer is the official guide with exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

   Regular Season – In region games, if game is tied at the end of regulation, teams will play a 5-minute overtime period. If either team is ahead at the end of the period they are the winner. If teams are still tied, they would play another 5-minute overtime period. If either team is ahead at the end of the period they are the winner. If teams remain tied at the end of the second overtime period, they would use NFHS rules for penalty kicks to determine a winner. In non-region games, if schools decide not to play overtime, they must tell the officials PRIOR to the start of the game.

[For REGION Tie-Breakers see # 9.]

State playoffs prior to the Championship – Teams will play at most two ten-minute periods as described above. Any time a team is ahead at the end of a period, the game is over. If tie still remains after the second overtime period, a shootout will determine team that advances.

State Championship – Teams will play two ten-minute periods as described above. If this does not determine a winner, then teams will play at most two five-minute periods to completion (NOT Golden Goal). If a winner is still not determined after the second five-minute overtime period, a shootout will determine State Champion.

Per NFHS Rules - Penalty Kick Shootout

3. If the score still remains tied all coaches, officials and team captains shall assemble at the halfway line to review the procedure as outlined below:

   a. The head referee shall choose the goal at which all of the kicks from the penalty mark shall be taken.

   b. Each coach will select any five players, including the goalkeeper, on or off the field (except those who may have been disqualified) to take the kicks.

   c. A coin toss shall be held as in Rule 5-2-2(d). The team winning the toss shall have the choice of kicking first or second.

   d. Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.

   e. The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each penalty kick.
Following five kicks for each team, the team scoring on the greatest number of these kicks shall be declared the winner.

Add one goal to the winning team score and credit the team with a victory. An asterisk (*) may be placed by the team advancing to indicate the advancement was the result of a tie breaker system.

3. No school shall compete in more than eighteen (18) regular season contests and one (1) tournament (3 games maximum).

4. Officials for all varsity and JV team games must be certified by the GISA President.

5. Each school must input its schedule on the GISA STATS web site no later than February 1 for girls’ and boys’ spring soccer. Any school making a schedule change after the schedule has been filed shall notify the GISA President of such changes.

6. A Championship Final Four format will be used for the Semi-Finals and Finals in Soccer. Both rounds will be held at a neutral site with Semi-Finals on Friday and Championships on Saturday.

7. Names of officials for the state tournament should be solicited from member schools and consideration given to officials from more than one association and area.

8. All-State and/or All-Star teams shall be selected by the soccer coaches subject to the approval of the GISA President. The All-State boys and All-State girls teams will receive a plaque or trophy, one of which must be a goalkeeper.

9. The State Champion and Runner-Up shall receive appropriate trophies.

10. **REGION TIE-BREAKER:** If the soccer region has not approved its own tie-breaker rules for regular season standings, the following procedure will be used:

**TIE-BREAKER**

1. Head-to-Head
2. Head-to-Head Goal Differential (max 5 Goals per game)
3. Head-to-Head Goals Scored (max 5 Goals per game)
4. Least Goals Allowed in Region Play
5. Overall Goal Differential in Region Play (max 5 goals per game with 3 teams)
6. If teams are still tied then both teams are declared region co-champions and coin toss by GISA Official or playoff if a team would not make the playoffs.
   - Coin toss to determine home field
   - Play championship rules for overtime

11. **Cumulative Yellow Cards for Soccer Coaches and Players:**

As always, **two yellow cards in any game equals a red card and constitutes an ejection.** Any fan asked to leave the premises, or acting in a manner subjecting an official to an undue threat by physical or verbal assault will be treated as an ejection, and at the very least, the school will be fined $50, and said fan will not be allowed to attend the next game played by their team.

a. **Varsity Soccer Coaches** may receive two (2) cumulative unsportsmanlike yellow cards in a season without further increase in sanctions. The 3rd unsportsmanlike yellow card will require a $50 fine from the school. The 4th such yellow card mandates a $100 school fine and a one (1) game suspension to be served on the following game in that sport at the same level. The 5th yellow card warrants a $150 school fine and the offending coach is suspended from the following two (2) games. The 6th unsportsmanlike yellow card will result in a $200 school fine and the coach will not be allowed to coach any more in that sport for the season. This rule will not interfere with rules in place regarding ejections (red cards), but will be in addition to said rule. (*Example:* Coach with one accumulated yellow card receives two
yellow cards in same game. Coach would miss the following previously scheduled game and pay $50 fine for ejection, and pay $50 fine for 3rd accumulated yellow card.)

Heads are expected to accumulated yellow cards in a very rigid and responsible manner.

b. Varsity Soccer Players may receive four (4) cumulative yellow cards in a season without further increase in sanctions. The 5th cumulative yellow card will result in one (1) game suspension to be served the following game. The 6th cumulative yellow card will result in a two (2) game suspension to be served the following two games, and should there be a 7th cumulative yellow card, the player is suspended for the remainder of the season. This rule will not interfere with rules in place regarding ejections (red cards), but will be in addition to said rule. (Example: Player has three accumulated yellow cards and receives two more in same game. Player would be ejected and miss following previously scheduled game and pay $50 fine for ejection. Player would also be suspended for one additional game for five accumulated yellow cards.) Any player construed by the officials to be baiting an opponent with known cumulative yellow card problems will be subject to harsh discipline by the GISA Office, including game suspensions, fines, and game forfeitures.

Should a team participate in the playoffs, their players will be allowed an additional yellow card prior to sanctions beginning. Sanctions will apply as listed above, they will begin with the 6th yellow card instead of 5th. This addition will take place once the playoffs begin and will not change any regular season sanctions already in effect. (Example: A player has four yellow cards during the regular season and receives one yellow card in a playoff game, the player will be allowed to play the following game, but should the player receive a 6th yellow card the player would miss the following game.)

12. GISA SOCCER MERCY RULE:
If a team is 10 or more goals behind at the 20-minute mark of the first half, that will be considered the end of the first half, and the teams will play a 20-minute second half. If a team is 10 or more goals behind at halftime, the second half will be restricted to 20-minutes. When a team is 15 or more goals behind in the second half, the game will be ended.

Section 9. Softball (Girls):

1. The National Federation of High School (NFHS) Rules of Softball is the official rules with exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. Officials for all varsity games must come from an association approved by the GISA President.

3. Officials for all state eliminations will be assigned and approved by the GISA President.

4. The home or host team designates the site and time of the game and will furnish the game balls.

5. A team may play in one tournament (6 game limit) in addition to region and state tournaments. If a team plays in more than one tournament, all games in the additional tournaments will count against their twenty (20) game regular season limit on a per games played basis.

6. The visiting team or any team traveling will be responsible for its own travel and expenses.

7. Wilson NFHS approved softball is the official ball of the GISA

8. A double base is prohibited to be used as a first base.

9. The State Champion and Runner-Up in each classification shall receive appropriate trophies. The All-State selectees shall receive a plaque.
10. The GISA Coaches Association shall select the All-Star teams subject to the approval of the GISA President. Only eligible seniors may be selected for the All-Star teams.

11. The distance between bases is 60-feet. The distance from the pitchers rubber to home plate is 43-feet for varsity. Regular season fence placement must comply with NFHS regulations. The outfield fence will be set at 200-feet during the state playoffs. The GISA President may waive this rule if fields meeting this requirement cannot be found.

12. Catchers must wear a mask, throat protector, chest or body protector, shin guards that offer protection to the kneecaps, and a helmet with ear flaps. An extended wire mask can be worn in lieu of a throat protector attached to the mask. The ice hockey style mask is approved for use by catchers. If the umpire feels there is not adequate throat protection built into the mask, a throat attachment must be added to the mask before using. Fast pitch catchers cannot wear the plastic face mask/guard.

13. Metal cleats are allowed in GISA softball.

14. Teams are required to use the “on deck circle” deemed safest for player, without regard for team dugout placement.

15. Courtesy runners are allowed in fast pitch softball as a timesaving device for pitchers and catchers only. The same runner cannot be used to run for both positions. Participation as a courtesy runner does not constitute entry into the game and does not count as a game played.

16. Playoff Field Conditions: Teams hosting state playoff games must meet the following field conditions:
   a. Baseball pitching mound must be removed
   b. Sliding areas around bases must be cut out.

17. Games that are not considered regulation must be resumed at the exact point they were stopped. Games stopped due to inclement weather, or other reasons, should not be delayed more than a reasonable amount of time. If this situation exists, follow Rule 1b under Section 4, Special Provisions in the GISA Rules & Regulations.

18. All state tournaments will be either a double elimination format or best two-out-of-three games.

19. All state tournaments will be either a double elimination format or best two-out-of-three games.

20. Run-Rules: The fifteen-runs ahead after three innings; twelve-runs ahead after four innings; or eight-runs ahead after five innings applies in all regular season and Playoff games including the State Championship Game.

21. If after seven innings of play, the game is tied, the following tie-breaker rule will be played to determine a winning team. Each half inning thereafter will begin with the final batter from the preceding inning being placed on second base (e.g., if the number 5 batter is scheduled as the lead-off batter, the number 4 batter will be placed on second base). Any substitute for this runner must comply with substitution rules.

22. Softball playoffs will be the best 2 out of 3 games until the Final Four. All 1st and 2nd round games will be played at higher seed, with all three possible games scheduled for that day.

23. The Final Four in each classification will be a double-elimination tournament until only two (2) teams remain.
24. **State Championship** in each classification will be a best 2-of-3 series with both teams beginning the
day at 0-0. Undefeated team from Final Four will have the option of being home team in Games 1
and “I” Game, with the other team having the option of being home team in Game 2.

**Section 10. Swimming**

1. The *United States Swimming (USS) Rules and Regulations* shall be the official rules for all GISA
competitions with special exceptions noted in this section. Meet format may vary from USS
guidelines in order to meet certain specific GISA rules and regulations.

2. *United States Swimming Rules* regarding uniforms (suits) must be observed. If swimmers wear a
cap, it must follow *United States Swimming* guidelines. Each school should select a suit and cap
to be worn by all swimmers during competition. No jewelry will be allowed except Medic-Alert
items.

3. 8th graders are eligible to compete at the varsity level.

4. GISA Swimming is a non-classification event.

5. Boys and girls will compete for separate team and individual championships.

6. Bids for the GISA State Meet will be considered at the September meeting of the GISA Athletic
Committee in the preceding year.

7. Teams shall not enter any meet unless approved by the GISA President prior to November 1st of the
school year of participation.

8. The GISA President will appoint a meet director for the State Meet, and must approve the site, time,
and arrangements for the State Meet.

9. After the GISA President appoints a meet director, the meet director will then appoint all required
personnel to successfully run a smooth and efficient meet. Those appointed will include: referee,
starters, stroke and turn judges, clerk of the course, finish judges, umpire, timers, announcer, scorers,
award presenters, record keepers, and others as may be deemed necessary.

10. **2015 GISA Championship Time Standards:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARSITY EVENT</th>
<th>TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event 3</td>
<td>Girls 200 Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 4</td>
<td>Boys 200 Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 5</td>
<td>Girls 200 IM</td>
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<td>Event 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 15</td>
<td>Girls 100 Back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 16</td>
<td>Boys 100 Back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 17</td>
<td>Girls 100 Breast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 18</td>
<td>Boys 100 Breast</td>
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<tr>
<td>EVENT</td>
<td>TIME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event 5</td>
<td>Girls 100 IM</td>
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<td>Event 6</td>
<td>Boys 100 IM</td>
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<td>Boys 50 Back</td>
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<td>Event 17</td>
<td>Girls 50 Breast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event 18</td>
<td>Boys 50 Breast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Denotes a change from last years’ time standard.

Time standards are taken from the 30th place time at the Championship Meet. In any year when the 30th place time in an events get faster, the next year’s qualifying time in that event will change accordingly.

11. Only GISA and school certified eligible, varsity level athletes (Grades 8-12, inclusive) may participate in the State Meet.

12. All athletes must meet qualification requirements to swim in the GISA State Meet. Rosters of participants in these qualifying meets must be sent to the State meet director by the host(s) of the preliminary meets so entries can be verified. This must be done at least two (2) weeks prior to the entry deadline for the State Championship Meet.

13. No contestant will be allowed to enter a meet if the contestant is not accompanied during the entire meet by a faculty member from the school the contestant attends.

14. All schools must forward their individual meet schedules to the GISA Office before October 15th of each year.

15. All meets held prior to the State Meet must have advanced written permission of the GISA President. These meets may include all participating teams or be invitational by geographic region. They must include a minimum of two (2) GISA teams. Participating GISA schools, which have access to appropriate pool facilities, may host these meets. At a meet hosted by a school, such school may provide awards. The meet, awards, etc. will be the financial responsibility of the host school. The awards presented for the State Championship will be the responsibility of the GISA Office.

16. All swimmers must attend a GISA Meet to be eligible for the State Meet.

17. A school may enter an unlimited number of relay teams per relay event, but only two (2) teams per school may score.

18. Schools may enter their relay teams without individual names. Only swimmers that actually compete will count as an entry toward allowable number of events.

19. A swimmer may enter a maximum of five (5) events. The combinations are as follows: 3 individual events and 2 relays.

20. In the event that qualifying rounds must be held, the 500-yd Freestyle will be first, followed by the normal order of events in any event that qualifying is required. A pre-determined allowable
amount of time must be allowed for swimmers during qualification and between qualification and finals.

21. **Order of Events** (girls’ events precede boys’ events.)

   1. 200-Yd Medley Relay
   2. 200-Yd Freestyle
   3. 200-Yd Individual Medley
   4. 50-Yd Freestyle
   5. 100-Yd Butterfly
   6. 100-Yd Freestyle
   7. 500-Yd Freestyle
   8. 100-Yd Backstroke
   9. 100-Yd Breaststroke
   10. 200-Yd Freestyle Relay

22. Points will be scored based on the order of finish to determine the first and second place teams at the State Meet. Scoring will be as follows:

   Individual Events: 9 – 7 – 6 – 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1
   Relays: 18 – 14 – 12 – 10 – 8 – 6 – 4 – 2

23. The host school for any meet (including the State Meet) will provide responsible persons to collect admission and provide adequate security and be responsible for any costs involved. The admission price will include the program (heat sheet). Proceeds shall be used to defray meet expenses, security, trophies, etc. (Should there be a surplus after expenses from admission, $75.00 of the monies available may be retained by the host school and the remaining balance shall be forwarded to the GISA Office.)

24. The host school is responsible for all financial liabilities, if any, and must be certain that all individuals have sufficient liability insurance prior to allowing swimmers to participate. The host school for the State Meet should mail meet information to all participating schools at least three (3) weeks prior to the entry deadline. All entries for the State Meet must arrive at the host school by 9:00 am on the Monday immediately preceding the State Meet.

25. Individual awards signifying All-State will be given to both girls and boys 1st place winners in each event. In order to receive an All-State award, a minimum of four (4) swimmers must have competed in the individual event. Appropriate State Champion and Runner-Up team trophies will be given to both girls and boys. Ribbons will be awarded for 1st through 8th place in individual events and relays.

**Section 11. Tennis (Boys and Girls):**

1. The *United States Tennis Association (USTA) Rules of Tennis* is the official guide with exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. Tennis requires two (2) players for the doubles and one (1) player for singles. A boy or girl may not participate in both singles and doubles in the State Tennis Tournament.

3. Regulation tennis shoes must be worn by all contestants in the State Tennis Tournament, or be approved by the tournament director prior to the beginning of play.

4. Participants displaying flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct will be penalized. Penalty for first offense will be loss of game. Penalty for second offense in the same match will be disqualification. Flagrant misconduct is defined, but not limited to, throwing racquets, profanity, etc.

5. Rules regarding tardiness and coaching will be consistent with GISA rules and distributed to all schools at the meeting prior to the beginning of the tournament.
STATE INDIVIDUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

1. 1st through 4th place winners in singles and doubles as determined in each region will be invited to participate in the State Individual Tennis Tournament. This applies regardless of which school(s) these students attend within a given region.

2. Twelve (12) All-State plaques will be awarded for singles and doubles players who reach the semifinals (per gender, per classification – 4 singles and 8 doubles).

3. The State Individual Tennis Tournament will be conducted as follows:
   - **Day One** – Two rounds. Classification start times will be announced.
   - **Day Two** – Semifinals and Championship matches for both classifications.
     - All matches will be best 2 of 3 sets, with 12-point tiebreaker in effect at 6-6.

STATE TEAM TENNIS TOURNAMENT

1. Separate team championships for girls and boys will be decided by team play.

2. Each region will send their team region champion to a one-day GISA State Team Tournament to determine a State Champion and State Runner-Up.

3. The format for all rounds of the GISA State Team Tennis Tournament will be three (3) singles and two (2) doubles matches. Any team not having one or more of these positions will have automatic losses for every position not fielded and opponent receives one (1) point for each forfeited match.
   - a. A player may play in only one (1) singles match or in only one (1) doubles match.
   - b. No player is permitted to play in both a singles and a doubles match.
   - c. Substitution is NOT permitted once a match has officially begun. If any injury occurs during play that prevents a player from completing the match, that player defaults and the opponent is awarded the victory.

4. All matches at state will be best 2 of 3 sets, with 12-point tiebreaker in effect in any set (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) when set score reaches 6-6.

5. Each region will select the method used to determine region champion prior to the beginning of the tennis season. The following methods are suggested:
   - a. Team that has the best record in region tennis matches during regular season using format described.
   - b. Team that wins the team region tournament, if region has one.

6. **LINE-UP for State Team Tournament:**
   Based on the integrity of the coach whose team qualifies for the State Team Tournament – the coach must submit their lineup to the GISA Office one week prior to the State Team Tournament. The roster will include:
   - a. Three (3) singles players, listed in proper position, with the best player as # 1, next best as # 2, and next best as # 3.
   - b. Two (2) doubles teams listed with the best as # 1, and the next best as # 2.
   - c. Roster adjustments can be made between rounds of the State Team Tennis Tournament as long as (a) and (b) above are not violated.
d. Alternates are to be designated on the roster submitted to the GISA Office. See (e) below for how alternates may be used.

e. All changes or substitutions from the original roster (submitted one week prior to the tournament) must be submitted in writing to the GISA representative at least 30 minutes, earlier if possible, prior to the match, to give time for checking and approval.

f. The Games Committee will be appointed by GISA to assist the GISA representative and to review decisions made concerning approval or disapproval of change should either involved coach request a ruling.

7. A team winning three (3) matches of the five (5) possible (3 singles-2 doubles) will be declared the winner. All teams must have at least a total of three (3) singles or doubles teams eligible to compete, or the match is a forfeit, and will be scored as 3-0.

8. All matches must be stopped, in all rounds prior to the State Championship round, as soon as a team has won three (3) matches and the score recorded at that point (i.e. 3-0, 3-1, or 3-2).

9. If a region team tennis tournament is held, rules and procedures must be consistent with GISA state tennis rules.

10. In regular season matches, if the region so chooses or the schools agree in advance (as long as region rules are not violated), an 8-Game pro set format is allowed instead of the best 2 of 3 sets format. In this format the first player to win 8 games by a margin or two (2) games wins the set. If the score reaches 8-8, then the usual 12-point tiebreaker will be used. This format would be useful if time and/or court space is a consideration.

Section 12. Track & Field

1. The National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Track and Field is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. Teams shall not enter any track meets and/or relays unless the GISA President has approved such.

3. There will be sixteen (16) track and field events for boys. The order of the running events will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS TRACK EVENTS</th>
<th>BOYS FIELD EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600-Meter Run</td>
<td>Shot Put (12 lbs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800-Meter Run</td>
<td>High Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3200-Meter Run</td>
<td>Discus – (3 lbs., 8.438 oz.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-Meter Relay</td>
<td>Triple Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110-Meter High Hurdles 39&quot;</td>
<td>Long Jump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-Meter Dash</td>
<td>Pole Vault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-Meter Dash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 Meter Hurdles 36&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-Meter Dash</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-Meter Relay</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. There will be sixteen (16) track and field events for **girls**. The order of the running events will be as follows:

**GIRLS TRACK EVENTS**
- 1600-Meter Run
- 800-Meter Run
- 3200-Meter Run
- 400-Meter Relay
- 100-Meter High Hurdles 33"
- 100-Meter Dash
- 400-Meter Dash
- 300-Meter Dash 30"
- 200-Meter Dash
- 1600-Meter Relay

**GIRLS FIELD EVENTS**
- Shot Put (8 lbs., 13 oz.)
- High Jump
- Discus – (2 lbs. 3.274 oz.)
- Triple Jump
- Long Jump
- Pole Vault

5. The Games Committee will meet to determine format for State Meet and format will be released by GISA Office as soon as possible.

6. A contestant in track may enter in a maximum all relays and any three individual events.

7. The start time schedule and order of events will be distributed to each school participating in the meet prior to the start of the meet.

8. Each school may enter two (2) contestants in each event.

9. Eight places will be scored in the State Meet. First place shall count ten (10) points; second place, eight (8) points; third place, six (6) points; fourth place, five (5) points; fifth place, four (4) points; sixth place, three (3) points; seventh place, two (2) points; and eighth place, one (1) point.

10. First through fourth place winners in the region meet will qualify for the State Meet in each classification.

11. No contestant may participate in the State Meet unless certified by the region secretary of his/her region.

12. Relay teams will not be disqualified due to insignificant differences in uniforms. Otherwise, official track rules governing uniforms must be observed.

13. Schools which finish first and second in total points will be awarded trophies in the State Meet. Individual awards will be awarded to first place winners. **A State Championship medal will be awarded to 1st Place and medals will be awarded to 2nd through 4th places. Ribbons will be awarded to 5th through 8th places.**

14. All ties at the State Track Meet will be broken using the current *National Federation Track & Field Rule Book* as to procedures and/or methods of breaking said ties. **NOTE:** Generic ribbons will be given in case of ties, with presenter determining by coin toss which participant receives original ribbon with printed event, and which will receive the generic ribbon with event name written on the back.

15. Arcs for throwing sectors will be the following as per state adoption of NFHS rules: **Discus & Shot Put – 34.92 degrees.** This is required for all region and state qualifiers, and the GISA State Meet.
Section 13. Volleyball (Girls)

1. The *National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Volleyball* is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. No volleyball team or individual player shall play more than twenty (20) regular season playing dates during which they may play no more than 30 matches. Preseason or regular season tournaments will count as one playing date. This does not include region or state tournaments.

3. All GISA matches are to be a best of five (5) format using the rally-scoring format to a point total of 25 (winning team must have a two-point margin). Game 5 will begin with score 10-10 and will also be played to 25.

4. All varsity volleyball matches should begin as follows:
   a. Dual-Matches must start no later than 8:00 p.m.
   b. Tri-Matches must start no later than 7:00 p.m.
   c. Quad-Matches must start no later than 6:00 p.m.

5. Artificial noisemakers are banned from gymnasiums in regular season and tournament games. The head of the host school or tournament director must authorize use of any musical instruments in advance. No band or musical instruments can be played while the ball is in play.

6. Consideration for schools with difficulties for late Friday and Saturday play was approved by the heads. Schedules will be adjusted as applicable.

7. The officials in all matches shall be registered with GISA and have complete control over all features of the game.

8. In region and state tournaments, no teams shall have the privilege of placing their scorer at or near the position occupied by the official scorer.

9. In region and state tournaments the committee or person in charge shall secure the services of a competent scorer.

10. The number of entries in the GISA state tournament shall consist of the region champions and the next 3 finishers of each region.

11. In all games of the state tournament, two officials shall be assigned by the GISA President. Coaches are encouraged to recommend preferred officials.

12. The State Champion and Runner-Up shall receive appropriate trophies. The All-State selectees shall receive a plaque.

13. Cumulative Yellow Cards for Volleyball Coaches and Players:
    **As always, three yellow cards in any game equals a red card and constitutes an ejection.** Any fan asked to leave the premises, or acting in a manner subjecting an official to an undue threat by physical or verbal assault will be treated as an ejection and at the very least, the school will be fined $50, and said fan will not be allowed to attend the next game played by their team.

   a. **Varsity Volleyball Coaches** may receive three (3) cumulative unsportsmanlike yellow cards in a season without further increase in sanctions. The 4th unsportsmanlike yellow card will require a $50 fine from the school. The 5th such yellow card mandates a $100 school fine and a one (1) game suspension to be served on the following game in that sport at the same level. The 6th yellow card warrants a $150 school fine and the offending coach is suspended from the following two (2) games. The 7th unsportsmanlike yellow card will result in a $200 school fine and the coach will not be allowed to coach
any more in that sport for the season. This rule will not interfere with rules in place regarding ejections (red cards), but will be in addition to said rule. **(Example:** Coach with one accumulated yellow card receives three yellow cards in same game. Coach would miss the following previously scheduled game and pay $50 fine for ejection, and pay $50 fine for 4th accumulated yellow card.) Heads are expected to regulate sub-varsity accumulated yellow cards in a very rigid and responsible manner.

b. **Varsity Volleyball Players** may receive four (4) cumulative yellow cards in a season without further increase in sanctions. The 5th cumulative yellow card will result in a one (1) game suspension to be served the following game. The 6th cumulative yellow card will result in a two (2) game suspension to be served the following two games, and should there be a 7th cumulative yellow card, the player is suspended for the remainder of the season. This rule will not interfere with rules in place regarding ejections (red cards), but will be in addition to said rule. **(Example:** Player has two (2) accumulated yellow cards and receives three more in same game. Player would be ejected and miss following previously scheduled game and pay $50 fine for ejection. Player would also be suspended for one additional game for five (5) accumulated yellow cards.) Any player construed by the officials to be baiting an opponent with known cumulative yellow card problems will be subject to very severe discipline by the GISA Office, including game suspensions, fines, and game forfeitures.

14. Ties

a. Head-to-head advantage will be used to break all ties.

b. If tie still exists for:

- Last play-off spot with at least one (1) school being eliminated, a play-off match will be held in the following manner:

  2-Teams: Coin toss to determine site
  3-Teams: Coin toss to determine site, and bye with other two schools playing; with winner playing school that received bye.
  4-Teams: Coin toss to determine site and pairings for single elimination tournament.

- Ties that do not eliminate any team will be broken by game results in head-to-head competition. **EXAMPLE:** A team winning 3-to-1 and losing 3-to-2 would be a higher seed because they had one more total game. If game results fail to determine winner, then a coin toss will be held.

Section 14. **Wrestling**

1. The *National Federation (NFHS) Rules of Wrestling* is the official guide with the exceptions as may be found in this section.

2. Teams shall not enter any meet unless approved in advance by the GISA President.

3. Notification of entry in wrestling must be filed in the GISA Office no later than October 1 of the year of participation. Schedules must be submitted by December 1.

4. Wrestling rules governing uniforms must be observed. Wrestlers are allowed to compete at the state individual tournaments in any school-issued uniform, as long as it is a regulation uniform.

5. The wrestling season will be from November 15 until the State Championship has been awarded.
6. Teams may schedule sixteen (16) wrestling dates for competition prior to the state tournament.

7. A practice shall involve only eligible students in member school and their approved coaches.

8. Wrestling matches in practice must adhere to NFHS and GISA rules, and will involve only team members. (Specifically not allowed, is someone from other schools, or other sports, etc.)

9. Weight classifications shall be as follows:
   a. 106 lbs 120 lbs 132 lbs 145 lbs 160 lbs 182 lbs 220 lbs
   b. 113 lbs 126 lbs 138 lbs 152 lbs 170 lbs 195 lbs 285 lbs

10. GISA does not approve any practice or method of weight loss that endangers the health and safety of wrestlers. Crash dieting, the use of diuretics and other drugs for weight reduction, the use of a sweat box, any type of vinyl or plastic sweat suit or bag, hot showers, whirlpool, or any type of artificial heat device for weight reduction is prohibited.

11. GISA uses the NFHS Weight Management System. The National Wrestling Coaches Association Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC) will be used to monitor weight. The OPC can be accessed at www.trackwrestling.com

12. Weigh-ins will be on the date of the meet and must be conducted with accurate scales. Wrestling officials can request that a wrestler be weighed if they do not think the wrestler is near the weight that was sent in by satellite weight earlier in the day. If wrestler is not within + or – 6 pounds of submitted weight, the wrestler cannot compete that day.

13. According to the National Federation provisions for state adoptions, there will be a two-pound growth allowance in place after January 1.

14. Only two (2) coaches per school will be allowed at mat side for coaching purposes. Coaches may only coach wrestlers from their school at mat side.

15. At all regular season and state tournaments, full wrestle backs may be held. At the State Tournament, consolation pairings shall be wrestle back from quarterfinals, cross-bracket from semifinals.

16. When a coach, athlete, or fan is charged with a flagrant misconduct penalty, that individual must go to a location outside the “sight and sound” of the competitive area, and can have no interactions with anyone associated with the team. (Same as an ejection in other sports, a $50 fine and cannot be seen or heard at the next match).

17. The State Tournament will be scored according to NFHS rules.

18. The State Champion and Runner-Up will be determined at the State Individual Tournament by points scored. The State Champion and State Runner-Up shall receive trophies consistent with other GISA winners. 1st thru 6th place winners in the Championship Division will receive appropriate medals.

19. Seeding will be determined by region tournament with top 4 from each region advancing to state.

20. The GISA strongly recommends that mats be disinfected a minimum of three (3) times per week with a medically-approved cleansing solution.

21. Provisions should be made to have medical assistance at meets. If this is impossible, emergency services should have been placed on-call.
22. Brackets for State Individual Tournament will use all six yearly brackets. Weight class using Year 1, etc. will be determined by draw at GISA Office after region tournaments concludes.
LITERARY & MUSIC

Section 1.

The State Literary Committee working under the rules and regulations set forth in the By-Laws and Regulations of GISA (Interscholastic) shall have entire charge of the operation of the State Literary Meet, and the selection of Judges and Officials for each event. In regional elimination, the Region Literary Chairman and the Region Secretary-Treasurer will serve as co-chairmen. They shall:

a. Provide a timekeeper in each event in which there is a time limit to be observed. It shall be the duty of the timekeeper to keep an accurate account of the time the contestant is consuming.
b. Provide a stopwatch for each timekeeper who shall call time for each contestant when the time limit is reached.
c. The timekeeper shall be stationed in full view of the contestant. By use of cards the contestant will be informed when minimum time is reached, when one minute is remaining and when time is up. The notification when time is up will be audible for piano competition since the contestant cannot see the timekeeper. If the contestant stops when time is called, he or she will not be disqualified.
d. Provide one or more judges in various events and give the judges a written copy of the rules concerning the judging of that particular event.
e. Inform each contestant where and when to appear for a contest.
f. On timed events, have an adult record the time used on each judge’s evaluation sheet for each individual contestant.

Section 2.

In Region and State Literary Events, a system of judging and ranking will be used to determine order of finish. Scores will be used in the event of a tie. The contestants or schools shall be identified by number only. No contestant or school name shall be used until all judge’s evaluation sheets have been submitted for final points tabulation.

Section 3.

Each contest shall be judged on merit according to points set out as essential for judging that contest.

Section 4.

All mistakes due to errors in arithmetic, or made contrary to the rules of the contest, and discovered before or after the decision of the judges, shall be corrected. Such corrections in Region and State Meets must be made within forty-eight (48) hours after such meets.

Section 5.

Due to copyright laws, no type of music duplication will be permitted. A letter from the publisher authorizing duplication is acceptable. Internet purchases from legitimate publishers must include a proof of purchase or receipt.

Videotaping is permitted only with advanced knowledge and approval of Event Coordinator or Director. Should permission be granted to videotape, it may only be done with one’s own contestant(s) or school. Videotaping of another school’s performance is strictly prohibited.
Section 6. Literary Points and Trophies:

1. Championship, First and Second Runner-Up trophies will be presented for One-Act Play and Spring Literary & Music competitions. For Debate, trophies will be presented for Champion, First Runner-Up and two Semi-Finalists.

2. In Spring Region or State Literary and Music Competitions where a single sex school (100% male or 100% female enrollment) is in competition the scoring will be done on a percentage basis. For a single sex school 84 points shall be the base; for a co-ed school 98 points shall be the base. The winner shall be the school with the highest percentage of points.

3. Individual winners will receive awards for first place only in the State Meet. Region first and second place winners in all events are to compete in the State Literary Meet.

Section 7. Literary Participants:

1. Each school may have only one (1) contestant or contesting team in each of the following events:

   - One-Act Play
   - Piano
   - Debate (Two entries per school)
   - Trio (Girls)
   - Extemporaneous Speaking (U.S.)
   - Solo (Boys)
   - Extemporaneous Speaking (Int'l)
   - Solo (Girls)
   - Oral Interpretation (Dramatic)
   - Quartet (Boys)
   - Oral Interpretation (Humorous)
   - Personal Essay (Non-gender)
   - Duo Interpretation
   - Argumentative Essay (Non-gender)
   - Spelling
   - Rhetorical Analysis Essay (Non-gender)

2. A student would not be allowed to do both individual events in Extemporaneous Speaking and Oral Interpretation.

3. A student may represent his or her school in not more than two (2) events in which he or she performs alone. There will be no limit on performing in group events.

4. In all Interpretation, Vocal and Piano events contestants must perform the same selection at Region and State.

5. Each Region must determine a first and second place winner for each event to represent the Region in the State Literary Events. All ties from the Region level must be resolved prior to the State Events.

6. There is no minimum number of events that a school must enter in Region Literary Events.

Section 8. Notice of Entry in Literary Events:

1. Each school wishing to enter any Literary Event must notify the Region Literary Chairman in writing. Notification must be postmarked no later than twenty (20) calendar days prior to the Region contest in that event.

2. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification without recourse.
Section 9. **Literary Eligibility Reports:**

1. It is the responsibility of the Region Secretary and/or Region Literary Chairman to determine if a literary contestant is on the eligibility list certified by the GISA President.

2. Eligibility reports for all literary events are due in the office of the GISA President not later than ten (10) days prior to the Region contest in the event in which the contestant will compete.

3. Late reports must be accompanied by a late fee of $10 per report.

Section 10. **Region Literary Meets:**

1. Each school participating in the Region Literary and Music Events will provide one (1) staff member to assist the Region Literary Chairman in the conduct of the meet.

2. The Region Secretary or his appointed person, and the Region Literary Chairman, will have the authority to disqualify participants who fail to follow the *GISA (Interscholastic) Rules and Regulations*.

3. The Region Literary Chairman must file an official notice for the plays and students qualifying for the State One-Act Play Competition, Debate Tournament, and Literary and Music Events with the GISA Office immediately after completion of the Region Event.

Section 11. **One-Act Play Competition:**

1. Each school wishing to enter the One-Act Play Competition must notify the Region Literary Chairman in writing no later than twenty (20) days prior to the Region contest.

2. **Considerations at State One-Act Plays:**
   - A schedule for unloading will be provided by the GISA Office prior to the State competition.
   - Schools will have 15-minutes from the time the previous school clears the wings until they should be ready to begin.
   - Spiking of the stage is prohibited.
   - Microphone use by speakers or singers on stage is prohibited.
   - No oral critiques will be made at the State competitions.
   - Videotaping is permitted only with advanced knowledge and approval of Event Coordinator or Director. Should permission be granted to videotape, it may only be done with one's own contestant(s) or school. Videotaping of another school's performance is strictly prohibited.

3. **Contest Rules:**
   - a. Schools may enter a cutting or abridgement of a play or musical as their One-Act Play selection.
   - b. Schools choosing to enter musical productions shall not use a reproduction of the cast recording as part of the production. Musical accompaniment may be performed live or with an accompaniment CD. (This does not include background music, intros, sound effects, etc.) No recorded vocals are allowed.
c. Proof of performance rights and payment of royalties must be submitted to the Region Literary Chair prior to the Region One-Act Play Competition. Schools performing a cutting or abridgement of a play must also provide written permission from the publisher to cut the play. No play will be allowed to perform without proof of royalties and/or rights paid. GISA shall in no way be responsible for any faults that may occur with rights and/or royalties.

d. Schools performing original scripts or plays in the public domain shall be exempt from the rule regarding rights and royalties.

e. No school shall be permitted to perform the same play selection in consecutive years.

f. Each school will be given 55-minutes to set-up, perform, and strike its production. Any play which exceeds the above time limit will be disqualified immediately without recourse.

g. There are no restrictions on costumes, properties, and scenery. Properties are defined as any handheld items used on stage apart from the scenery. Scenery is defined as the physical structures used to stimulate an environment set forth in the play including furniture, platforms, wagons, flats, etc.

h. Timing will start when a school begins to move into the acting area and will continue until the acting area is cleared at the end of the play. Each school must begin with a standard intro which includes school number, name of play, author of the play and an audible “Start Time” before beginning any performance. At the conclusion of the play and removal of all set items there must be an audible, “Stop Time.”

i. If a play in the opinion of all three judges, contains profane or obscene language and/or gestures it will be disqualified by the judges without recourse.

j. No ineligible person shall be visible on stage in the acting area as part of the production nor shall offer conspicuous direction. This also includes no directors on stage in the acting area to start or stop the play. An adult may be an accompanist on a musical instrument if that person is off stage.

3. Judges:

a. There shall be three (3) certified judges for this event.

b. Judges shall sit apart during the performances. They shall score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges may discuss individual, group, and production awards after all performances have been completed and team score sheets have been turned in for tabulations.

c. Judges shall hold all evaluations sheets until after all schools have performed.

d. Judges shall avoid contact with directors or cast members until after all schools have performed.

4. Awards:

a. The sum of the rankings from the judges shall determine first (Champion), second (First Runner-Up), third (Second Runner-Up). Ties will be broken by point totals.

b. Champion, First and Second Runner-Up trophies will be presented. Plaques will be awarded to the five (5) Best Performances regardless of gender.
5. The Champion and First Runner-Up from each Region will advance to the State One-Act Play Competition.

Section 12. Debate – POLICY & PUBLIC FORUM:

A. POLICY DEBATE

1. Policy Debate will be non-classified (not divided into classifications).

2. Region Eligibility:

   a. Each school wishing to enter Region Debate Competition shall enter either one or two, two-man teams debating both sides of the question.

   b. A school is eligible to enter the Region Tournament if the two debaters it presents have competed in debate in at least one GISA approved debate tournament within two years. Tournaments approved by the GISA for Region qualifying will be published on the GISA web site by September 1 of each school year.

   c. At all contests, time and order of all speeches within each round will be as follows:

   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speech Role</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Affirmative Constructive Speaker</td>
<td>8 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Examination of First Affirmative by Second Negative</td>
<td>3 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Negative Constructive Speaker</td>
<td>8 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Examination of First Negative by First Affirmative</td>
<td>3 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Affirmative Constructive Speaker</td>
<td>8 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Examination of Second Affirmative by First Negative</td>
<td>3 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Negative Constructive Speaker</td>
<td>8 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Examination of Second Negative by Second Affirmative</td>
<td>3 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Negative Rebuttal Speaker</td>
<td>5 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Affirmative Rebuttal Speaker</td>
<td>5 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Negative Rebuttal Speaker</td>
<td>5 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Affirmative Rebuttal Speaker</td>
<td>5 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   d. Each debater must present only one constructive and one rebuttal. Each debater must cross-examine and be cross-examined. Only the appropriate speaker may speak at the appointed time.

   e. At all contests, each team shall receive a total of ten (10) minutes of preparation time in each debate. Preparation time may be used as chosen by each team, but the total time spent in preparation by both debaters from a team may not exceed ten (10) minutes in any single round. In the event that a team has exhausted all of its preparation time, any additional time spent in preparation shall be subtracted from the remaining speaking time for the offending team.

3. Depending on the number of entries, Regions may use one of two ways to determine its representatives to the State Competition. The Region may hold a round-robin with the teams from each school meeting the teams from each other school with the places being determined on the strength of won/lost records.

4. There shall be no scouting or observing of competing teams during Region or State meets. The audience in each round of debates shall be limited to representatives of the two schools involved without the permission of the GISA President.
5. **The State Policy Debate Tournament** shall be conducted in the following manner:

   a. The schools placing 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} in the Region contest shall advance to the State Tournament.

   b. The State Tournament shall consist of a maximum of four (4) rounds of debate held at a common location. In the event that four or less schools participate in the State contests in a particular class, the tournament will consist of a round-robin with a team of each school meeting a team from each of the other schools. No school will be eliminated from competition until its teams have participated in four debates each, or until the round-robin has been completed.

   c. The Tournament Director shall prepare without consultation pairings for the State Tournament.

   d. Pairings shall be prepared so that a team finishing 1\textsuperscript{st} in a Region will not meet a team finishing 1\textsuperscript{st} in another Region in the first round of debate, if possible.

   e. All preliminary pairings will be released at the beginning of the tournament.

   f. During the Tournament, no individual except the Tournament Director and his/her staff or the GISA President shall be permitted entry into the room(s) where Tournament pairings and tabulations are made.

   g. At the conclusion of the Tournament the Tournament Director shall prepare a result sheet showing the results of all debates of the Tournament and distribute copies to the competing schools. Each school shall receive copies of the ballots of each of its debates.

6. The debate topic will be mailed to all member schools and posted on the GISA web site by September 1 of each year.

7. Each school will be notified of the time and place of Region and/or State meets.

8. In the State Debate Tournament, each debate shall be judged by one (1) qualified Critic-Judge. The judges shall determine the winner of the debate. If time permits, they may, at their discretion, provide the debaters with an oral critique of the debate. Oral critiques should consist of suggestions on the improvement of debate skills and under no circumstances should reveal the judges’ decision of the debate. In the Semi-Finals and Championship Rounds three (3) judges shall be used to judge the debate.

9. Score sheets will be furnished by the GISA Office.

10. Each judge shall return his/her ballot to the Tournament Director or to an appointed ballot collector. The ballot is to be opened only by the Tournament Director or by members of his/her tabulation staff.

11. No coaching activities may take place during a debate. No speaker may receive any manner of aid from the audience. Coaching activities at the Tournament must take place between rounds in such a manner as not to disrupt the orderly progress of the Tournament.

12. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for providing qualified judges for the Tournament in accordance with the following procedures:

   a. No judge shall be assigned to judge a school with which he/she has either present connections or any school which he/she is a graduate.

   b. No judge shall judge the same school twice during the Tournament, if possible.
c. Judges shall reveal their decision in a particular debate to no one other than the Tournament Director until the conclusion of the Tournament.

d. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for certifying the qualifications of judges used in the Tournament. Judges are expected to have experience in either actual debating or the judging of academic debate. Simple knowledge of the debate question or of the principles of public speaking do not of themselves constitute evidence of the ability to expertly judge academic debate. The Tournament Director will make a list of all judges to be used at the State Tournament along with each judge’s qualifications and make it available to each entered school prior to the beginning of the competition.

The following (#13-20) apply to both Policy & Public Forum Debate Tournaments:

13. The Tournament Director shall not reveal the results of any debates to any person other than his/her staff or the GISA President until the conclusion of the Tournament.

14. Any team unable to present itself prepared to debate fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled beginning of the debate may forfeit that debate.

15. Any debater using falsified or grossly distorted evidence shall be disqualified from the Tournament. Any allegations of misused evidence should be directed to the Tournament Director, who shall immediately conduct an investigation. The Tournament Director’s actions and conclusions are subject to final approval of the GISA President who shall take any steps he considers necessary to prevent further violations.

16. Brackets will be broken in the event that debaters from the same school would meet in the Semi-Finals.

17. The determining of the respective finishes of the competing teams shall be:

   a. The combined number of wins for the Affirmative and Negative teams during the entire Tournament.

   b. If a comparison of the total number of wins between schools results in a tie, then the total number of individual speaker points accumulated by all four debaters from each school during the Tournament shall be compared to break the tie.

   c. Should step (b) fail to resolve the tie, the schools remaining tied shall be considered to share the place for which they are tied.

18. Awards will be given to the top five individual debaters. The determination will be based on the preliminary rounds of competition and based upon total accumulation of speaker points.

   a. If a tie exists, the high and low speaker points for that individual will be dropped as the first tie-breaker. The second tie-breaker, if needed, will be to drop high-low rank. The final tie-breaker will be the team win-loss record.

   b. If there is still a tie in placement, flip a coin or award duplicate awards. Or, if the tie is between two speakers who are both competing in the final round, use the results from the final round to determine the best debater.

19. If any team (Affirmative or Negative) representing a school forfeits any round, then the school is disqualified from the entire tournament and all scores (team and individual) from any round competed in by the forfeiting team and their competition in those rounds is disallowed.
Debaters are not allowed to use computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices to access the Internet during debate rounds. Use of electronic devices by any observer of the round is prohibited.

B. PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE:

Public Forum Debate (PFD) is a team event that advocates or rejects a position posed by the monthly resolution topic (announced online at www.nfionline.org). The clash of ideas must be communicated in a manner persuasive to the non-specialist or “citizen judge”, i.e. a member of the American jury.

The debate should:
- Display solid logic, lucid reasoning, and depth of analysis
- Utilize evidence without being driven by it
- Present a clash of ideas by countering/refuting arguments of the opposing team (rebuttal)
- Communicate ideas with clarity, organization, eloquence, and professional decorum

1. The Topic - Topics are worded as resolutions, meaning they advocate solving a problem by establishing a position. Teams must understand the meaning of terminology in a consistent manner so debates have a clash of ideas. If the topic were “Resolved: Free trade benefits all nations,” it would be vital to understand the concept of free trade. An expert definition from an economics or legal dictionary or encyclopedia would be preferable to a standard dictionary. If the topic, “Resolved: NATO countries should act together on international matters,” the more common terms ‘act’ and ‘together’ could be appropriately defined by a standard dictionary. Given the limited time of a round, debate should not center on obscure claims of minutia.

2. Case Development & Evidence - A team must develop both a pro and con case, persuasively supported by evidence and reasoning. Given the short nature of a Public Forum round, cases should center on a few quality arguments. A team, however, should research several arguments on both sides of the issue, so it can adapt its case to the opposing team’s claims as necessary. Having arguments in direct contradiction with each other will enhance clash in rebuttals. Organization of speeches through effective communication and clear outlines is important so both judges and the opposing team can follow each of the arguments and their supporting evidence. Effective persuasion requires credible, unbiased, quality supporting evidence, which may include a mix of facts, statistics, expert quotations, studies, polls; but it may also be real-life examples, anecdotes, analogies, and personal experience. Since topics are based on current events, research should be accessible through periodicals, Web search engines and think tanks. Teams should not overwhelm their case with evidence; rather, they should select the best evidence to represent their claims.

3. The Coin Flip - The round starts with a coin toss; the winning team selects either:
   - The side (pro or con) they will argue
   - The speaker order (begins the debate or give the last speech).

The team that loses the toss will then decide their preference from the option not selected by the winner (i.e., if the winning team decides to speak last, then the losing team may decide which side they will argue). The debate therefore, may begin with the con side, arguing against the topic. Teams might consider: Is one side of the topic more acceptable to citizen judges? On which side is the team stronger? On which side of the topic are the opponents stronger? Is the first speaker position critical to “sell” the case by making a good first impression? Is the final focus speech critical for the last word to the judge(s)? Are the opponents so effective in either the first or last speaker position that our team needs to select speaker position rather than side? The first team sits to the judge’s left.
4. **Speeches and Time Limits**

- **Speaker 1** (Team A, 1st speaker) 4 minutes
- **Speaker 2** (Team B, 1st speaker) 4 minutes
- **Crossfire** (between speakers 1 & 2) 3 minutes
- **Speaker 3** (Team A, 2nd speaker) 4 minutes
- **Speaker 4** (Team B, 2nd speaker) 4 minutes
- **Crossfire** (between speakers 3 & 4) 3 minutes
- **Speaker 1 Summary** 2 minutes
- **Speaker 2 Summary** 2 minutes
- **Grand Crossfire** (all speakers) 3 minutes
- **Speaker 3 Final Focus** 2 minutes
- **Speaker 4 Final Focus** 2 minutes

*Each team may use up to two minutes of prep time.*

5. **First Pro Speech** - This speech **constructs** arguments advocating the resolution’s worthiness. The key analysis will be to present major reasons why there is a problem. An underlying concept will always be the risk of change versus the risk of not **changing**. This speech should have a brief introduction to frame the team's case for the judge. If a definition is important to understanding the case, it should be presented from the most appropriate source. A few reasons for adopting the topic should be presented with accompanying evidence. Each reason should be an independent reason to vote for the resolution, and should explain why it is pertinent. The speech should conclude with a summary of the arguments covered.

6. **First Con Speech** - This speech **constructs** arguments showing disadvantages of the resolution and why it should not be adopted. If the pro speech has the advantage of a changing future, the con speech has a **track record of experience** (status quo) and why change is ill-advised. The rest of the speech elements will be the same as the pro speech.

7. **Strategies for the Second Team** - If the team feels that the opponent’s case is based on a faulty or unfair interpretation of the resolution, they should provide counter definitions and convincingly explain why their perspective is more appropriate. Whichever side speaks second may also choose to drop a reason from the prepared speech and spend time instead refuting claims presented by the other team. This strategy should be employed when one of the arguments **directly clashes** with the other team’s or when the team believes one of the opponent’s arguments is based on a false definition or assumption.

8. **Third & Fourth Constructive Speeches** - Both of these debaters have the primary burden of refuting the other team’s arguments by analyzing and explaining flaws in the opponent’s position. The debater should identify the opposition’s key arguments and attack their legitimacy by: turning the analysis to the other side; presenting evidence that destroys or reduces the opposing position; presenting alternate causes that are not accounted for by the opposition argument; exposing argument inconsistencies between the speakers or between the opponents and their statements during crossfire. To best accomplish refutation, both members of a team should have a consistent approach and a unified view of what is important and less important. An argument format could be an introduction that links the team’s second speech to the first speech, followed by an overview of the issue, which is frequently the opponent’s argument, followed by reasons/evidence why the opponent is wrong, followed by what this argument clash now means for your side in the debate. In addition, some time in either of these speeches should be allocated to rebuilding the original case. It is
important to have clarity that is seldom attained by an intricate outline. Speeches should conclude with a summary.

9. **Summary Speeches** - These are complicated speeches because each debater has to find a way to explain issues in the light of all that has happened so far – in just two minutes – without speaking too rapidly. New evidence, but not new arguments may be presented, except responses (refutation). This means that a limited number of issues can be addressed. For example, perhaps develop one to two issues from the debater’s side on the resolution and one from the opponent’s side of the resolution. The speech should have a brief overview. On each key argument, try to add a short original quotation, anecdote, or fact. Wrap up each argument by stressing its importance in arriving at a fair decision.

10. **The Final Focus** - This frames, with clarity, why your team has won the debate. Again, no new arguments may be presented, however, new evidence may be introduced to support an argument made earlier in the debate. Before the final focus, ask, “If I were judging this round, what would I be voting on?”

   Strategies may include:
   
   - Choose the most important argument you are winning, and summarize the analysis and evidence that make it so important.
   - Turn a major argument from your opponent into the winning analysis and evidence of one of your important arguments; this technique clinches two arguments.
   - Answer the most important argument you may be losing by summarizing the analysis and evidence that you believe takes out the opponent’s argument.
   - Choose an argument that you believe the community judge will most likely vote on.
   - Expose a major inconsistency made by your opponent—two arguments that contradict each other—at least one of which the opponent is focusing on to win the debate.

11. **Art of Argumentation** - The quantity of arguments is less important than the quality of arguments, just as the quantity of evidence is less important than the quality of evidence. Thus we come to three important components of an argument: **claim**, **evidence**, and **warrant**. A claim is a major argument made on either side of the resolution. On the resolution, “Resolved that NATO countries should have acted together in Iraq,” a claim could be that animosities would be reduced because one nation would not bear the brunt of the responsibility for the invasion. To prove this to be true, a debate must provide evidence, proving that the claim is valid. The debater chooses at least one type of evidence that will support the claim even when challenged. In the above example, much credible evidence exists that resistance is high because the United States for the most part acted alone. Perhaps the most crucial component of argumentation is the **warrant**. Warrants connect the claim and its support, sometime obviously, sometime subtly. Warrants emerge from the total sum of our experiences and personal observations. Thus it is entirely possible that the debater and the judge have a different set of experiences. The warrant for the claim used in the NATO example should connect the judge to the thesis, perhaps by making anecdotal comments about how everyone is much better satisfied when cooperation exists, whether among people or nations. On the other hand, the opposing team can counter that forcing nations to cooperate with each other when that is not their wish alienates allies and ruins alliances. Turn the evidence against the team and make the logical warrant that such a NATO policy for Iraq would have destroyed NATO, would have kept us operating in Iraq by ourselves, and would have destroyed the unity for future NATO missions. Warrants provide believable reasons why a claim and evidence are true. That is why evidence without analysis can result in an assertion without substance and an argument lost. Arguments and evidence without warrants are seldom persuasive.

12. **Crossfire** - Questioning periods give debate interactivity and a change to build clash. In crossfire, both debaters have equal access to the floor, but the first question must be asked to the debater who just finished speaking by a debater from the other team. After the initial question and answer, either debater may question or answer. A debater who attempts to dominate or be rude to his opponent will
lose points. Good questions are brief and good answers must meet the question. In the first two crossfires, only the corresponding speakers may participate, and they stand next to each other.

13. **Grand Crossfire** - Seated, all debaters interact with one another. The first question is asked to the team that just ended its summary by the other team. After the initial question and answer, any debater may question or answer and **all should participate**. The same guidelines for rudeness and stalling apply to the grand crossfire. Resist rushing questions or answers, or trying to do too much in crossfire; desperation is not persuasive.

14. **Prep Time** - Each team has two minutes of prep time. For very practical reasons, a team should not use prep time until their summary speech or final focus speech. Being prepared on the arguments is the best way to avoid using prep time until it is vital to select the key arguments and issues.

15. **Delivery** - Effective delivery is critical to impact the arguments for a citizen judge. Practice delivery in front of ordinary people: teachers, parents, relatives, friends, non-debate classmates. Heed their advice. If they tell you to slow down, slow down; if they tell you to quit repeating yourself, start your sentences with the subject and avoid compound complex sentences; if they tell you to enunciate more clearly, practice with a pencil in your mouth; if they tell you to look up, make sure you remember everything about the person to whom you are talking; if they tell you to speak with variety, practice emphasizing key words, especially action verbs; if they tell you to speak louder, practice with cotton in your ears. In other words, do everything before a debate to cultivate a good delivery.

16. **Working Knowledge** - The more a debater knows about a topic, both arguments and evidence, both pro and con, the more one will be able to practice delivery and hence become truly skilled in the communication of arguments, evidence and analysis.

17. **Evaluation & Judging** - The judge is the chairperson of the round (facilitating the coin flip and giving time signals if requested), and may halt any crossfire lacking civility. S/he may not interact in the crossfire.

Judges evaluate teams on the quality of the arguments actually made, not on their own personal beliefs, and not on issues they think a particular side **should have covered**. Judges should assess the bearing of each argument on the truth or falsehood of the assigned resolution. The pro should prove that the resolution is true, and the con should prove that the resolution in not true. When deciding the round, judges should ask, “If I had no prior beliefs about this resolution, would the round as a whole have made me more likely to believe the resolution was true or not true?” Teams should strive to provide a straightforward perspective on the resolution; judges should discount unfair, obscure interpretations that only serve to confuse the opposing team. Plans (formalized, comprehensive proposals for implementation), counter-plans and critics’ (off-topic arguments) are not allowed. Generalized, practical solutions should support a position of advocacy.

Quality, well-explained arguments should trump a mere quantity thereof. Debaters should use quoted evidence to support their claims, and well-chosen, relevant evidence may strengthen – **but not replace** – arguments.

Clear communication is a major consideration. Judges weigh arguments only to the extent that they are clearly explained, and they will discount arguments that are too fast, too garbled, or too jargon-laden to be understood by an intelligent high school student or a well-informed citizen. A team should not be penalized for failing to understand his or her opponent’s unclear arguments.

In short, Public Forum Debate stresses that speakers must appeal to the widest possible audience through sound reasoning, succinct organization, credible evidence, and clear delivery. Points provide a mechanism for evaluating the relative “quality of debating.”
Section 13. Literary and Music Events

1. Oral Interpretation (Dramatic; Humorous and Duo)

   a. **Explanation:** The art of interpretation is to be regarded as recreating the characters in the story presented and making them seem living and real to the audience. Interpretation is not a singing event; however brief amounts of singing are allowed if called for in the script.

   b. **Divisions:** Separate contests shall be conducted in Dramatic, Humorous and Duo Interpretations, each presented as memorized selections and without the use of **scripts**, physical objects, costume, musical selections and sound effects. These events are non-gender specific and will follow National Forensic League (NFL) rules.

   c. **Selections:** Selections shall be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Recorded material that is not published and printed is prohibited. Monologues are acceptable in Dramatic and Humorous Interpretations.

   d. **Re-Use:** No contestant or school will be permitted to perform the same selection in consecutive years. Material cannot be a cutting from the school’s current year One-Act Play performance.

   e. **Plagiarizing:** In Interpretation, coaches are strongly encouraged to create a presentation of an original nature are on their honor to refrain from imitating a published performance (i.e. YouTube; NFL Final Video, etc.). If judges recognize a piece from a media presentation deductions may be severe and/or a student may be disqualified.

   f. **Source:** A cutting must be a single work of literature: one short story or one play or one novel or one or more poems (from the same published volume). The original published source of any selection used in Dramatic, Humorous or Duo Interpretation must be immediately available at the event as well as a complete script of the cutting used.

      A complete script of the cutting would be:
      - A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.
      - All works used from the script should be highlighted (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked).
      - Any word changes to eliminate profane language and/or additions for transition must be indicated clearly in ink.

      As proof of publication, a coach or supervising adult must be able to present one of the following:
      - An original printed source with an ISBN#, ISSN#, or IFFN# or, if these options are not available then,
      - Proof that the material was obtained commercially from an author, literary agent, or publisher – or is publicly available and verifiable for download, purchase, or use on the Internet by any individual.

      Failure to monitor a complete script and/or original published source will result in disqualification.

   g. **Adaptations:** Adaptations may only be used for the purpose of transition. The gender stated by the author must be honored. However, a female contestant may play a male role, and a male contestant may play a female role.

   h. **Introduction:** During the presentation the contestant/team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made. Contestants may recite the title and author of the piece and give a brief introduction of the piece. In Interpretation, the teaser must be from the same material or piece as the one being performed.
i. **Participation**: In Duo Interpretation, each of the two performers may play one or more characters so long as performance responsibility in the cutting remains balanced as possible. The performer’s roles and dialogue are to be as equitable as possible. (In other words, one performer should not speak the majority of the time.)

j. **Narration**: If the selection is prose or poetry and contains narration, either or both of the performers may present the narration. Narration, if included, should be vivid and animated so as to be an interesting and integral part of the story rather than just “filler” between portions of dialogue.

k. **Focus**: In Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation, use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being presented. In Duo Interpretation, focus may be direct during the introduction (the performers may look at each other), but must be indirect (off-stage to the audience) during the performance itself. The performers may not touch each other at any time during the performance. Performance should be limited to the performance space, and performers may not enter the audience.

l. **Caution**: It shall be the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in Interpretation events to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets GISA rules.

m. **Judging considerations**: The selection should be judged for its appropriateness as contest material and its suitability to the particular contestant using it. The use of good literature should be noted favorably and a selection devoid of literary merit graded lowest.

   Contestants are evaluated on poise, quality and use of voice, inflections, emphasis, pronunciation, enunciation, physical expression, and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently.

   The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all of these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the hearer forgets that this is a contest and in a created atmosphere is carried away to the time and place of the story being unfolded.

n. **Order of performances**: At State, contestants will draw for positions (1-8) to determine the order of performance.

o. **Timing**: There is no minimum time requirement. The timing will start as soon as the contestant(s) begin speaking. Presentation shall not exceed ten (10) minutes. Time cards will be used to inform contestants of time remaining and stop time.

p. **Audiences**: Audiences are permitted based on space available at the site and at the discretion of the GISA President. Once the performances have begun, audience members are not allowed to enter or exit the performance room during the performances. The contest manager or monitor shall have complete control over entry/exits during the performances.

q. **Judges**: There shall be two (2) judges for each of these events.

r. **Awards**: Medals shall be awarded to the contestants placing first in the events.
2. **Extemporaneous Speaking**

a. **Divisions:** Separate contests will be held for **United States Division** and **International Division**; and National Forensic League (NFL) rules will apply.
   - **United States Division** – will cover U.S. domestic and U.S. foreign policy.
   - **International Division** – will cover the domestic affairs of foreign countries and the foreign affairs of all countries, including the United States.

b. **Topics:** The GISA Office shall prepare a list of topics for both the Region and State Literary Meets on current national and international policies discussed in periodicals published since September 1 of the current school year. The current year and preceding year’s debate topics will not be considered.

c. **Explanation:** The extempore speech should not be regarded as a memory test of the material contained in any one magazine article, but rather as an original synthesis by the speaker of the current fact and opinion on the designated topic as presented by numerous sources. The contestant therefore should be held accountable for strict adherence to the precise statement of the topic drawn and discounted severely for shifting to some other phase of the topic on which s/he might prefer to speak. The information presented should be well-chosen, pertinent, and sufficient to support the central thought of the topic. The best extemporaneous speech combines clear thinking, good speaking, and interesting presentation to establish a definite thought with respect to the subject chosen. Do not require a contestant speaking on a controversial subject to take a personal stand on that issue. S/He may do so, or s/he may elect to present both sides of the controversy as currently set forth in the public press. Judge him/her on the effectiveness with which s/he develops the subject according to his/her own plan.

d. **Drawing:** At State, contestants will draw for positions (1-8) to determine the order of performance. Thirty (30) minutes before the contest is to begin, the first speaker shall draw three topics, choose one, and return the other two. The other contestants shall draw in like manner, in the order of speaking, at intervals of seven (7) minutes. The entire list of subjects shall be used for the drawing by each section.

e. **Preparation:** As soon as a topic is chosen, the contestant shall withdraw and prepare a speech without consultation and without reference to previously prepared notes. Students may consult published books, magazines, newspapers and journals or articles there from, provided:
   - They are originals or photocopies of the originals.
   - That original article or copy is intact and uncut.
   - There is no written material on that original or copy.
   - Topical index without annotation may be present.

No other material shall be allowed in the prep room other than stated above. Extemp speeches, handbooks, briefs and outlines shall be barred from the extemp prep room. Underlining or highlighting in extemp will be allowed if done in only one color on each article or copy. No electrical retrieval device (i.e. laptops or electronic devices) may be used. Printed copies of information from “on line” computer services may be used. Electronically retrieved evidence used in any NFL contest must conform to the citation standard of the Modern Language Association (MLA). The contest manager should monitor the students during their preparation time to assure that there is no consultation and that only allowable materials are used.

f. **Notes:** Contestants may make notes during the preparation time, and may use one (1) 3”x5” note card handwritten on the front only. Note card will be provided in the Prep Room and must be turned in to the judge after speech.
g. **Recusal**: Contestants shall not leave the preparation area until dismissed by the Extemp Proctor or Contest Manager. Consultation with any person other than the contest manager between the time of drawing and time of speaking is prohibited.

h. **Time Limit**: There is no minimum qualifying time for the extemp speech. Do not penalize a contestant for brevity unless s/he fails to adequately cover the subject s/he has chosen. **Maximum time is seven (7) minutes.** Time cards will be used to inform contestants of time remaining and stop time.

i. **Audiences**: Audiences are permitted based on space available at the site and at the discretion of the GISA President. Once the performances have begun, audience members are not allowed to enter or exit the performance room during the performances. The contest manager or monitor shall have complete control over entry/exits during performances.

j. **Judges**: There shall be two (2) judges for this event. Judges shall sit apart during the presentations. They shall score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges shall hold all evaluation sheets until after all the contestants have presented.

k. **Awards**: Medals will be awarded to the contestants placing first in this event.

3. **Argumentative Essay (Non-gender)**

   a. Each school may enter one (1) contestant. The contestant may be either a boy or a girl. Contestants may enter only one essay contest, i.e. Argumentative; Personal; or Rhetorical.

   b. The GISA Office shall prepare a list of topics for the Region and State Literary Meets on current state, national and international policies discussed in periodicals published since September 1 of the current school year. The current year and preceding year’s debate topics will not be considered.

   c. The contestants from each school shall write upon any of the subjects provided.

   d. All essays will be written in ink.

   e. Two (2) hours will be given for writing the essay.

   f. Neither coaching nor supplemental materials will be allowed. The use of a dictionary during the contest is not permitted.

   g. The essay shall be judged by the thought, the order, the arrangement, and the elements of style. Verbal and grammatical correctness, spelling, and punctuation shall be considered of less importance than the interest and general effectiveness of the whole composition, but should be weighed. It is a ready writer’s contest and evidence of pre-memorized composition shall weigh heavily against the contestant.

   h. There shall be two (2) judges for this event. Judges shall score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges shall hold all evaluations sheets until after all essay have been scored.

   i. The sum of the point totals from the two judges shall determine first, second, third, and fourth place winners.

   j. A medal will be awarded to the contestant placing first in this event.
4. **Personal Essay (Non-gender)**

   a. Each school may enter one (1) contestant. The contestant may be either a boy or a girl. Contestants may enter only one essay contest, i.e. Argumentative; Personal; or Rhetorical.

   b. The GISA Office shall prepare a list of topics for the Region and State Literary Competitions. Topics should mirror college application personal essay topics by inviting narrative and descriptive writing.

   c. The contestant, one boy or one girl from each school, shall write upon one of the three topics offered.

   d. All essays will be written in ink.

   e. Two (2) hours will be given for writing the essay.

   f. Neither coaching nor supplemental materials will be allowed. The use of a dictionary during the contest is not permitted.

   g. The essays shall be judged by their originality, form, vividness, voice, and style. Verbal and grammatical correctness, spelling and punctuation shall be considered of less importance than the interest and general effectiveness of the whole composition, but should be weighed. Evidence of pre-memorized composition shall weigh heavily against the contestant.

   h. There shall be two (2) judges for this event. (These may be the same judges as those evaluating other essays.) Judges shall score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges shall hold all evaluation sheets until after all essays have been scored.

   i. The sum of the point totals from the two judges shall determine first, second, third, and fourth place winners.

   j. A medal will be awarded to the contestant placing first in this event.

5. **Rhetorical Analysis Essay (Non-gender)**

   a. Each school may enter one (1) contestant. The contestant may be either a boy or a girl. Contestants may enter only one essay contest, i.e. Argumentative; Personal; or Rhetorical.

   b. The GISA Office shall select an excerpt from a prose work either a novel or short story. Students are to read the passage and write an essay analyzing for narrative and literary techniques of the strategies the author uses to achieve his or her goal or purpose of writing their piece.

   c. All essays will be written in ink.

   d. Two (2) hours will be given for writing the essay.

   e. Neither coaching nor supplemental materials will be allowed. The use of a dictionary during the contest is not permitted.

   f. The essay shall be judged by the quality of the analysis of elements of the essay including how the writer interprets, develops, and organizes the essay, as well as style and correctness.
g. There shall be two (2) judges for this event. Judges shall score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges shall hold all evaluations sheets until after all essay have been scored.

h. The sum of the point totals from the two judges shall determine first, second, third, and fourth place winners.

i. A medal will be awarded to the contestant placing first in this event.

6. **Spelling**

a. Each school may enter one (1) contestant. The contestant may be either a boy or a girl.

b. Contestants will take a written test consisting of 100 words furnished by the GISA President. The list from the GISA President shall be compiled with the words and a definition of each word given. All words on this list will be taken from *Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary*. (The GISA President will also provide word lists for the Region Competition.)

c. All spelling examinations must be written in ink.

d. Contestants will not be permitted to write a word or words on a scratch paper and then write the word or words on the examination sheet.

e. If an error is made, it is not permissible to start over on a new sheet with the next word and recopy the previous word or words.

f. After the original examination sheet has been completed, it is not permissible to recopy the examination.

g. In correcting papers count as errors the following:
   - All words so poorly written you cannot read them.
   - All words written as an "i" over an "e".
   - All words which show erasures and/or changes.
   - All words erased and/or crossed out and rewritten.
   - All words omitted.
   - All words in which the preferred spelling is not used. When a word can be spelled two or more ways, the preferred spelling will be the correct spelling.

h. At the end of the 100 word examination, an additional 25 words will be called out and used to break ties, should a tie exist. These words will be graded one at a time between the tied individuals.

i. If a contestant asks for a definition of a word and/or the use of a word in a sentence, the examiner will do so.

j. There shall be one (1) judge for this event. The judge will hold all examinations until after all tests have been scored.

k. The number of words correct shall also determine first, second, third, and fourth place winners. A tie will be broken by eliminating the contestant that incorrectly spells the first tie-breaker word.
7. **Piano:**

   a. Each school may enter one (1) contestant. The contestant may be either a boy or a girl.

   b. A contestant will be allowed a brief warm-up (run a scale) not to exceed 60-seconds prior to his or her performance.

   c. Each pianist will be limited to ten (10) minutes. Timing begins after the first note and does not stop between selections. If a pianist exceeds the time limit, s/he will be disqualified.

   d. Contestant shall choose two (2) pieces from contrasting periods: Baroque; Classical; Romantic; Contemporary. Both selections must be played from memory.

   e. No contestant will be permitted to perform the same selection in consecutive years.

   f. Contestants will furnish at least one original piece of music to the judges.

   g. No duplicated music may be used unless a letter from the publisher authorizing duplication is presented. Downloaded sheet music will be permitted with proper proof-of-purchase.

   h. No contestant may have a second chance to perform.

   i. Audiences shall not be excluded from this event.

   j. There shall be two (2) judges for this event. Judges shall sit apart during the performances. They will score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges shall hold all evaluation sheets until after all pianists have performed.

   k. The judges will take into consideration the following:

      - Accuracy (notes and time value)
      - Technique (fingerling, facility, and appropriateness)
      - Rhythm (steadiness, tempo, and freedom)
      - Interpretation (understanding of composition, expression marks, contrast, general effect)
      - Presentation (stage deportment, poise, stage personality)
      - Difficulty of piece

   l. The sum of the point totals from the two judges shall determine first, second, third, and fourth place winners.

   **NOTE FOR REGIONS:** Judges will be asked to rank competitors to aid in determining which contestants advance to State in case of ties.

8. **Solo (Boys & Girls)**

   a. Each school may enter one (1) male contestant and/or one (1) female contestant.

   b. Each soloist will be limited to seven (7) minutes. Timing begins after the first note and does not stop between selections. If a soloist exceeds the time limit, s/he will be disqualified.

   c. Two selections shall be sung from memory, each of which shall be original vocal solo compositions and not arrangements of instructional or choral pieces, as well as being from the standard repertory of the art song, folk, oratorio aria, operatic aria, or Broadway musical.

   d. Soloists may sing with or without a pianist. No other accompanist or tape recording may be used.

   e. No individual soloist will be permitted to perform the same selection in consecutive years.
f. Contestants will furnish at least one original piece of music to the judges.

g. No duplicated music may be used unless a letter from the publisher authorizing duplication is presented. Downloaded sheet music will be permitted with proper proof-of-purchase.

h. Audiences shall not be excluded from this event.

i. There shall be two (2) judges for this event. Judges shall sit apart during the performances. They will score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges shall hold all evaluation sheets until after all soloists have performed.

j. The sum of the point totals from the two judges shall determine first, second, third, and fourth place winners.

**NOTE FOR REGIONS:** Judges will be asked to rank competitors to aid in determining which contestants advance to State in case of ties.

9. **Trio (Girls)**

a. A Girls’ Trio shall consist of three female voices and carry the following distinct harmony parts *(Referred to in music S.S.A.):*
   
   - First soprano
   - Second soprano
   - Alto

b. Each trio will be limited to eight (8) minutes. Time begins after the first note and does not stop between selections. If a trio exceeds the time limit, they will be disqualified.

c. Two selections shall be sung from memory, each of which shall be appropriate for a small group of singers. One selection must be one of the following: a chorale; madrigal; art song; folk song; Broadway musical.

d. A trio may sing with or without a pianist. No other accompanist or tape recording may be used.

e. No school’s trio will be permitted to perform the same selection in consecutive years.

f. Contestants will furnish at least one original piece of music for the use of the judges.

g. No duplicated music may be used unless a letter from the publisher authorizing duplication is presented. Downloaded sheet music will be permitted with proper proof-of-purchase.

h. Choreography will not be considered in the judging of this event.

i. Audiences shall not be excluded from this event.

j. There shall be two (2) judges for this event. Judges shall sit apart during the performances. They will score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges shall hold all evaluation sheets until after all trios have performed.

k. The sum of the point totals from the two judges shall determine first, second, third, and fourth place winners.

**NOTE FOR REGIONS:** Judges will be asked to rank competitors to aid in determining which contestants advance to State in case of ties.
10. **Quartet (Boys)**

a. A Boys’ Quartet shall consist of four male voices and carry the following distinct harmony parts:
   - First Tenor
   - Second Tenor
   - First Bass
   - Second Bass

b. Each quartet will be limited to eight (8) minutes. Time begins after the first note and does not stop between selections. If a quartet exceeds the time limit, they will be disqualified.

c. Two selections shall be sung from memory, each of which shall be appropriate for a small group of singers. One selection must be one of the following: a chorale; madrigal; art song; folk song; Broadway musical.

d. A quartet may sing with or without a pianist. No other accompanist or tape recording may be used.

e. No school’s trio will be permitted to perform the same selection in consecutive years.

f. Contestants will furnish at least one original piece of music for the use of the judges.

g. No duplicated music may be used unless a letter from the publisher authorizing duplication is presented. Downloaded sheet music will be permitted with proper proof-of-purchase.

h. Choreography will not be considered in the judging of this event.

i. Audiences shall not be excluded from this event.

j. There shall be two (2) judges for this event. Judges shall sit apart during the performances. They will score and give written comments without conferring with one another or any other person. Judges shall hold all evaluation sheets until after all quartets have performed.

k. The sum of the point totals from the two judges shall determine first, second, third, and fourth place winners.

**NOTE FOR REGIONS:** Judges will be asked to rank competitors to aid in determining which contestants advance to State in case of ties.
LIST OF POSSIBLE MUSIC SELECTIONS

PIANO:

A. **Group I**

**C.P.E. Bach** - a movement from a sonata

**J.S. Bach** (choose one):
   I. A prelude from "The Well-Tempered Clavier"
   II. A fugue from the "The Well-Tempered Clavier"
   III. A movement from a Partita, an English Suite, or a French Suite

**Beethoven** - a movement from any sonata (not sonatina)

**Clementi** - a movement from a sonata or sonatina

**Couperin** - a descriptive piece from one of the Orders of the Pieces de clavecin

**Galuppi** - a movement from a sonata

**Handel** - a movement from one of the 16 suites or a Chaconne

**F.J. Haydn** - a movement from any sonata except the first movement of the Sonata
   in D Major, Hob. XVI, No. 37.

**Mozart** - a movement from any sonata or sonatina

**Paradies** - a movement from a sonata

**Rameau** - one of the Pieces de clavecin

**D. Scarlatti** - a sonata

**Telemann** - one of the 36 Fantasias

B. **Group II**

**Albeniz** - a movement from Cantos de Espana

**American** - a composition by a native born published composer from the Western Hemisphere

**Bartok** - Allegro Barbaro, a Bagatelle from Op. 6, a folk movement from the Suite,
   Op. 14, the Rumanian Folk Dances, the Sonatina, or a selection from Vol. 4 or Vol. 5 of Mikrikosmaos


**Chabrier** - a selection from Pieces pittoresques

**Chopin** - an etude, a mazurka, a nocturne, prelude, impromptu, or a waltz

**Debussy** - a prelude, or a movement from Images, Estampes, or the Children’s Corner Suite

**Falla**

**Faure** - a nocturne or a barcarole

**Grieg**

**Hindemith** - a movement from a sonata or a suite

**Kabalevsky** - a movement from a sonata, sonatina, or one of the 24 Preludes, Op. 38

**Khachaturian**

**Liszt** - an etude or a selection from Annees de Pelerinage

**Mendelssohn** - a Song Without Words

**Milhaud** - one of the Saudades do Brazil

**Poulenc** - one of the Trois Pieces of a novelette

**Prokofiev** - a movement from a sonata or sonatina, or a selection from Four Pieces,

**Rachmaninoff** - a prelude or an Etude Tableau

**Ravel** - Jeux d’équ, a movement from the Sonatina, or a selection from Miroirs or Le Tombeau de Couperin
**Schoenberg** - a selection from Three Piano Pieces, Op. 11, or a movement from the Suite for Piano, Op. 25

**Shostakovich** - a short piece

**Schubert** - an impromptu or a movement from a sonata

**Shumann** - a selection from Fantasy Pieces, Op. 12, or Waldszenen, Op. 82, a Novelette from Op. 21, a Nachtmusik from Op. 23, or a Romance from Op. 28

**Scriabin** - an etude or a prelude

**Smetana** - a polka or a Czech Dance

**Szymanowski** - an etude from Op. 4, or a mazurka from Op. 50

**Turina** - one of the Danzas Gitanes

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<td>Songs by 22 Americans</td>
<td>Schirmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>24, 26, or 28 Italian Songs and Arias - Med. High</td>
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<td>24, 26, or 28 Italian Songs and Arias - Med. Low</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th Century Art Songs</td>
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<td>Arnold Book of Old Songs (arr. Roger Quilter)</td>
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<td>Basic Repertoire for Singers</td>
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Laudate Pueri
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<td>Caution (Round)</td>
<td>PRE 342-40006</td>
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<td>Schumann, arr.</td>
<td>He's Gone Away</td>
<td>BOU B205534</td>
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<td>Schumann/ed. Heilberg</td>
<td>Song of Sorrow</td>
<td>Bel-UC 167</td>
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<td>Schumann/arr. Pooler</td>
<td>The Swallows</td>
<td>Wal-W2955</td>
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<td>Schwartz</td>
<td>Fog</td>
<td>BRB-RM 2069</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snyder</td>
<td>Dark Brown is the River</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strommen, arr.</td>
<td>Danny Boy</td>
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<td>Taylor, arr.</td>
<td>May Day Carol</td>
<td>Bel-FEC04872</td>
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<td>Taylor, arr.</td>
<td>Waters Ripple a low</td>
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<td>Telemann/arr. DePue</td>
<td>Praise Ye the Lord</td>
<td>SPR SV8926</td>
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<td>Telemann/arr. Harris</td>
<td>I Will Praise The Lord</td>
<td>BOS 13733-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>A Girl's Garden</td>
<td>ECS-2540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>Come In (Frostiana)</td>
<td>ECS-2539</td>
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<td>Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep</td>
<td>ECS-1985</td>
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<td>Vecchi</td>
<td>Fa Una Canzone</td>
<td>BOU B211706-353</td>
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<td>Washburn</td>
<td>Scherzo for Spring</td>
<td>OXF 95,400</td>
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<td>Wilson, arr.</td>
<td>Dona Nobis Pacem</td>
<td>BEL-SCH CH 2520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zaninelli</td>
<td>I Know Where I'm Goin'</td>
<td>SHA B-247</td>
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